

CHOOSING THE RIGHT FIT FOR COMPLEX ENGINEERING SOFTWARE

Instructor-Led Training vs. eLearning: Which is Right for Your Team?

Instructor-led training pairs structured curriculum with a live expert who can adapt in real time to how your team actually learns, something a prerecorded course can't do.

Why Teams Choose Instructor-Led Training

01 Higher Engagement, Better Retention

Live instruction keeps learners engaged through discussion, questions, and real work, rather than passively watching a video.

02 Hands-On Exercises

Learners apply new commands and workflows to real modeling problems during class, with an instructor there to catch mistakes before they become habits.

03 Real-Time Feedback

Questions get answered in the moment, not days later in a support ticket queue, so learners don't move forward with the wrong technique.

04 Guided Troubleshooting

When a model, mesh, or simulation setup isn't behaving, an instructor can look at what the learner is actually doing and correct course immediately.

05 Structured Progression

Courses build in a deliberate sequence, so learners aren't left to guess which lesson matters most for their role.

06 Accountability and Completion

Scheduled live sessions and cohort pacing help learners finish training, rather than letting a self-paced course stall out mid-course.

Why Expert Guidance Matters

Software like CATIA, Abaqus, CST Studio Suite, and the 3DEXPERIENCE platform involve decisions that are hard to teach through a recorded video. The "right" approach often depends on the specific part, model, or analysis in front of the learner.

- **Workflow Optimization.** The most efficient path through a task for your team's specific use case, not just a generic example.

- **Modeling Best Practices.** Learners see how an expert structures a model from the start, which prevents rework and rebuild-from-scratch problems later.

- **Solver and Method Selection.** Judgment that's easier to build through live Q&A than static instructions.

- **Immediate Troubleshooting.** A live instructor diagnoses a non-converging simulation on the spot, instead of the learner losing hours to trial and error.

Instructor-Led Training vs. Self-Paced eLearning

Both formats have a place in a training strategy. Here's how they compare for engineering software specifically.

	INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING	SELF-PACED ELEARNING
Best for	Complex software, new workflows, teams onboarding at scale	Basic refreshers, supplemental practice, individual skill maintenance
Pace	Structured, scheduled sessions	Learner-controlled, on-demand
Feedback	Real-time, from a live instructor	Delayed, via support tickets or forums
Troubleshooting	Instructor sees your specific setup and corrects it live	Learner troubleshoots independently or submits a request
Hands-on practice	Guided exercise with immediate correction	Self-guided exercises, reviewed after the fact
Completion	Cohort pacing supports accountability	Depends on individual motivation and schedule
Flexibility	Fixed schedule (classroom, virtual, or on-site)	Available anytime, anywhere
Good fit when	Rolling out new software, training complex applications, onboarding multiple users at once	Reinforcing material already covered, training on straightforward features

"I made sure to give 5 stars on the survey as it was a very well put together course and met all my needs. I have never used CATIA before but I have had a lot of experience in other 3D platforms such as SOLIDWORKS and Creo. So it was very good to go through all the exercises without being too remedial in regard to the concepts, but I definitely needed to know what buttons did what and how to navigate CATIA....I am already able to use the skills I learned in the training, which already provides value to my job, so that is awesome. " **-CATIA TRAINING ATTENDEE**

"The training went well and I found the content very useful for my work. I thought the different exercises provided great hands on practice to sharpen my skills. The instructor was also very helpful in answering questions and troubleshooting problems I encountered." **-INSTRUCTOR-LED TRAINING ATTENDEE**

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