

Webinar Series Zoom Q&A

“2024 to 2026 Standards: Crossing the Bridge Together: Session 2”

QAS™ Self Study & Nano Learning Delivery Methods

This document contains general questions which were asked during the NASBA Registry’s recent webinar series titled, “2024 to 2026 Standards: Crossing the Bridge Together Session 2.” Some questions were similar in nature but worded slightly differently. In this scenario, the questions have been merged, and the answers have been summarized into one combined question/answer. Questions are in black, bolded text while the answers appear beneath in blue.

If a question your organization submitted is not within this document, please reach out to us at cpe@nasba.org to speak with your account manager regarding your specific inquiry.

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CPE Credit & Calculation

1. We recently received a new fillable PDF word count document. Does this replace the old excel word count doc

General Questions

1. Under Section 2.02.1 of the revised 2026 Standards, have text-based courses been removed from the traditional self-study delivery method?

Text-based and e-book courses may continue to qualify as traditional self study programs if they are designed as instructional CPE programs and comply with all applicable self study requirements, including instructional material requirements, navigation, review questions or content reinforcement tools with feedback, qualified assessment, completion verification, credit measurement, participant communication, and documentation requirements.

2. Does the one-year expiration apply only to the participant's qualified assessment deadline, or should the full course access/completion period also be limited to the same one-year period?

The one-year expiration date is the deadline for completing the qualified assessment. The Standards do not separately prescribe how long the sponsor must provide access to the course materials, although the course must remain current and compliant while it is offered.

3. What is "adaptive learning" under the revised Standards? How can a sponsor practically implement adaptive learning within a self-study or other learning program format?

Under the revised Standards, adaptive learning is a form of self study in which the program uses a computer algorithm, predictive analytics tools, or participant-driven selections to customize the participant's learning activities and help the participant meet the stated learning objectives. Sponsors may implement adaptive learning through diagnostic assessments, branching scenarios, personalized learning paths, or platform-driven recommendations. However, the program must still comply with applicable self study requirements for instructional materials, participant engagement, qualified assessment or embedded mastery, CPE credit measurement, completion verification, and documentation.

4. What are adaptive sessions in regard to replaying recorded webinars?

Adaptive learning self study is a program that uses a computer algorithm, other predictive analytics tools, or participant-driven selections to orchestrate interaction with the participant to deliver customized learning activities and to assist the participant in meeting the course's stated learning objectives. A QAS™ self study program which is derived from a recorded webinar would not generally be considered adaptive as those types of programs typically have a set scope and sequence, which does not change from participant to participant based on individual responses. It sounds as though what

you are describing would likely be considered a traditional QAS™ self study program rather than adaptive.

5. Now that QAS™ SS is accepting courses for a minimum of 0.2 CPE, what are the differences that remain between QAS™ SS and NL program requirements?

- Nano learning programs must have 1 learning objective
- Nano learning programs must be 0.2 credits
- Nano learning programs can't be paper based
- Nano learning qualified assessment score must be 100%
- If participants do not pass the qualified assessment with a 100%, they must retake the entire course before a re-attempt is allowed
- There can only be 2 questions on a Nano learning qualified assessment- no more, no less
- The word count formula is the only allowable methodology for determining the recommended CPE credits for a Nano learning program
- Nano learning programs do not require review questions or other scored content-reinforcement tools.

6. QAS™ programs must still be completed individually, correct? A company can't fill a conference room, play the program and whoever's there can get credit?

Correct. QAS™ programs are meant to be completed in which the individual learner has control over the time, place and pace of learning. Gathering together in a room to collectively experience a program would fall under the Group delivery method.

7. For Sponsors who are approved for both QAS™ and Nano, what advantage do we have to continue using Nano?

Many Board regulations continue to enforce the self study minimum of one-half credits. While the Standards have been updated to reflect the acceptance of the one-fifth credit, it may take some time to see if Board Regulations are updated to accept the same.

8. Will States that accept Nano also accept 0.2 QAS™ Self Study credits? For example, Georgia accepts Nano credit but currently requires “a minimum of one-half (1/2) credit must be earned initially” for self-study programs. Do you expect states who have accepted nano to align with the new SS standards?

Depending on the Board, they may have to go through a rulemaking process to accept credits in different increments than their rules currently state.

9. If a QAS™ self study course was set up under the old standards does it now need to be updated to meet the new standards if it no longer does?

Initial and Additional Delivery Method applications must be aligned with the 2026 Standards by 8-1-26. Any programs which are in development or being published for the first time must be aligned by 3-1-27, and programs which were existing before 7-31-26 must be aligned with the 2026 Standards by 11-1-28.

