The Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship Technical Training (FIATT) Pilot

Hybrid *Online and In-class* Apprenticeship Programs

Saskatchewan
Apprenticeship and
Trade Certification
Commission

Facts and Information

What is Hybrid Training?

This FIATT pilot project is a joint initiative between Employment and Social Development Canada, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trades Certification Commission and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the amount of time an apprentice has to spend at a Saskatchewan Polytechnic Campus for training. Apprentices will be able to complete up to 2 weeks of training at home and at their own pace by using an interactive online format before coming in to a campus for the remainder of the training.

The FIATT pilot project (Hybrid) will include online/in-class programs for Construction Electrician, Plumber, Heavy Duty Equipment Technician, and Truck and Transport Mechanic apprenticeship technical training. This Hybrid training will be available for Level One and Level Three training in the 2016/17 academic year, and Level Two and Level Four training in the 2017/18 academic year. Eligible apprentices now have the option to participate in these programs.

What is the hybrid learning approach?

The hybrid learning approach combines the advantages of two kinds of instruction - online and in-class. Selected apprentices will begin by learning using a guided online environment. Saskatchewan Polytechnic instructors will be available to provide assistance during evenings and on weekends through a variety of electronic methods, such as phone, or e-mail. The online materials are highly interactive and have segments designed into the courses that have apprentices interact with either their employers, or supervising Journeyperson. These 'At Your Workplace' segments have practical applications that apprentices will need to do and then report back in a discussion area online. The Apprentices will then reinforce these important skills while attending in-class training.

This hybrid approach will allow apprentices to support their families and communities by being at home and working while accessing their training online.

How is the training set up?

Selected Construction Electrician apprentices will have 3 months to complete content online, which will lessen 2 weeks from their in-class time. At the end of the 3 months, Level 1 apprentices will immediately attend 6 weeks of in-class training with Level 3 apprentices attending 7 weeks. For the 2017/18 academic year, at the end of the 3 months, Level 2 and 4 apprentices will immediately attend 6 weeks of in-class training.

Selected Plumber apprentices will have 3 months to complete content online, which will lessen 2 weeks from their in-class time. At the end of the 3 months, Level 1 apprentices will immediately attend
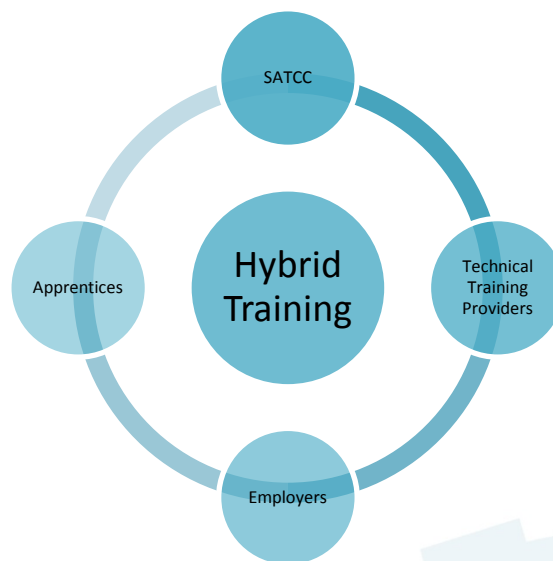
6 weeks of in-class training with Level 3 apprentices attending 5 weeks. For the 2017/18 academic year, at the end of the 3 months, Level 2 apprentices will immediately attend 6 weeks of in-class training with Level 4 apprentices attending 5 weeks.

Selected Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic apprentices will have 2 months to complete content online, which will lessen 1 week from their in-class time. At the end of the 2 months, Level 1 and Level 3 apprentices will immediately attend 7 weeks of in-class training. For the 2017/18 academic year, at the end of the 2 months, Level 2 and Level 4 apprentices will immediately attend 7 weeks of in-class training.

Selected Truck and Transport Mechanic apprentices will have 2 months to complete content online, which will lessen 1 week from their in-class time. At the end of the 2 months, Level 1 and Level 3 apprentices will immediately attend 7 weeks of in-class training. For the 2017/18 academic year, at the end of the 2 months, Level 2 and Level 4 apprentices will immediately attend 7 weeks of in-class training.

Who benefits from this style of training?

Delivery of online training will benefit four key groups:

Ahead-of-the-curve thinking demands innovation and flexibility. The SATCC wants to see apprentices successfully access theory-based training online to reduce their time away from home. This will also allow them to earn full wages during part of their technical training.

