



Blended learning is a combination of theory delivered online via eLearning (completed at home or in the workplace) and technical training (taking place at NAIT).

HEAVY EQUIPMENT APPRENTICESHIP

BLENDED LEARNING OPTION

OVERVIEW

The blended learning option for Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training registered Heavy Equipment apprentices is a different approach to technical training at NAIT. This program is an alternative to the traditional eight-week block release program, providing the same training but giving the apprentice the opportunity to learn portions of the theory component off-campus via web-based modules. NAIT instructors will be available to support students during web-based learning, by email and during reserved office hours.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The blended learning option is a 15-week program divided into multiple sections.

- Two to three days of orientation at NAIT— the program begins with a few days on NAIT campus (the number of days varies with each apprenticeship period), during which the apprentice will meet instructors, see the facilities and obtain crucial program information.
- Four to six weeks at home — apprentices return home, where they access course content via web-based delivery.
- Two weeks at NAIT — return to NAIT for face-to-face instruction and to apply theoretical knowledge in a shop setting.
- Four to six weeks at home — return home in order to complete the eLearning portion of the course.
- Two weeks at NAIT — complete the program under an instructor's supervision and write the necessary examinations.

Each period of the blended learning option is available to apprentices only once each school year. The schedule below illustrates the months (inclusive) during which the program is offered.

- First Period: September to December
- Second Period: March to June
- Third Period: September to December
- Fourth Period: March to June

BENEFITS OF BLENDED LEARNING

- less time spent away from job site and family
- potentially reduced residency costs (i.e. housing, food, transportation, parking)
- opportunity for students to set their own pace of learning while eLearning
- opportunity to immediately reinforce online learning on the job site
- opportunity to maintain regular contact with an instructor throughout the program
- a variety of teaching and learning strategies are available to the student
- identical rights and privileges as apprentices in traditional eight-week block release programs, including access to NAIT's library, recreational facilities etc.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The applicant must be an indentured apprentice employed in the Heavy Equipment trade. An official apprenticeship registration number, as issued by Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, is required. NAIT staff will make a decision for acceptance into the program after discussion with the applicant.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Heavy Equipment
Technician
Department
780.471.8600
het@nait.ca

The apprentice is expected to complete all web-based modules in the time frames provided. The information within them is crucial for success during the face-to-face components of the program.

FEES

The fees for the Blended Learning Option are the same as for the apprenticeship block release program.

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

Students should be aware of the following hardware and software requirements for successful home study:

- Windows 7
- Mac OS 10.6.8 or later
- Intel dual core 2.0 GHz (equivalent or higher)
- Speakers and microphone
- MS Office suite (2007 or later, or equivalent)
- High-speed internet
- Adobe Reader
- Adobe Flash Player

FAQS

WHAT DOES THE APPRENTICE NEED TO START THE COURSE?

The apprentice must first register and be accepted. They must have the appropriate technology available for home study. When arriving at NAIT, they require the appropriate work boots, safety glasses and their Letter of Registration.

HOW DOES AN APPRENTICE OBTAIN THE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING MODULES (ILMS) AND OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM?

ILMs and other resources, such as a recommended calculator, are available at the NAIT Bookstore.

WHAT IS THE ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THE WEB-BASED AND FACE-TO-FACE PORTIONS OF THIS TRAINING?

The apprentice is expected to complete all web-based modules in the time frames provided. The information within them is crucial for success during the face-to-face components of the program.

It is anticipated that the time allotted for web-based learning is sufficient for each student to successfully complete the work assigned. Expect approximately 10 - 12 hours of work per week during the distance component of the program.

AIT standards will apply if students miss more than 12 hours of face-to-face instruction.

IS IT NECESSARY FOR THE APPRENTICE TO COMPLETE THE THEORY PORTION PRIOR TO THE PRACTICAL PORTION?

The apprentice is responsible to complete all work as required. Completion of the program is based upon successfully meeting the stated outcomes.

HOW WILL THE MODULES BE ASSESSED AND WHEN?

Each module will conclude with a compulsory quiz. Marks generated from these quizzes will count toward the student's final grade.

Upon returning to NAIT for each face-to-face session, the student will be given an exam covering the material they were responsible for during the previous block of web-based learning. At the end of this time, the student will write a final section exam.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE APPRENTICE COMPLETE THE PROVINCIAL AND INTERPROVINCIAL EXAMS?

Final examinations will be written at approximately 15 weeks after beginning the program.

WHAT IF THE APPRENTICE HAS TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES WHEN ACCESSING THEIR COURSE FROM HOME?

Contact the Help Desk at 780.471.8624.

Hours of operation:

Weekdays: 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Weekends: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(Closed 1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.)

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER TO THE EIGHT-WEEK BLOCK RELEASE PROGRAM?

During the 15-week blended course, transfers to or from the eight-week block release program will not be possible. Students may choose an alternate delivery model for another period, or to redo the same period, but should expect to do so from the beginning of an offering.