10. Are approved QAS™ Self Study sponsors now able to provide Nano Learning programs?

Nano learning remains its own delivery method. These two delivery methods have not been combined in the 2026 Standards.

11. Does the change in “course components” apply onto to nano learning programs?

The course component requirements for QAS™ have remained the same from the 2024 Standards. The 2026 Standards added the additional components outlined in this presentation for nano learning programs.

12. Where do AI simulations fall under the guidelines?

If the simulations respond to the participant and offer variable paths of learning based on each response, then it would fall under Adaptive Learning.

13. If we are creating a QAS™ self study today, can we apply the 2026 standards while we still have existing courses using the old standards (understanding the existing courses will need to be updated by 2028)?

As a NASBA administrative practice, sponsors are encouraged to transition all programs within a delivery method to the 2026 Standards at the same time whenever practicable. A consistent transition across the delivery method can help sponsors maintain clear procedures and demonstrate compliance with the applicable Standards.

The 2026 Standards establish different transition dates depending on whether a program was already existing as of July 31, 2026, is in development or being published for the first time, or is associated with an initial or additional delivery method application.

If a sponsor is unable to transition all programs within a delivery method at the same time, the sponsor should contact NASBA to discuss its specific circumstances and transition plan. NASBA will consider the applicable effective-date provisions and the status of the programs involved when providing guidance.

14. We are a current sponsor but will be applying for the QAS™ Self Study delivery method soon. Will we be held to the new standard for that application?

Additional Delivery Method applications would need to follow the 2026 Standards.

15. Will a certificate of completion or a NASBA audit need to indicate if a QAS™ Self Study is traditional or adaptive?

Simply stating "QAS™ self study" is compliant on the certificate of completion. It is not expected for traditional or adaptive to be distinguished on that documentation.

QAS™ Self Study Delivery Method

Participant Engagement

1. Participant Engagement Minimums:

A self study program must include at least three review questions or other content reinforcement tools with scored responses per CPE credit. Review questions or other content reinforcement tools must be placed throughout the program at sufficient intervals. The 2026 Standards allow for QAS™ self study programs to be offered for 0.2 CPE at minimum, which will be discussed in more detail later in this presentation. If the QAS™ self study program is offered for 0.2 (one-fifth) CPE credits, no review questions or other content reinforcement tools are required.

The chart located in Section 5, Paragraph 5.01.2.1 outlines the minimum number of participant engagement instances after the first one-fifth credit is earned. After the first full credit is earned, additional review questions or other content reinforcement tools with scored responses are required based on this chart.

2. Under the 2026 Standards, do we still have to provide evaluative and reinforcement feedback for review questions and other content reinforcement tools?

Under Section 5.01.2.2, feedback on review questions or other content reinforcement tools must be provided. At a minimum, the feedback must indicate whether the response was correct or incorrect. Explanatory or evaluative feedback for each answer option is permitted and may be a best practice, but it is not required by the Standard.

3. For a sorting or matching activity with many possible incorrect answers, would a general explanation of why the correct sorting is correct be sufficient under the new standards?

Under the new standards, the minimum requirement for feedback is that it indicates if the answer is correct or incorrect. Additional information would be acceptable.

4. Please clarify whether participant engagement requirements for QAS™ self study are met by the review questions.

Yes, the typical review questions in a QAS™ Self Study program do count as participant engagement under the '26 Standards.

Completion Verification

1. Qualified Assessment Minimums:

Traditional self study programs must have at least 5 qualified assessment questions or scored responses per CPE credit. The 2026 Standards allow for QAS™ self study programs to be offered for 0.2 CPE at minimum. If the QAS™ self study program is offered for 0.2 (one-fifth) CPE credits, there must be at least 2 qualified assessment questions or scored responses.

After the first one-fifth credit is earned, qualified assessment questions and scored responses are required based on the one-fifth credit measurement amount of the program as shown in the chart located in Section 6 of the 2026 Standards. After the first full credit and the minimum of five questions and scored responses per CPE credit, additional items are required based on this chart as well.

For adaptive programs, the applicable qualified-assessment minimum—including the partial-credit requirements in the table—must be satisfied by the fastest completion path through the program. When assessment questions are used to evaluate the participant's path throughout the program and require a 100% success rate to complete it, then an additional qualified assessment is not required at the end of the course.

2. Pre-Program Assessment:

The 2026 Standards removed the previous restrictions related to feedback and reuse of pre-program assessment questions. However, pre-program assessments may not be included in determining the recommended CPE credit.

