



NLP Training and the IANLP: Background and Current Status

Guiding principles: Humanism and Pragmatism

Neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) is an approach developed for understanding individual information processing and interpersonal communication. It improves human lives and optimizes interactions in close relationships, families, educational settings, and the work environment. NLP has been developed over the course of the past 30 years and is still evolving, thanks to the commitment and innovative spirit of NLP professionals worldwide. The guiding principles of NLP are those of humanism and pragmatism. Beneficial and innovative forms of communications are analyzed and described, so that others may verify, repeat and refine the results. The primary legitimacy of NLP lies in the extent to which users and clients find it useful in mastering life's challenges and developing their inherent potential.

Efficacy of NLP has been researched and permeates popular Culture

While the efficacy of NLP has been researched extensively and can be reviewed, for example, at the websites of the NLP Research and Recognition Project (nlprandr.org), the European Association for Neuro-Linguistic Psychotherapy (www.eanlpt.org), or the Research Data Base of www.nlp.de, the ultimate measure of the usefulness of NLP is documented by the thousands of satisfied individuals and professionals who continue to use the techniques of NLP in their daily lives. A further measure of the extent of this success is witnessed by the fact that many key NLP concepts and techniques have permeated popular culture: rapport, reframe, and anchor are all originally NLP concepts that are now used in a variety of fields, such as media, sales training, sports performance, corporate management training, and psychotherapy.

Reasons to insist on IANLP certified NLP training

The continual growth of NLP has come with a price, however. While early pioneers consisted of a close-knit community of professionals who took care to enforce quality standards, the fact is that the terms NLP and Neuro-linguistic Programming are not owned by any one person, and are not a trademarked intellectual property; as a result, there are a plethora of training institutes with a number of certification bodies, all offering somewhat different standards for training and certification. Today, certification training in NLP ranges from a few hours of Internet-based learning to intensive live training, with observation and feedback from experienced professionals, programs that include stringent assessment and testing, and typically require years to complete until the highest level of training is certified.

While teaching the theoretical basis and required skills of NLP is a more or less straightforward process, it is only within the context of closely supervised trainings that prospective NLP professionals can learn to fully embrace the framework and apply the skills of NLP in their own lives, leading to a maturity and authenticity in their professional practice. As with any professional practice, an awareness of ethical issues must be part of the professional training. All training certified by the IANLP address the development of ethical integrity and only trainers with a documented history of impeccable personal and professional conduct are granted the highest level of recognition, the Fellow Member Trainer IANLP status.

The IANLP: Quality and Ethics in NLP training for 30+ years

Since its inception in 1983, the IANLP has set standards for NLP certification trainings that demand superior proficiency in both theory and practice, coupled with the development of professional maturity that must be the foundation of responsible, ethical practice. As a result of placing the necessity of personal development and ethical conduct on the same footing as theoretical and technical proficiency, we can proudly say that some of the world's most renowned NLP professionals have chosen to join our organization, since it embodies the core values that they embrace. Today the IANLP enjoys a membership on five continents and continues to grow by virtue of its consistently high professional standards, providing a benchmark of excellence that has become recognized and admired within the NLP community throughout the world.