- **Benefits to employers**: Individuals will be available for more work hours. Apprentices will be away from work for less time than the traditional technical training model.
- **Benefits to Apprentices**: Individuals will be able to complete theory training near, or at home, which reduces time away from home and work.

- **Benefits to the SATCC and Training Providers**: Each apprentice who succeeds in online training represents reduced stress on the capacity of technical training institutions. Further, the SATCC is attempting to become more cost effective by using a hybrid training approach.

Why is the SATCC offering this style of training?

The SATCC is seeking to promote innovation and accessible learning by providing online technical learning opportunities in combination with in-school training. These Hybrid programs allow apprentices to take a portion of their training online, at home, and reduce their "face time" at the technical training location by *one to two weeks*.

What is required to be a Hybrid learner?

We want our apprentices to succeed! Online learning can be both demanding and rewarding. Dedication and commitment are necessary to complete the online materials within the required time periods. Please note that no extensions will be given for the allocated online or in-class training time. The in-school portion will be scheduled to immediately follow the online portion.
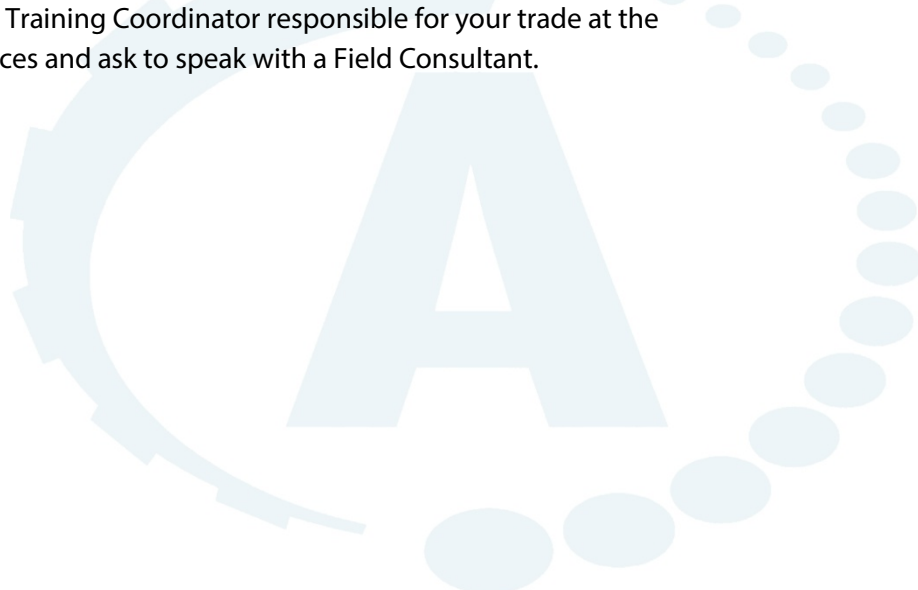
What are the tuition and the hour credits?

The tuition for Hybrid training is the same as for the standard full time apprenticeship training program. The hour credit that is automatically awarded for the successful completion of a level of Hybrid training is also the same as the standard full time apprenticeship training program.

What is needed to be eligible?

To be eligible, apprentices must have submitted trade time hours and have them on record with the SATCC. The hours required depend on the level of training being requested. Those with the most trade time hours will be the first selected for the Hybrid training. Information specific to your situation can be requested by contacting the applicable Training Coordinator or any SATCC Field Consultant.

How do I sign up for Hybrid training?

Spaces are limited. If you would like to have your name added to one of the Hybrid class lists, you should ***immediately*** contact the Training Coordinator responsible for your trade by calling 1-877-363-0536. If you would like more information about these Hybrid training programs or have any inquiries about your trade time, you can contact the Training Coordinator responsible for your trade at the above number or call any of the SATCC offices and ask to speak with a Field Consultant.

Technical Information: Computer Requirements

Computers used by participants for this upgrading program must meet certain *minimum technical requirements*.