3. For self-study courses offered in half-credit (0.5) increments, please confirm how the qualified assessment question count should be calculated beyond 0.5 CPE.

The half-credit increment adds 4 questions for the half-credit portion. Each full credit requires 5 questions.

Therefore:

0.5 CPE= 4 questions for 0.5 credits

1.0 CPE= 5 questions for the first full credit

1.5 CPE = 5 questions for the first full credit + 4 questions for the additional 0.5 credit = 9

2.5 CPE = 10 questions for two full credits + 4 questions for the additional 0.5 credit = 14

3.5 CPE = 15 questions for three full credits + 4 questions for the additional 0.5 credit = 19

4.5 CPE = 20 questions for four full credits + 4 questions for the additional 0.5 credit = 24

The assessment must still meet the other requirements in Standard 6.01.2, including a cumulative minimum passing grade of at least 70%, no forced-choice responses such as true/false or yes/no, and measurement of a representative number of the program's learning objectives.

4. Can the Completion Verification measure double count as the Participant Engagement requirement for a QAS™ self study program?

A qualified assessment may contribute to participant engagement, but it does not replace the review questions or other content-reinforcement tools required by Section 5.01.2.1. The program must separately satisfy both the required reinforcement-tool minimums and the qualified-assessment requirements.

5. Are we required to keep a participant's completed assessment after they pass?

The 2026 Standards do not explicitly require sponsors to retain each participant's completed assessment or individual answers after the participant passes.

Under Standard 9.02.2, a self-study sponsor must retain, for at least five years, the participant's program completion verification record, including:

The participant's completion status

CPE credits earned

Course completion date

A record showing the participant's score, passing status, assessment attempt, and completion date would generally support compliance.

6. In adaptive components of the asynchronous portion of a blended learning program, a qualified assessment is not necessary if the program requires 100% correct responses in order to complete the program. Is this also true for standard QAS™ self study adaptive learning programs (not part of a Blended Learning program)?

Yes, this standard requirement is the same for QAS™ self study programs. This is outlined specifically in Paragraph 6.01.2.

7. Is there a maximum number of questions allowed for the qualified assessment in a QAS™ self study program?

There are no official limits on how many qualified assessment questions should be within a program. The Standards only specify the minimum number per CPE credit.

8. Did you indicate that we should not be giving them feedback if they get a question wrong in a 7-question quiz unless it is from a test/quiz bank?

For the Completion Verification (Qualified Assessment) that is correct. If a sufficient test bank is not used, feedback may not be provided following a failed assessment. Once the participant successfully passes the qualified assessment with the required cumulative score of at least 70%, the sponsor may provide feedback.

9. What is considered a "test bank of sufficient size" that would allow us to provide feedback during the qualified assessment?

The Standards document does not define this specifically. Generally, during development, you would want to make sure that a large amount of questions are not repeated from one attempt to the next. Your organization will want to test this out with your LMS to be sure that the algorithm is accurately alternating through the test bank rather than repeating many questions from one attempt to the next.

10. Can you clarify the change to the number of qualified assessment questions and the number of review questions? Is it no longer a simple #CPE x 5 and #CPE x 3?

Those minimums have stayed the same, but some of the incremental values have shifted slightly, so be sure to check out the charts in Paragraphs 5.01.2.1 and 6.01.2.

11. Test banks built in Articulate and Captivate only present each user a different set of questions. The same user will continuously face the same questions when they retake the quiz until they pass. To confirm, this means no feedback can be given until they pass even though it's using a test bank, correct?

Yes, you are correct.

12. If I have a 50 minute recording and a 5 question quiz, does this meet requirements? Don't need to add any other engagement?

The Qualified Assessment used as the completion verification is a separate requirement from the review questions used as the Participant Engagement. QAS™ Self Study Programs must have both requirements met to be compliant with the Standards.

13. Did the number of questions for a qualified assessment for 0.5 CPE increase from 3 to 4?

Yes, there are incremental changes for these values in the 2026 Standards. Be sure to refer to the chart in Paragraph 6.01.1 for the outline of minimum requirements for the qualified assessment, and in Paragraph 5.01.2.1 for minimum requirements for review questions or other content reinforcement tools.

CPE Credit & Calculation

1. What do you mean when you say that QAS™ self study can be offered in 0.2 CPE increments?

A program can be offered for 0.2 CPE if that is the value that the calculation yields when using one of the approved methodologies.

2. Can you round down to any degree for an On Demand class? If for word count it qualifies for 1.5 CPE can we choose to round that down to 1 CPE, to simplify providing CPE for courses with 50 minutes of video but numerous review and exam questions?

