

COPE Standards for Commercial Support (COPE SCS)

Implementation Processes for Corporate Supporters/Commercial Interest

1. COPE Approved Administrators/Providers cannot be directly employed by or represent a commercial interest.
2. For COPE Accredited CE, financial support from commercial interests must be in the form of an educational grant and requires a signed agreement agreeing to abide by the principles inherent in the COPE Standards for Commercial Support and the purpose of the educational grants must be acknowledged in the agreement.
 - a. The only financial or in-kind support provided by commercial interests can be given within the educational grant; supporters cannot give any financial incentives or reimbursement to instructors and anyone else in a position to impact the content of COPE Accredited CE, including persons involved in the educational planning activities.
3. Under no circumstances can an employee or consultant of a commercial interest submit a course for COPE accreditation.
4. Under no circumstances can a commercial interest give financial incentives, payments or reimbursements to instructors or any other person who has impact over COPE Accredited CE content and delivery.
5. Corporate supporters cannot require COPE Approved Administrators/Providers to accept advice or services concerning instructors, participants, authors or other education matters including content and delivery as conditions of contributing funds or services.
6. Corporate supporters agree that all support associated with COPE Accredited CE will be given with the full knowledge and approval of the COPE Approved Administrator/Provider.
7. Corporate supporters agree that COPE Approved Administrators/Providers must maintain control over all promotional activities prior to, during and after events. Supporters will not violate the following specific requirements regarding promotional activities:
 - a. Product promotion, product specific advertisements of any type is prohibited in the space or in any space where learners must see the advertising to access or leave the course, on the screen or on the audio/video feeds or during COPE Accredited CE.
 - b. Commercial interest representatives cannot engage in sales or promotional activities while in the same space or place of the COPE Accredited CE. Commercial interest representatives may be present during COPE Accredited CE, but must refrain from addressing the learners during the course delivery.
 - c. Commercial exhibits or advertisements cannot influence the planning or delivery of COPE Accredited CE.
 - d. Within educational content, advertising and promotional materials is prohibited. Advertising and promotional materials may be included within content not directly related to education of the learner or educational materials, including schedules, event descriptions and activities.