Computer hardware and software requirements include a relatively new computer with an Internet connection and the following software and settings:

- A supported Internet browser (essentially a recent version of Internet Explorer or Firefox - see note below)
- Cookies enabled
- Javascript enabled
- Pop-up blocker disabled or configured to allow pop-ups for this site
- Java installed
- Adobe Acrobat Reader installed - available from the Adobe website
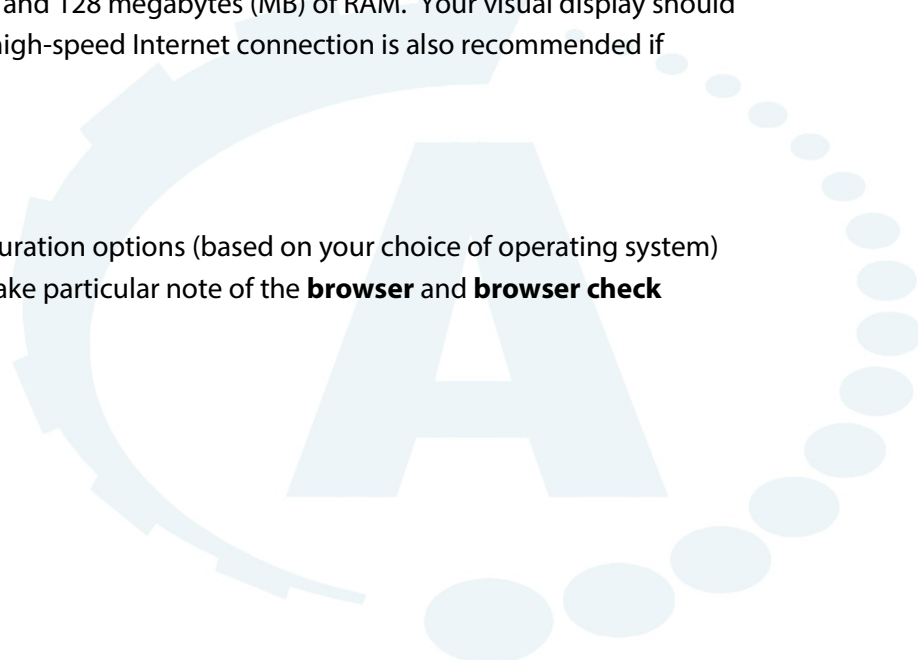- Adobe Flash Player also available from the Adobe website

The Online Learning System

The Brightspace learning system (formerly known as Desire2Learn) is software that allows Saskatchewan Polytechnic to create and host courses on the Internet. Courses created with this software can serve as entire online courses or as a supplement to traditional classroom courses. The Brightspace learning system has a Browser Tune-Up Page that will help you determine if your browser is supported and provides instructions on how to configure it. When registered and logged into the online course, you are able to access information on the *Help Page* listed in the menu at the top of the browser if you are having problems accessing the course or some components of it.

See https://community.desire2learn.com/d2l/systemCheck for the required browser settings and required plug-ins, which is the most important thing to have installed properly. This check can be performed prior to being enrolled.

It is important to ensure that your browser runs appropriately and at an acceptable speed.

1.   The **recommended** system configuration is Microsoft Windows XP on a computer with a Pentium processor or better and 128 megabytes (MB) of RAM. Your visual display should be capable of 1024x768. A high-speed Internet connection is also recommended if available in your area.

2.   The **minimum** system configuration options (based on your choice of operating system) are provided below. Please take particular note of the **browser** and **browser check** requirements.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic Online Learning Computer Requirements		
	PC	MAC
Operating Systems	Windows XP Windows ME & 95 is not recommended	OS X or later
Processor	Pentium	G4
RAM	256 MB (minimum) (512 MB recommended)	256 MB (minimum) (512 MB recommended)
Disk Space	1G MB (minimum)	1G (minimum)
Resolution	1024 x 768	1024 x 768
Audio	Sound card and speakers	Speakers
Modem	56.6 Kbps (minimum), high-speed recommended	56.6 Kbps (minimum), high-speed recommended
Printer	Recommended	Recommended
Browser Check	Visit: https://community.desire2learn.com/d2l/systemCheck and follow the instructions to ensure your browser will work with the Brightspace learning system. You may need to download and install a different browser or upgrade your existing browser if you have system issues.	

Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification District Offices:

Regina:	2140 Hamilton Street	Telephone: 787-2444
Saskatoon:	603 - 45th Street West	Telephone: 933-8476
Moose Jaw:	110 Ominica Street West	Telephone: 694-3735
North Battleford:	1146 - 102nd Street	Telephone: 446-7409
Prince Albert:	141 - 15th Street East	Telephone: 953-2632
Swift Current:	350 Cheadle Street West	Telephone: 778-8945
Yorkton:	Rm 302, 120 Smith Street East	Telephone: 786-1394
La Ronge:	1328 La Ronge Avenue	Telephone: 425-4385
Estevan:	1302A - 3rd Street	Telephone: 637-4930

www.saskapprenticeship.ca