



### **What is Blended Learning?**

Blended learning integrates or blends learning programs of different formats to achieve a common goal. Most often, blended learning programs integrate classroom and online programs. Students get the hands on training on particular subjects and skills, but are allowed to complete a portion of the coursework independently in a virtual environment.

### **What are the Benefits of Blended Learning?**

The benefits of CE Solutions' online continuing education program are evident. Not only can CE Solutions save you and your members money, we can also save you time. With the numerous benefits of blended learning, it is worth taking a look at. Not only do members appreciate the option of learning at their own pace, both members and department managers benefit from the ability to complete their continuing education during down-time.

### **Reduce Unproductive Downtime**

- At one time or another, we have all found ourselves sitting around the station waiting for a call to drop. This downtime could easily be turned into productive time with an online continuing education program, which would allow the department members to participate in the program at their convenience.

### **Secure Offsite Records Management**

- Record keeping is not only essential, but a vital function of any department manager. An advantage of online record keeping is that it is always available at your fingertips, and it's secure. There is no need to worry about lost or misplaced files or even files with sensitive information getting into the wrong hands. With online record keeping, your member's complete continuing education history and certification information is just a few clicks away.

### **Other Advantages That Blended Learning Offers**

- Ability to assign different topics to different members to target the needs of the individual
- Reduced expenses for holding centrally located classroom sessions
- Ability to monitor real-time student progress
- Reduced overtime expenses associated with classroom sessions
- Automated secure continuing education record management
- Reduced repetitive classes for multiple shifts
- Rapid deployment of new department specific policies or protocols
- Reduce total training time and time away from districts
- Increased productivity during idle-time
- Self-paced learning environment, not a "one size fits all" situation

### **What is the Position of the National Association of EMS Educators?**

The National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) has stated that extensive use of interactive Internet-Based Distributed Learning is recommended and should be made available as an alternative for classroom-based continuing education requirements.<sup>1</sup>

### **References**

1. National Association of EMS Educators, Position Paper on the Use of Internet Based Distance Learning in EMS Education., Pittsburgh, PA, 2003

