Fiber Optic Blended Learning Track

Objectives

- Prepare participants for the CFOT certification test
- Provide online/in-class continuing education hours
- Provide Fiber Optic training year-round

Description

This is a blended learning track designed to prepare participants for the CFOT (certified fiber optic technician) exam offered by the FOA (Fiber Optic Association). The track is a combination of online learning courses and hands-on classroom sessions. Due to the quantity and complexity of the content, we have divided it into four online courses. After a student has completed the online courses, they qualify to attend the hands-on classroom sessions followed by the CFOT exam. Be sure to review the "Track Outline" and "Courses Timeline" flow charts for added clarity.

Learning Options

- Student can acquire CFOT (certified fiber optic technician) certification
 - $\circ\quad$ Must complete each online course with a minimum 70% grade
 - Must complete all in-class sessions
 - $\circ \quad \text{Must pass the CFOT certification test} \\$
- 32 continuing education hours possible
 - o 20 hours total available online
 - Content divided into 4 online courses, each worth 5 hours
 - 5 hours awarded for each completed course
 - Students are not required to complete all courses if they only desire a limited amount of continuing education hours
 - 12 hours total available in-class hours
 - Four in-class sessions, 3 hours each
 - Three hands-on class sessions
 - One session for FOA certification testing
- Online content can be completed at the learner's individual pace

- Online content is always available
- Student earns 5 continuing education hours for every completed course
- Student must complete previous course before access to the next course is granted (courses are sequential)
- Hands-on sessions offered every quarter
 - o When all online courses have been completed, the student qualifies to attend the next scheduled round of hands-on courses
 - o Hands-on courses are scheduled near the end of every quarter (roughly every 3 months)
 - Hands-on sessions are limited to the first 16 students to complete the online modules and sign up for the hands-on sessions
 - Additional hands-on courses can be added when demand is high

Outline

- Online content hosted on the Norcal Canvas site
- Canvas courses divided into four quarters annually
 - o This is so continuing education hours can be awarded in a timely manner, with a proper start and end date
- Students can be added to course at any point during the year
 - o Enrollment will close two weeks before the end of each guarter
- Online content divided into four continuously available courses
 - Modules/courses are sequential
 - o Completed modules remain valid between quarters
 - o Incomplete modules are lost between quarters
- Access to hands-on sessions is granted upon completion of all four online courses
 - o If student misses scheduled set of hands-on sessions, they will have to wait until the next scheduled set (about three months)
- CFOT certification test
 - o Student qualifies for certification test AFTER completing
 - Four online courses (20 hours)
 - Three hands-on sessions (9 hours)
 - 3 hours credit given for final review and certification test session
 - Total of 32 continuing education hours available
- Student can earn new credit for a module every 36 months
 - o A module can be taken for credit every three years

Fiber Optic Blended Learning Track Outline

- The learning track is divided into 5 individual courses
- Courses are sequential, access to next course granted upon completion of previous course

• 32 total hours of continuing education available

• Hours awarded for each completed course, not required to finish all courses

Fiber 101
Online
5 hours

Fiber 102 Online 5 hours Fiber 103
Online
5 hours

Fiber 104
Online
5 hours

Fiber 105 Hands-on 12 hours

- Intro to Fiber Optics
- 5 hours of continuing education awarded upon completion
- Begin course at any time

- Fiber Optic cables, bandwidth, and attenuation
- 5 hours of continuing education awarded upon completion
- Prerequisite: Fiber 101

- Fiber Optic termination, splices, and connectors
- 5 hours of continuing education awarded upon completion
- Prerequisite: Fiber 102

- Fiber Optic testing, transmission, and networks
- 5 hours of continuing education awarded upon completion
- Prerequisite: Fiber 103

- 3 hands-on sessions, 1 FOA test session
- 12 hours of continuing education awarded upon completion
- Hands-on sessions offered every three months
- Prerequisite: Fiber 104

Courses Timeline

Winter Quarter
Jan. - Mar.
Online courses 101104 available
Hands-on at end of

quarter

Fall Quarter Oct. - Dec.

Online courses 101-

Hands-on at end of quarter

104 available

All of the Online courses are always available. Completed course credit carries into the following quarter.

Summer Quarter

Jul. - Sep.

Online courses 101-104 available

Hands-on at end of quarter

Spring Quarter Apr. - Jun.

1.0

Online courses 101-104 available

Hands-on at end of quarter

 Hands-on sessions scheduled at the end of each quarter

• Pick up where you left off

Example: If you finish a course in one semester, you can begin with the next course in the following semester if necessary. Only incomplete course progress is lost between quarters.

You can begin a course at any point during the year. Be conscious of the quarter end dates and scheduled hands-on sessions.