

BLENDING LEARNING

Blended Learning is the process of incorporating the many different learning styles through the use of “blended” virtual and physical resources. Learning styles refer to the various ways in which people learn. Through blended learning, we create a variety of learning assignments and activities with the use of technology and instructor/student interaction.

The instructor may also combine two or more methods of delivery of instruction. A typical example of the delivery method of blended learning would be a combination of technology-based materials and face-to-face sessions used together to present content. An instructor can begin a course with a well-structured introductory lesson in the classroom and then proceed with the follow-up materials online.

The term can also be applied to the integration of e-learning with a Learning Management System, using computers in a physical classroom, along with face-to-face instruction. Guidance is suggested in the early part of the process and will lessen as the participants gain expertise.

The role of the instructor is critical as this requires a transformation process to that of learning facilitator. Quite often, with the onslaught of baby boomers going back to school and pursuing higher education, the skills required for technology use are limited. The instructor then finds him/herself more in the role of assisting the student with computer skills and applications, accessing the internet, and encouraging them to be independent learners.

Blended learning takes time for both the instructor and student to adapt to this relatively new concept in delivering instruction.

Example:

For Time Management Coaching, participants receive various profile tools to fill out ahead of time and return to the facilitator for processing. This will save time during the live facilitation and allow for more participant and coach interactivity.

Upon finishing the class, the contact with the participant will be one-on-one on-line using WebEx Meeting Software. The coach will work with the participant to track their progress and together they will plan future action plans.

This process also reduces the amount of time participants have to be away from their desk to travel to a training center.

For more information, contact NFA at 704.231.8512