

FIRST AID AND CPR CONSUMER TIPS

How to be an **informed consumer** when choosing a training program

There are many good First Aid and CPR training opportunities in Florida – but there may be some which are not right for you. How do you know which is best for you? Here are some points to consider in order to be an informed consumer before you choose a First Aid and CPR program.

BEFORE YOU ENROLL OR SIGN ANY PAPERS, BE SURE TO:

-Find out whether the training program will be accepted for the job you want. Ask local employers whether they hire people with training from the program you are considering. Ask whether those employees are satisfactorily trained for jobs in that field.

-Find out if course documentation is transferable from state to state or county to county.

-Find out whether the program is accepted nationally.

-Get a copy of the program's course description and *read it carefully*. Be sure you understand all policies, especially the refund policy. If you have any questions about these policies, ask an administrator for the program.

-Visit the program to see first-hand if it is what you want. If you can, visit more than one to have a basis for comparison.

-Don't be pressured by recruiters into making a hasty decision. Take your time and ask questions. Talk to other people about other programs.

-Find out if there are similar programs available in your area so that you can compare costs and other points of contention.

The following program specific questions may help you in evaluating a First Aid or CPR course:

-Course content should be based on a curricula researched in science or scientific literature (i.e. journals, abstracts, etc.)

-Course content, curricula and skills management should be revisited on a continuing basis for relevance through: student evaluations, instructor evaluations, course evaluations.

-Written testing should only be used as a means of course content evaluation, discussion and review.

-Program should be based on nationally accepted standards.

-Specific course objectives are measurable.

-Number of mannequins is sufficient for class size.

-Mannequins and other course demonstration tools are cleaned according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) standards.

-Course materials are age/reading-level specific.

-Task-based scenarios are based on student work or home environment as teaching tools in student synthesis of management skills.

