

Are You Being Served?: How The Quality of Online CEU Courses Are Eroded Professional Surveyor Education

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SUMMARY

Every Professional Surveyor is required to be competent and proficient in whatever area of practice they engage in. One important mechanism for maintaining our competency and proficiency in light of changes in technology and state surveying regulations is to enroll in a certain number of continuing education courses each year. Professional Surveyors also enroll in these CEU courses because they are required to renew PLS licenses in the majority of states. Online education has offered many opportunities for Professional Surveyors to enroll in courses not readily available in their hometowns. But some online education providers also offer courses that are not taught by learned professionals, offer online courses that may be completed in a fraction of the time as stated (i.e. take a 8 CEU course that requires 1 hour to complete), and provide sub-standard learning materials. This paper explores the quality of CEUs offered by online Professional Surveyor continuing education providers and compares these offerings to Board rules in several states.

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