

Deciphering Course Codes—It Looks Like Alphabet Soup!

Have you found yourself searching for a course, only to come across an endless array of unknown and unfamiliar acronyms, abbreviations, and terminology? If so, then keep reading because FAI wants to clear all this up for you and make searching for a course as seamless as possible, without not only making your hunt for a course more tedious but much like looking through alphabet soup?! If that is case, the following information may shed some light on what it all means!

When looking for online training, I find terms like distance learning courses, continuous learning modules, and virtual instructor-led training. What’s the difference and why should I care?

These names and phrases are for different flavors of online training. It’s important to familiarize yourself with them so you can better understand how to find and register for the training you seek.

- *Continuous Learning Modules* – continuous learning modules (CLMs) are the typical asset you might think of for online training. They are available “on demand” 24/7 and most take 1-2 hours to complete. Students are given an unlimited number of chances to get a 100% on the final test.
- *Distance Learning Courses* – distance learning (DL) courses are structured much the same way as CLMs. They are just longer and more rigorous. Students are given only three chances to get a 100% on the final test or the entire course must be retaken.
- *Virtual Instructor-Led Training (vILT)* – vILT classes are synchronous. This means there will be times when students meet at the same time in structured online classes. These are not “on demand” classes. They are generally for training leading to certification (i.e., FAC-C, FAC-COR, FAC-PPM).

Why do some course IDs have the suffix (FED)?

The (FED) suffix is used to identify training hosted by a federal agency that has been deemed equivalent to training from the Defense Acquisition University. Some of the courses this applies to are CON 170, CON 270, CON 280, CON 290, CON 360, CON 243, and CON 244. When a federal civilian agency offers DAU-equivalent courses, IDs will have the (FED) suffix.

FCN, FCR, FPM, FAC, etc. What do all of these letters mean?

These are course identification prefixes that federal civilian agencies have agreed to use in FAITAS to make finding the type of training they offer and students seek consistent and easier. Review the table below to get a better understanding of the prefixes used by federal civilian agencies. The Defense Acquisition University uses a slightly different set of IDs for their training courses and continuous learning modules.

Prefix	Subject
FAC	FAI Continuous Learning Modules
FQN	Acquisition Management
FAU	Auditing
FCE	Cost Estimating

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FCM	Contract Management
FCN	Contracting
FCR	Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)
FEN	Engineering
FEV	Earned Value Management
FFE	Facilities Engineering
FFM	Business, and Financial Management
FGR	Grants
FIN	Industrial/Contract Property Management
FIR	Information Resource Management
FLD	Leadership and Development
FLM	Lease and Lease Management
FLG	Logistics
FMS	Facility Management Services
FPM	Program Management
FPQ	Production, Quality, and Management
FRQ	Requirements Management
FSA	Software Acquisition Management
FSE	Systems Planning, Research, Development, and Engineering
FST	Science and Technology Management
FTE	Test & Evaluation