

Determination of Credit Hours

Mergener Formula Documentation

Course	Ethical and Legal Issues in School-Based Psychological Assessment: Principles and Applied Decision-Making
Provider	Child & School Psychology CE
Instructor	Jaime Flowers, Ph.D., NCSP, LEP, BCBA
Delivery format	Online independent study / reading-based with applied learning
Proposed credit	2.0 continuing education hours (Law & Ethics) - provisional

Purpose

This worksheet follows the structure of the existing Teacher-Delivered Behavior Supports credit-hour determination. It documents a **proposed** two-hour award using the Mergener model; final content and question counts have not yet been established.

Course Components Reviewed

- Four lessons: (1) Ethical Foundations of School-Based Psychological Assessment; (2) Informed Consent, Confidentiality, and Student Rights; (3) Ethical Test Selection, Administration, and Interpretation; (4) Applied Ethical Decision-Making: School-Based Case Studies.
- Sole required reading: Cadime, I., & Mendes, S. A. (2024). *Psychological assessment in school contexts: ethical issues and practical guidelines*. *Psicologia: Reflexao e Critica*, 37, Article 32. DOI: 10.1186/s41155-024-00318-x.
- Planned interactive analysis and decision-making activities plus applied ethical case studies in Lesson 4. The count and scoring method must be recorded when these activities are finalized.
- A final scored assessment is anticipated; its exact number of eligible questions is not yet confirmed.

Mergener Formula

$$\text{Minutes} = 0.9 \times [-22.3 + (0.00209 \times \text{instructional words}) + (2.78 \times \text{qualifying questions}) + (15.5 \times \text{difficulty})]$$

The tentative difficulty rating is **4 (Difficult)**, reflecting professional-level ethical case interpretation, confidentiality and consent decisions, psychometric judgment, and competing obligations. This rating requires final review.

Planning Calculation - Not Yet Verified

Input	Planning value	Evidence required
Instructional words	9,000	Count final assigned article text and original substantive lesson content once; exclude navigation and repeated material.
Qualifying response items	30	Illustrative total; replace with audited final scored / eligible learner-response question count.
Difficulty	4	Document expert review of complexity for intended professional learners.

Illustrative calculation: $0.9 \times [-22.3 + (0.00209 \times 9,000) + (2.78 \times 30) + (15.5 \times 4)] = 127.719 \text{ minutes} / 2.13 \text{ hours}$.

PROPOSED CREDIT: 2.0 CE HOURS - PENDING FINAL VERIFICATION. The illustrative estimate exceeds 120 minutes, but does not substantiate a final award until inputs are verified.

Counting and Verification Rules

- Count the required article once even if sections are revisited in multiple lessons.
- Exclude menus, website controls, administrative instructions, repeated headers/footers, and noninstructional material.
- Count assessment/response questions using one consistent documented approach; do not double count identical questions or inflate words with answer responses.
- Do not add separate activity minutes unless measured, required, and not already represented in the formula inputs.
- Record final word count, final qualifying questions, difficulty review, updated calculation, and review date. If fewer than 120 minutes are supported, revise the course or obtain defensible learner-time data before awarding 2.0 credits.

Final Audit Record

Final instructional words: _____ Qualifying questions: _____ Difficulty (1-5): _____

Calculated minutes: _____ Calculated hours: _____ Award approved: _____

Reviewer: _____ Review date: _____

Source and Context Note

The primary article discusses professional ethics with attention to the Portuguese school context and international codes. Course lessons that address U.S. consent, privacy, or student-rights requirements should separately verify applicable jurisdictional rules rather than attributing them to this article.

Method reference: Mergener (1991), American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 55, 263-266.