About FEMA’s National Continuity Programs

Serving as the Nation’s center of excellence for continuity planning, guidance, and operations, FEMA National Continuity Programs (NCP) executes its vision to ensure essential functions of government continue at all levels. Our mission is to safeguard the implementation of Executive Branch continuity and assist the continuity planning efforts of federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government and non-governmental stakeholders to sustain the continuous performance of essential functions and critical services under all conditions. To accomplish this, NCP provides guidance, technical assistance, planning, training, and workshop support to other Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA components, federal departments and agencies, state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) governments, and other members of the whole community, to include private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

The Importance of Continuity

Recent high-profile emergencies have shown how continuity, the protection of governments’ ability to perform their most essential functions under all conditions, is truly a whole community endeavor. NCP is charged to develop programs to assist organizations at all levels to prepare to assure their own continuity and ability to deliver critical functions. NCP offers continuity training that provides stakeholders with education and insight to enable them to craft Continuity of Operations plans for their organizations; develop protocols to train, exercise, and update those plans; and provide a structure for enabling their continuity staff to develop advanced expertise in performance of continuity functions.

Website

Continuity news, tools, guidance, and other useful resources may be found on FEMA’s website at: www.fema.gov/national-continuity-programs.

Continuity Updates

About the Continuity Excellence Series

FEMA NCP established the Continuity Excellence Series (CES) - Level I, Professional Continuity Practitioner and Level II, Master Continuity Practitioner in 2008. The Series is designed for governmental and non-governmental continuity professionals throughout the whole community. The CES addresses the full spectrum of requirements to support a viable continuity capability. Courses are available for students at all levels, from individuals new to continuity to program managers with many years of experience. Training classes enable personnel to develop and enhance their continuity knowledge and expertise. Some courses are offered in a web-based independent study (IS) setting to allow students a convenient opportunity to expand their knowledge of continuity.

The CES has been coordinated with the FEMA Emergency Management Institute (EMI) and meets the EMI Excellence Series requirements.

The prerequisite for earning a Master Continuity Level II certificate is to satisfy all course requirements of the Level I program and receive the Level I, Professional Continuity Practitioner, certificate. These courses offer a broad introduction to effective continuity and emergency management planning, operations, and exercises. Students may select from a range of choices according to their organizations' specific needs. Further information regarding the Level I requirements can be found in the Professional Continuity Practitioner Program Level I brochure.

Benefits of CES Qualifications

The CES Program brings valuable benefits to continuity professionals, their sponsoring organizations, and the nation as a whole. The CES combines emergency management, continuity, leadership, and instructional delivery courses. The training better enables students to understand the range of activities that comprise continuity planning and operations, and how each principle better ensures organizations can continue to perform essential functions when normal operations are disrupted.

The CES offers individuals committed to continuity planning a path to advance and hone their skills at all stages of their careers. The training and tools that the CES provides form the nucleus of a professional continuity cadre serving to build a culture of preparedness and ready the nation for catastrophic disasters.

Training Locations

Many CES courses are available online, as designated with an IS in the course number. For more information, please visit the EMI Independent Study website at: [http://training.fema.gov/is](http://training.fema.gov/is).

In-person trainings may be organized locally, in coordination with the FEMA Regional Continuity Managers, or at EMI. For more information about in-person courses, please email: FEMA-Continuity-Practitioner@fema.dhs.gov.

Master Continuity Practitioner - Level II

The Level II program provides a training structure ideal for experienced continuity professionals to deepen their knowledge and become leaders in driving continuity concepts in their organizations. Courses are designed to offer intensive training in planning, evaluation, and instructional delivery. Candidates for the Level II designation must complete a teaching requirement in order to obtain this certificate.

Course Requirements

Complete ALL of the following:

- IS 130a: Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning OR E 132 (limited to EMI Resident MEPP candidates) OR G 130 Exercise Evaluation
- IS 240.b OR equivalent E/L/G course: Leadership and Influence
- IS 551: Devolution Planning Workshop
- IS 156: Building Design for Homeland Security

Instruct or facilitate ONE of the following:

- PER 266: Instructor Training Certification
- G 265: Instructional Delivery Skills (formerly G 261: Instructional Presentation Skills)
- E 605: Instructional Delivery
- E/L/G 141: Instructional Presentation and Evaluation Skills

Obtain a CES—Level I, Professional Continuity Practitioner, Qualification

Pass a Written Comprehensive Exam

- 150 Questions
- 70% Required Score to Pass

Applicants are eligible to take the comprehensive exam once they have completed all Level I and Level II requirements. Please contact: FEMA-Continuity-Practitioner@fema.dhs.gov for more information on the examination.

NOTE: Previous EMI course versions are acceptable with proof of completion.