Sponsors are allowed to round down to the nearest half or whole credit. However, the recommended CPE credit value must be determined by either pilot testing or word count formula methodologies, which encompass the number of review and qualified assessment questions. It is not compliant to base the recommended CPE credit on the run time only and then add on questions after the calculation.

3. Can the word count document also be updated to calculate the minimum number of review questions and minimum number of assessment questions?

You can input the question total values into the word count formula template as before, but it is the sponsor's responsibility to make sure they have implemented the correct minimum number per CPE credit based on the guidelines in the Standards.

4. Can I have certain courses follow the one-fifth line where the course is offered for 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, or 0.8 and other courses that follow the one-half like 0.5, 1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, etc? Or do all self study courses have to start at the same election of the one-fifth vs one-half?

Under the 2026 Standards, a sponsor may have some traditional/adaptive QAS™ self study courses use the one-fifth-credit (0.2 CPE) starting point and other courses use the one-half-credit (0.5 CPE) starting point. The Standards do not state that a sponsor must make one global election for all self study courses.

Standard 7.01(3)(i) provides two alternatives for traditional and adaptive QAS™ self study programs:

- A course may begin with one-fifth credit and then be awarded in one-fifth increments up to the first full credit: 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8.
- A course may begin with one-half credit. If it begins at one-half credit, no additional increment may be added until the course reaches 1.0 credit.

- Once a course reaches 1.0 credit, either one-fifth or one-half increments may be used, resulting in amounts such as 1.0, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, etc.
- 5. The 0.5 credit must be earned first for self study (elected over 0.2), and 0.2 increments and 0.5 can be earned, but only after the first full credit is earned, is that right? So a course that could technically qualify for 0.8 could only offer 0.5, but a course that could technically qualify for 1.2 could offer as much?**

Yes, that is correct.

6. Minimum CPE Credit for QAS™ SS Programs:

Section 7 of the 2026 Standards covers Program Measurement. Previously, QAS™ self study programs were offered for a minimum of 0.5 CPE. As mentioned earlier in this webinar, under the 2026 revisions, a minimum of 0.2 CPE credit may initially be awarded for a traditional or adaptive self study program.”

If one-fifth credit is awarded initially, credits may be awarded in one-fifth increments up to a full credit.

If one-half credit is awarded initially, then no increments can be added until one full credit is awarded.

Once one full credit has been earned, credits may be awarded in one fifth (0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8) or one-half increments (1.0, x.2, x.4, x.5, x.6, x.8, and so on).

Methodologies

1. CPE Calculation Methodologies

As outlined in paragraph 7.02, CPE credits for traditional QAS™ self study programs must be calculated using either pilot testing, or the prescribed word count formula. Adaptive learning may also use these methods, but the 2026 Standards have also included a third option for adaptive learning courses. If the adaptive learning platform or technology can track an individual participant's actual completion time through the program, then CPE credit may be awarded as the individual participant's actual completion time.

2. Previously, we were able to base the recommended CPE credit for a QAS™ self study program on archived group live and group internet based programs. Is this still an acceptable methodology for calculating the recommended CPE credit for a QAS™ self study program?

No. Under the 2026 Standards, the recommended CPE credit for traditional QAS™ self study programs must be determined by using the pilot testing or word count formula methodologies only. Adaptive QAS™ self study programs can also use those methodologies, but have an additional option in using an adaptive learning platform or technology that tracks an individual participant's actual completion time under the new standards.

3. Can the recommended CPE credit for a QAS™ self study course be determined by using the certificate of completion for an archived group live or group internet based program? Did this change in the 2026 Standards?

The provision for using recorded group live or group internet based programs as the determinant for establishing CPE credit for a QAS™ self study course was removed from the 2026 version. These programs should be evaluated against the 2 valid self study credit methodologies: word count formula or pilot testing. Adaptive QAS™ self study programs may also use the individual tracking system methodology.

4. If we have current self study courses where CPE credit was calculated by "CPE credit for a recorded group Internet based program not facilitated by a real time subject matter expert will be equal to the CPE credit awarded to the original presentation" can they keep their credit? Or do we need to create a word count formula for them?

This established course would need to be updated by the established Nov 1, 2028 deadline as it is already in progress. If a sponsor plans to transition soon than that - we would ask that the updates be made by the transition date.

5. Can we still round down to nearest .0 or .5 if we don't want to offer one-fifth credits?

Yes, this is correct.

