

# Health, Safety, Welfare (HSW)

## The 3 Mandatory Criteria for HSW Course Qualification

### HSW DEFINED

#### CRITERIA 1: COURSE CONTENT MUST SUPPORT THE DEFINITION OF HSW

Health, Safety, Welfare (HSW) in architecture is anything that relates to the structural integrity or soundness of a building or building site. Courses must intend to protect the general public.

#### HEALTH

Aspects of architecture that have salutary effects among users of buildings or sites and address environmental concerns.

**Examples:** *Accessibility, acoustical systems, energy efficiency, mechanical, plumbing, electrical system and materials.*

#### SAFETY

Aspects of architecture intended to limit or prevent accidental injury or death among users of the buildings or sites.

**Examples:** *Codes, regulations, natural hazards, life safety system - suppression, detection, alarm standards, provisions of fire-rated egress enclosures, automatic sprinkler systems, and stairs with correct rise-to-run proportions.*

#### WELFARE

Aspects of architecture that engender demonstrable positive emotional responses among, or enable equal access by users of buildings or sites.

**Examples:** *Building design and materials, methods & systems, construction contracting, ethics and regulations governing practice of architecture, preservation, adaptive reuse, and the study of environmental issues.*

### ACCEPTABLE HSW TOPICS

Accessibility	Fire: building fire codes—flame spread, smoke contribution, explosives	Mechanical, plumbing, electrical: system concepts, materials, and methods
Acoustics	Fire safety systems: detection and alarm standards	Natural hazards (earthquake, hurricane, flood) related to building design
Building design	Insurance to protect the owners of property and injured parties	Preservation, renovation, restoration, and adaptive reuse
Code of ethics	Interior design	Security of buildings, design
Construction administration	Laws and regulations governing the practice of architecture	Site and soils analysis
Construction contract laws, legal aspects	Life safety codes	Site design
Construction documents, services	Materials and systems: roofing/waterproofing, wall systems, etc.	Specification writing
Construction functions materials, methods, and systems	Material use, function, and features	Structural issues
Energy efficiency		Surveying methods, techniques
Environmental: asbestos, lead-based paint, toxic emissions		Sustainable design
Environmental analysis and issues of		

## HOW HSW RELATES TO AIA MEMBERS

AIA members as well as other architects licensed in states with mandatory continuing education (MCE) requirements for re-licensure are required to complete a minimum number of hours of Health, Safety, and Welfare-related training. AIA members must take 18 learning unit hours of continuing education per year. Of the 18 total learning units required, 8 must be in HSW, and 4 of the 8 in Sustainable Design (SD).

## 75% COURSE CONTENT REQUIREMENT

### CRITERIA 2: 75% OF COURSE CONTENT MUST BE ON HSW TOPICS

To qualify for HSW learning units, a course must demonstrate that 75% of the course content specifically addresses one or more of the acceptable HSW topics as outlined above. This needs to be illustrated in the mandatory course learning objectives.

## COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### CRITERIA 3: AT LEAST 3 OF THE MANDATORY LEARNING OBJECTIVES MUST ADDRESS HSW

AIA/CES requires learning objectives for all registered courses. There is a minimum requirement of 4 learning objectives per course. For HSW, 3 of the 4 learning objectives or 75% must address HSW topics.

### WHAT IS A LEARNING OBJECTIVE?

A learning objective is an explicit statement that clearly expresses what the student will be able to do after taking a course. It is an observable and measurable student outcome statement. A learning objective identifies what behavior(s) a student must demonstrate in order for the instructor to know that the planned learning took place.

For more information on Learning Objectives, please visit:

[www.aia.org/education/providers/AIAS076145](http://www.aia.org/education/providers/AIAS076145)

## HSW COURSE QUALIFICATION SUMMARY

**A course must meet the following 3 criteria to qualify for HSW credit:**

1. Course content supports the HSW definition and includes acceptable HSW topics
2. 75% of the course content is on HSW topics
3. A minimum of 3 of the 4 mandatory learning objectives is in HSW