



# Creative Problem Solving:

## A Process for Deliberate Creativity & Innovation

### About the course

Creative Problem Solving (CPS) is a deliberate method for solving problems and finding opportunities, used when you want creative (novel and valuable) solutions. This course teaches the OmniSkills version of the time-tested Osborn-Parnes CPS model, using a full-immersion environment.

### Audience

Anyone who would like to find creative (original, valuable, and implementable) solutions to problems and opportunities.

### Course objectives

- To define creativity, identify the creative process, and demonstrate that creative skills can be enhanced.
- To use the Creative Problem Solving (CPS) process to identify and solve problems.
- To use divergent thinking tools to generate options and ideas.
- To use convergent thinking tools to evaluate options and make decisions.

### Time investment

- Before the class session: 2-4 hours
- During the class session: 16 hours
- After the class session: 2-4 hours plus each participant's ongoing commitment to apply the learning

### Class size

We recommend a minimum of six, and a maximum of 12 participants per facilitator. Larger groups can be accommodated by adding additional facilitators.

### Customization

All OmniSkills courses are tailored to your organization's needs and goals, and to the specific group taking the course. For more information about customization, contact us using any of the methods below.

### Concept Description

Creative Problem Solving (CPS) is a form of deliberate creativity – a structured process for solving problems or finding opportunities, used when you want to go beyond conventional thinking and arrive at creative (original and valuable) solutions. As the source of new ideas and solutions, CPS is an essential part of any innovation and change initiative.

You can, of course, choose to solve problems in conventional ways. Indeed, most problems are solved using known solutions. Creativity is solving problems in new and better ways. Creativity is how your organization becomes truly innovative, and how it uncovers new, different, and market-making opportunities.

What makes CPS different from other problem-solving models is its focus on creative outcomes. The way it does this is by including both divergent and convergent thinking *at every stage of the process*. This approach is unique to CPS, and has been tested and verified in more than 50 years of business use and ongoing academic scrutiny.

Is CPS right for you? First, let's consider problems and opportunities. CPS is a great choice if you want new thinking, new ideas, new solutions. It's a great choice if you find you are stuck, if you can't solve a certain problem (or problems), even if - especially if - you're not sure what the problem is. CPS is a great choice if you are missing opportunities, or if you want to take advantage of the opportunities before you.

Second, let's consider leadership. Creative thinking and innovative vision are core leadership competencies. CPS provides a structured way for leaders to harness creative thinking, to lead the way to breakthrough innovations, to envision desired future states, and to determine how to get there.

In this course, you will learn the CPS process, its philosophy, and tools, and will apply it to real problems that confront you.



### Learning Design

OmniSkills uses the **Torrance Incubation Model for Teaching and Learning (TIM)** as our framework for learning design. Developed by education and creativity pioneer E. Paul Torrance, TIM's three-phase structure – heighten anticipation, deepen exploration, and extend learning – extends learning beyond the classroom event, in both directions. Pre-class activities heighten anticipation for the class and move the base learning out of the classroom. In-class activities, in which we deepen exploration of the subject, are therefore richer and more valuable, taking full advantage of the classroom's participatory group environment. Post-class, we extend learning into the workplace through a rich assortment of activities and media. Only OmniSkills makes this commitment to successful learning by adding these components at no additional cost. For more information, visit [www.omniskills.com/tim](http://www.omniskills.com/tim).