6. We recently received a new fillable PDF word count document. Does this replace the old excel word count doc?

The NASBA Registry offers an excel word count formula document on the Templates page of our website located at: <https://www.nasbaregistry.org/registry-forms--policies/sample-templates> Sponsors are not required to use that resource, but it is there if you would like to. There is also a new resource available titled, "CPE Calculation" in the Blended Learning column which you can use for more information and calculation examples. The Registry has not recently sent out or created any new fillable PDF documents. Please be sure to verify that any communications from the NASBA Registry are coming from cpe@nasba.org.

Individual Tracking System (adaptive QAS™ self study only)

1. Technology tracking an individual participant's actual completion time: Does this mean that participants in Adaptive QAS™ Self-Study courses can be awarded different CPE values?

Yes, participants could be awarded different credit values, based on their actual completion time of an adaptive program. One way we might advise sponsors to set up promo/materials is with the following language/disclaimer: Recommended CPE credit: Up to [X] CPE credits. Actual CPE credit awarded may vary based on the participant's verified completion time through the adaptive learning program. The participant's verified completion time must be converted to an allowable CPE-credit increment under Section 7.01, with credit rounded down rather than up when necessary.

2. What do sponsors need to provide in order to show that the Individual Tracking System is valid?

Reviewers should determine whether the platform can track and document the individual participant's completion path and time and whether it is sufficiently responsive to identify deviations from the expected learning path or unreasonable completion times. The sponsor must also maintain or be able to produce the individual participant's completion path and time through the program.

Nano Learning Delivery Method

General Questions

1. What are the new course components that are required for the NL Programs?

At a minimum, the instructional materials should contain the listed course components. The nano-learning program must also comply with all other applicable Standards, including the single-learning-objective, qualified-assessment, measurement, communication, evaluation, and documentation requirements.

2. Is nano learning still a separate delivery method from QAS™ self study?

Yes that is correct. Nano learning and QAS™ self study remain as two separate delivery methods.

3. How should a nano learning program be handled if it is adaptive in nature? For example, what if it is just a branching scenario simulation by itself. Duration can't be quantified because it depends on the learner's choices.

This type of program would fall into the adaptive QAS™ self study category rather than the nano learning delivery method. At this time, there is no allowance for nano learning programs to be adaptive, but this type of program would qualify as an adaptive QAS™ self study program as long as it can be offered for at least 0.2 CPE. The approved program measurement methodologies for adaptive QAS™ self study programs are: pilot testing, word count formula, or individual tracking system.

4. What does it mean when you say that for nano learning we need to include an overview of topics? Do you mean a welcome slide introducing the topic?

An overview of topics should provide the participant with a concise indication of the subject matter that will be covered. It could appear on an introductory or overview screen. A table of contents or similar navigation feature may separately help satisfy the requirement that participants be able to find information quickly.

Participant Engagement

1. Are review questions/other content reinforcement tools required for Nano Learning programs?

No. This is not a requirement but is optional for Nano Learning programs. However, if sponsors choose to implement participant engagement measures, be aware that they should align with the guidelines outlined in Paragraph 5.01.2.1 & 5.01.2.2.

Completion Verification

1. Are we required to keep a participant's completed assessment after they pass?

The 2026 Standards do not explicitly require sponsors to retain each participant's completed assessment or individual answers after the participant passes.

Under Standard 9.02.2, a self-study sponsor must retain, for at least five years, the participant's program completion verification record, including:

The participant's completion status

CPE credits earned

Course completion date

A record showing the participant's score, passing status, assessment attempt, and completion date would generally support compliance.

2. Can I have more than 2 questions in the qualified assessment for a nano learning program?

No. Nano Learning programs must have exactly 2 qualified assessment questions- no more, no less.

3. With the new Standards, will Qualified Assessment questions allow for "All of the above" or "None of the above" answer options?

These answer choice options are not specified in the 2026 Standards. However, best practices would recommend avoiding the use of "all of the above" and "none of the above" options.

4. When establishing the new requirement to delay feedback until an initial 70% pass rate is achieved, were adult learning theory and cognitive development best practices taken into consideration?

This is not a new requirement and was retained from the 2024 Standards. There are some options available which enable sponsors to provide feedback prior to achieving 70% outlined in Paragraph 6.01.2.

CPE Credit & Calculation

1. We recently received a new fillable PDF word count document. Does this replace the old excel word count doc?

The NASBA Registry offers an excel word count formula document on the Templates page of our website located at: <https://www.nasbaregistry.org/registry-forms--policies/sample-templates> Sponsors are not required to use that resource, but it is there if you would like to. There is also a new resource available titled, "CPE Calculation" in the Blended Learning column which you can use for more information and calculation examples. The Registry has not recently sent out or created any new fillable PDF documents. Please be sure to verify that any communications from the NASBA Registry are coming from cpe@nasba.org.