

Curricula and Programs: The Basics Relationships Model

Curriculum: an overarching plan of education for a specific target audience; may be as brief as a list of topics or as detailed as course plans with relevant materials; used to guide the education of the target audience; at a minimum involves a broad-based needs assessment; curriculum-based planning is a process that assures that comprehensive, relevant education is available to individuals throughout their careers and/or assignments.

Program: a discrete educational endeavor; may be a conference that includes large group plenary sessions, small group seminars or workshops – or – may be an online study, a videoconference, a DVD – or – may be packaged in other ways; involves course(s), registration, logistics, administrative and technical support, and more.

Course: the actual delivery of educational content, including instructional design and related issues; may be a large group plenary session, a small group seminar or workshop, an online study, a videoconference, a DVD or may be in other formats; may be part of an overarching curriculum or may be stand-alone.

Instructional Design: a series of sequential steps used to plan and deliver a course; involves assessing needs, developing course goals, determining learning objectives, selecting content, choosing teaching methods, and evaluating learning; some steps included/completed in some curriculum models.

The relationship of a curriculum, a course(s) based on the curriculum, instructional design and a program

