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CIVIL ENGINEERING ACADEMY PODCAST

Hosted By Isaac Oakeson

EPISODE 42 - TOP TIPS AND ADVICE REGARDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS

Today's world is full of innovations taking place every single moment, at all different parts of the world, and in several distinct ways and shapes. Technology has allowed groundbreaking methods and processes to constantly disrupt old-fashioned ways of building, doing and creating things. Within civil engineering, this wouldn't be different. As an applied science in itself, civil engineering is constantly changing and going through innovative transformations that enhance specific aspects of the field. Therefore, professionals need to keep up with these changes in order to perform the best work possible. And Professional Development Hours (PDHs) play a big role in this day-to-day update on industry news and trends. On today's episode, Mark Oakeson gets back on the show to discuss the best tips regarding the PDHs and how to get the most out of them.

Given that licensed professional engineers need to get a specific amount of credit hours every one or two years in order to renew their licenses, most of them see PDHs as a burden, when, in fact, the theory behind PDHs is completely the opposite.

The goal to be accomplished through PDHs is continuous education in order to stay on top of your own game as an engineer. Most professionals can use the required amount of PDHs in order to learn something that interests them, or even to get a deeper knowledge on the sub-discipline they work with. The result of all of that is a potential upgrade in their own professional careers and, maybe, even in their own personal lives.

It's not only employees who can reap back the rewards of PDHs. Most corporations that help their employees finance these development hours can also benefit from it in the form of better employee performance, keeping employees on top of the latest industry developments and ideas, creating job satisfaction by showing employees that they're valued by the institution, etc.

In order to get the necessary credit hours, professionals can resort to different options available out there. Even though there are differences between states when it comes to what each of them may consider as credit hours, how many credit

hours you actually need, and more, the most common options are live events, online courses, or even affiliations and professional associations. As Mark puts it, you can get much more out of a live event that you attend in person and rub your shoulders with other professionals and get to know not only who they are, but also what they do and where they do it. When it comes to the real world, people skills and networking are just as important as mathematical and detailed thinking in order to succeed.

Online courses also have their advantages. You can take them seriously in order to really learn something new, or you can treat them as “fillers”. Even though the essential premise of PDHs is professional development, we all end up getting behind in the amount of credit hours we need at some point. Thus, online courses provided by well-known organizations such as [ASCE](#), [AISC](#), [NCEES](#), [PMI](#) and [ACI](#), or even courses developed and provided by other online organizations, such as [PDHDirect](#), [RedVetor](#), [PDHLibrary](#), and [Civil PDH](#), can be pretty useful, both for deep learning and just filling the gap you might have.

For a more in-depth discussion about PDHs, listen to the entire episode of the Civil Engineering Academy Podcast and visit our [home base](#) for all things civil engineering,

from practice exams to professional tips, curated by professional engineers working in the field, eager to help you pass the PE or FE.

Resources

[Civil Engineering Academy](#) - If you need exams, solved problems or courses, make sure to check out our home base

[CEA Community](#) – Haven’t joined up on our free community? What’s wrong with you? J/K. Ok, just go there and join a group of like-minded civil engineers!

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