

GE Industrial Solutions' Continuing Education Program

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Introduction

The training and education needs of an electrical engineer are quite diverse. The type of training required varies with the engineer's experience level. New graduates may require help in understanding industry standards and the fundamentals of various equipment types not covered in a standard undergraduate education. More experienced engineers may have the need to keep updated on changes to equipment types they are already familiar with as well as keep pace with trends in the industry. As engineers obtain their professional registration, they will need to develop a disciplined program of continuing education to satisfy the requirements of their registration authority.

GE Industrial Solutions provides numerous free training and continuing education opportunities focused on supporting the specification and design communities. This paper will explain the various resources available and how to access them.

On-Site Training and Continuing Education

The network of GE Technical Support/Specification Engineers can provide presentations at your work location. The presentation topic can be any relevant subject agreed upon between the local GE engineer and the customer. The local GE Technical Support/Specification Engineer is the starting point for arranging an on-site presentation. For remote locations, the presentation may be offered via the web.

A specific set of topics have been accredited to satisfy the learning requirements of the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET). Attendees for these accredited courses are eligible to receive a continuing education certificate for 0.1 units per subject (0.1 CEU = 1.0 PDH). These courses are always presented in person. Representative topics include:

- Selectivity Code Basics
- Motor and Drive Application Basics
- Ground Fault Protection
- Switchboard and Switchgear Applications
- Series Ratings

A full list of the currently available CEU courses may be viewed at <https://www.gelearningcentral.com/courses.html>. Numerous additional courses are in the process of being accredited and will become available in 2012. Topics for these upcoming courses include:

- Arc Flash Mitigation
- Engineering Ethics
- Circuit Breaker Basics
- 2011 Code Changes
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Seismic Standards
- Instantaneous Selectivity
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Standards

The local GE Technical Support/Specification Engineer is the starting point for arranging an on-site CEU presentation. If you do not already know your local GE Technical Support/Specification Engineer, an email request may be sent to internet.feedback@ge.com.

Web-Based Education

GE offers a number of web-based educational resources. Two webcast series are available. *Specifier Technical Tuesdays* is a monthly series focused on technical topics within electrical distribution. These sessions are in-depth and typically last 45 to 60 minutes. It is presented on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 pm eastern time. Subscribe to this webcast at http://www.geindustrial.com/solutions/engineers/news_letters.html. The monthly subscription email will identify the topic along with the webcast connection information. Another webcast series is called *Mondays @ 1/2 Past Noon* and is conducted on Monday of every week at 12:30 pm eastern time. These sessions are for more diverse audiences and may include topics of interest to engineers, distributors, and contractors. To receive the weekly subscription email, send an email to Mondays.at.HalfPast.Noon@GE.com with "Subscribe" as the subject. These sessions typically last 15 to 30 minutes and provide concise coverage of various technical, product, safety, or business topics.

GE also maintains a variety of eLearning courses at *GE Learning Central*. Entering the website at <https://www.gelearningcentral.com/> and creating an account will provide access to numerous courses covering the basics of electricity, panelboards, switchboards, motor control centers, circuit breakers, arc fault circuit interrupters, controls, and much more. At GE Learning Central you will also have access to copies of the presentations provided during the *Mondays @ 1/2 Past Noon* and *Specifier Technical Tuesdays* webcast sessions.

Several white papers are published every year by GE experts on various industry issues or trends. The papers are available at <http://www.geindustrial.com/solutions/engineers/whitepapers.html> and are archived by category. Representative topics include selective coordination, ground fault protection, and photovoltaic systems. Papers on recent innovations like electrical vehicle charging infrastructure are also available.

An electronic newsletter called the *Electrical Specifier Link* is published quarterly. Subscribe to the newsletter at http://www.geindustrial.com/solutions/engineers/news_letters.html to receive emails with the current edition as it is released. The archive of previous editions is at http://www.geindustrial.com/solutions/engineers/newsletters_archives.html. The articles in the newsletter cover both component and system topics, and are aimed at helping the engineer design power systems.

Other Advanced Training

All the opportunities discussed above are made available free of charge to the engineering and specification communities. GE also offers a variety of other courses that can increase the effectiveness of engineers and operators. These advanced courses require a fee and are taught at various locations. In many cases, the training can be customized and conducted on-site. These additional training services are described at <http://www.geindustrial.com/cwc/services/training.html>.

Final Thoughts

GE Industrial Solutions provides readily available means to obtain basic through advanced training and education for electrical engineers. On-site presentations are an excellent way to obtain information tailored for your specific needs. Accredited courses offer the convenience of CEU credits without travel or registration costs. Subscription to the webcasts and newsletters is highly encouraged. These programs provide timely information at your desktop and the webcasts also give you access to an industry expert to ask questions. Visit the *GE Learning Central* website to see what is there, and feel free to use the “contact us” link to provide us feedback or suggestions for additional training topics.