

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Technical Skills e-Learning**

- Q: Why did FPDA select Tooling U-SME for technical training?**  
**A:** More than half the Fortune 500® manufacturers and educational institutions nationwide choose Tooling U-SME for workforce development. Tooling U-SME is the training division of SME. Like FPDA, SME is a non-profit professional organization dedicated to advancing manufacturing.
- Q: Are their programs relevant to my training needs?**  
**A:** Yes. We've gone through a rigorous process of mapping Tooling U-SME courses to competencies defined by FPDA members as critical for the business. Assessments can be taken first to indicate which competency areas the candidate most needs to address with training.
- Q: What are "course bundles"?**  
**A:** Bundles of courses addressing specific competencies have been created to make course selection easy. Bundles include **Fluid Power**, **Electrical-Mechanical-Automation**, **Comprehensive** (includes all classes in the Fluid Power and E-M-A bundles), and **Foundational** (a broad introduction to the industry. If you need even more flexibility, choose the "Pick-10" bundle and select from any courses offered by Tooling U-SME.
- Q: Are these classes infomercials for a product or brand?**  
**A:** NO – they are developed by Tooling U-SME, the training division of SME. And SME members are among the best subject-matter experts in the world.
- Q: Can more than one person take classes from the same bundle?**  
**A:** No. Each bundle is assigned to one individual.
- Q: How long do I have to complete the courses in the bundle?**  
**A:** 1 Year
- Q: How long does it take to complete a class?**  
**A:** Classes are designed to take about 1 hour to complete
- Q: Is my manager involved in this process?**  
**A:** Yes. Managers purchase the bundle and assign it to the candidate; they can then track activity, pre and post test results for the included classes, and how the candidate is doing via the Tooling U-SME training portal.
- Q: What do I get if I successfully complete a class?**  
**A:** Each class has a specially designed certificate that is accessible for download and printing once that class has been passed.
- Q: How much do these classes cost?**  
**A:** Electro-Mechanical-Automation (35 classes): \$795; Fluid Power (20 classes): \$595  
Comprehensive (includes everything from the E-M-A and Fluid Power bundles): \$895

Foundational training (25 classes): \$695; and the Pick-10 bundle for \$395

**Q: What is the class format?**

**A:** Unlike a Webinar or a training video, these classes are designed to be very interactive and engaging. There are 15-20 webpages of material in each class along with a pre-test and a post-test to measure comprehension and retention. The classes offer both text and voice narration. Here is a sample screen shot:

The screenshot shows a web-based training interface. At the top left, the logos for 'TOOLINGU' and 'sme' are visible. The main title is 'Forces of Machines 121 Torque' with a sub-header 'Describe torque.' Below the title, there are navigation buttons for 'BACK', 'Page 9 of 16', and 'NEXT'. The main content area contains a paragraph defining torque: 'Torque is a contact force that causes an object to rotate, or spin, around a rotational axis. Torque is equal to the amount of force applied to an object multiplied by the distance between the object's rotational axis and the point where the force is applied.' Below this text is a photograph of a person's hands using a wrench on a bolt. The photo is annotated with orange text and arrows: 'Rotational Axis' points to the bolt, 'Distance' points to the length of the wrench handle, 'Torque' points to the force being applied at the end of the handle, and 'Rotation' points to the bolt's movement. Below the photo, a caption reads: 'Applying force at the end of a wrench applies the greatest amount of torque.' Another paragraph explains: 'The amount of torque necessary to rotate an object depends on how far away from the rotational axis the force is applied. A shorter distance generates less torque, while a farther distance generates greater torque. For example, when using a wrench, the greatest amount of torque occurs when the wrench is perpendicular to the'.

**Q: How do I get started?**

**A:** You and your manager should decide which course bundle works best for you. Then your manager should visit the [FPDA University website](#) to purchase the training. The FPDA office will send a full set of instructions along with access codes to get you started.