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Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

What They Are

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is a nationally recognized, standard unit of measurement that is awarded for every 10 contact hours of participation in a noncredit, organized, continuing education experience, under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction.

The CEU is a standard unit that will allow your organization or profession to recognize you for having participated in continuing education programs. CEU records provide you with means to demonstrate to a current or prospective employer your efforts toward keeping abreast of the latest developments in a particular field of endeavor.

The CEU was developed by a national task force under the joint sponsorship of the National University Extension Association, The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, the U.S. Civil Service Commission, and the U.S. Office of Education. After an extensive review of

nationwide continuing education programs, the task force arrived at a way to recognize and record a person's participation in qualified noncredit programs—the Continuing Education Unit.

At Iowa State, CEU values are determined and assigned by a program planning committee. This committee generally includes representatives of both the sponsoring department and representatives of the potential participants.

Under the CEU system, each person participating in qualifying programs has a permanent record on file listing the programs completed and accumulated units of credit. This record is continually updated as additional CEUs are earned. A person may receive his/her cumulative record or have it sent to persons he/she designates at any time.

What They Are Not

The Continuing Education Unit is not equivalent to academic credit given by accredited colleges and universities. At

iowa state university

industrial engineering extension, ames

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this time, it is not accepted by most colleges and universities as credit toward a degree.

The CEU does not imply any "quality" level of achievement. It should not be equated with "pass-fail" now being given in some academic courses at the collegiate level. It is given for attendance-participation and carries no assurance learning has taken place.

Some organizations granting CEUs require recipients to take and/or pass tests, write papers, or make oral presentations that are evaluated before "credit" is given. This is strictly a local requirement and is not specified as a national standard. Local variations such as these appear to be permissible and up to the discretion of the agency sponsoring the specific program.

Industrial Engineering Extension **does not grant** CEUs to people completing

only a portion of a program. CEUs are given only to those participants who have completed the program by meeting the specific requirements outlined in the brochure or communicated orally and/or in writing at the outset of the program.

CEUs are not issued for all IEE programs. However, CEUs and fractional parts of CEUs are given for participation in **approved** on- and off-campus programs.

For additional information regarding IEE Continuing Education Units (CEUs) write or call:

Office of Continuing Education
Iowa State University
102 Scheman Building
Ames, Iowa 50011
Phone: (515) 294-6222