

# BLOCK TRAINING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

## GENERAL

- Have other pipe trade locals across the country adopted the block model with success?
  - There are a few that have similar models within the UA. In Oregon, several Building Trades Construction apprenticeships run similar models. We met and discussed pros and cons with these local programs. None have told us they regret moving to a block training model.

## INSTRUCTION

- How will this move affect the PT instructors who aren't able to work throughout the day due to job requirements?
  - Since we will continue to have night classes, nothing will change for our current part time instructors.
- Will there still be avenue for us to reach out for additional support with hands on during the school year, for things such as welding, brazing, or soldering?
  - Block Training will allow us more space and opportunity to increase the amount of evening elective, journeyman, and continuing education classes we can offer the entire membership. Classes will be ran based on need and advertised on Eventbrite and on our website at [www.290tech.edu](http://www.290tech.edu)
  - The weld and braze shops will still be open Monday – Friday from 7:30-4:30 during the summer and 9:00am-6:00pm for the rest of the year. The weld shop will continue to be open Saturdays 8:00am-2:00pm.

## ATTENDANCE

- What will happen when an apprentice misses a class?
  - We understand that an individual may have a family or medical crisis that we will need to take into consideration on a case-by-case basis. Since apprentices will receive their scheduled days for their class year prior to any classes starting, we are looking at implementing stricter penalties for people missing class.
- Do the hours spent going to class while not working count against your working hours for medical benefits and annual raises?
  - An apprentice cannot count class hours as on the job training hours. This is the case in the current model as well as the new block training model.
- What is the maximum number of days you can miss a block training week?
  - We understand that an individual may have a family or medical crisis that we will need to take into consideration on a case by case basis. Since apprentices will receive their scheduled days for their years classes prior to any classes starting, we are looking at implementing stricter penalties for people missing class.
  - There are no excused absences for missing Block Training Day classes
- Is there a significant change in amount of class time attended with the block model?
  - There will be no increase in hours. Apprentices will continue to have 1080 hours of apprenticeship classroom training

## WORK & PAY

- Will there still be work excused absences?
  - Just like current night classes, there will be no work excused absences for daytime block training classes

- Can an apprentice be pulled from class if urgently needed at a job site, if the superintendent/foreman calls?
  - There are no excused absences for missing Block Training Day classes.
- How will this switch affect those who work on call or work nights? Shift work?
  - Apprentices will receive schedules for their year of apprenticeship training. Because the apprentice and employer will be aware of the individual's schedule for the duration of his or her training, we expect they can schedule around the 6 weeks a year that an apprentice will be in class. The other 46 weeks without class will allow increased availability for apprentices to work on call, shift, and night work.
- Will we be able to claim unemployment?
  - Apprentices in Block Training will be eligible to claim unemployment during Block Training Weeks
- Is there going to be a one week waiting period for our unemployment?
  - There will be a waiting week for each year of block training. This is subject to change based on an individual's previous unemployment claims
- Will there be training for the apprentices to properly apply for unemployment benefits for their training blocks?
  - We have discussed these questions with other programs that transitioned to a block model. This information will be part of our initial training week for apprentices.
- Will Block Training affect our wages down the road; negatively or positively?
  - There is no change or impact to an apprentice's hourly wage.

## CLASSES & CONTENT

- Will there still be Continuing Education classes offered?
  - Block Training will allow us more space and opportunity to increase the amount of evening journeyman, and continuing education classes we can offer the entire membership. Classes will be ran based on demand.
- Will Continuing Education classes for journeymen still have the night class option or will that go fully online?
  - We can still accommodate online options for members, but moving block training for apprentices into the daytime, allows us to expand nighttime training options for all members
- Will the block model increase or decrease class sizes?
  - Block Training will allow us to adapt to changing class sizes year to year. It will also allow us to decrease our student to instructor ratio.
- What exactly do you mean by “increased quality?” Where the apprentices not receiving quality instruction prior to this?
  - We will be able to deliver a more consistent and structured training that builds on previous classes. We will also be able to engage in more complex projects while minimizing set up and clean up time. This new model also allows us more opportunity for factory and vendor specific training. This will also allow us to deliver more training and professional development to our instruction team.

## SCHEDULES & MEETINGS

- Will daytime block training allow apprentices to participate in nightly meetings?
  - Yes - regularly scheduled groups, committees, and meetings will still run in their current format and all daytime training apprentices will be able to attend Political Action Committee, Executive Board, Union Meeting, Diversity Committee etc.

- How will the weeks be structured? One subject all week? Multiple subjects?
  - Class week structure will vary based on multiple factors.
    - Class size
    - Trade
    - Subjects covered in a week
    - Field Trips
    - Factory and Vendor Training
  - Class weeks will all be based on 40 hours Monday-Friday
- What will the schedule look like? Start time? End time?
  - Class weeks will all be based on 40 hours Monday-Friday
  - 7:30am - 5pm Monday through Thursday
  - 7:30am - 2:15pm on Friday.
- Will we have all trades in one class?
  - Trades will have trades specific classes. Where cross training is applicable there will be overlap

### **CURRENT APPRENTICES**

- How will this new model affect all current apprentices?
  - All current apprentices will not be affected at this time. Only new 1<sup>st</sup> term Tualatin apprentices will be attending day school.