

POLICE SOCIETY FOR PROBLEM BASED LEARNING

LEVEL 4 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Overview

There are three basic tasks you must complete in Level 4 Police PBL Certification:

- **Apprentice with a Level 4 PBL mentor** for one year;
- **Create a Plan of Study** that lists the required competencies and how you will achieve them;
- **Create a Learning Journal** that documents your learning journey.

1. Goals of Level 4 PBL certification

1. (a) Demonstrated commitment to PBL as a learning and teaching method

The essential message behind mastery of Police PBL competencies is that PBL classrooms are "learning communities" where learners and teachers together construct the learning journey. In Police PBL this is not primarily done through lectures or PowerPoint presentations, but rather through the 5 step PBL process. It is also done through collective activities, for example in Police PBL we call these activities "community learning" and "cohort groups". It is done through mentoring learners in emotional intelligence. You can accomplish this goal by committing yourself to Police PBL as a means by which learning takes place.

1. (b) Mastery-in life long PBL learning

The goal of successful Level 4 PBL Certification is to become masterful at managing complex PBL learning environments. Recognize that mastery over PBL, or any complex and worthy competency, is never really complete. It is a life-long goal. Therefore, your goal in this level of certification is to acknowledge that PBL learning is life long learning. It is built on "*mastery-in*" PBL, not "*mastery-of*" PBL.

1. (c) Continual improvement of core competencies

There are core competencies required for Level 4 Certification. In truth, these competencies are present in all levels of certification, indeed in all good teaching. However, in Level 4 Certification you must clearly and creatively demonstrate them to the point where you can teach them to others. The best way to do this is for you to self-reflect upon them in a learning journal through the use of critical thinking.

Critical thinking in this case comprises four forms:

1. (c) i - Abstract thinking - the ability to manipulate concepts, learning patterns, and teaching principles into mental pictures or processes in order to creatively apply them.

1. (c) ii - Systems thinking - the ability to analyze the interconnections between concepts, learning patterns, and teaching principles in order to creatively apply them.

1. (c) iii - Experimentation thinking - the ability to challenge traditional methods and create new ways to test alternative hypotheses for teaching and learning.

1. (c) iv - Collaborative thinking - the ability to work in an open-minded and cooperative way with others while constructing or adapting new ways to teach and learn in a PBL environment.

2. The Plan of Study and Learning Journal

You will create a Plan of Study in which lists each of the competencies and how they will be, or are already, achieved. Your Plan of Study should include an evaluation rubric. You will also submit to your mentor a Learning Journal in written or electronic form in which you discuss how you creatively applied each type of critical thinking throughout the year.

3. Core Competencies of Level 4 PBL Certification

Core competencies are listed below:

3. (a) Teaching Competency: Lead instructor in a minimum of five PTO/PBL courses using primarily a Police PBL format to teach these courses.

3. (b) Apprenticeship Competency: One year apprenticeship with a Certified Level 4 Instructor

3. (c) Plan of Study Competency: The apprentice will develop a Plan of Study incorporating:

3. (c) i - Group tutoring in a PBL classroom,

3. (c) ii - Emotional intelligence with students,

3. (c) iii - Learning counseling,

3. (c) iv - PBL Curricula development and

3. (c) v - Evaluation methods.

3. (d) Mentoring Competency: You will practice mentoring by mentoring others in the certification processes. You will accomplish this by supervising and administering a minimum of six instructors in the development program including helping others reach Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Final Approval

The learning period for the Plan of Study will not be less than one year. In conjunction with your mentor, you may agree upon a longer completion date if some portions are incomplete and if you wish to remain in the program until completion.

Final approval for Certification is determined by the Certification Committee.

As prescribed in the program, once inside the certification program, every three years each certified member above Level 2 must submit a self-report summary in a professional logbook that documents activities satisfying at least 40 hours of Continuing Education Unit (CEUs) credit. Any member who fails to achieve 40 hours of CEUs credit will not appear on the Register, nor qualify for recommendation from the PSPBL Register as a certified PBL instructor.