

QUICK UPDATES

1.ABSA Education & Curriculum Task Force

**2.ANSI/ASSP Z9.14 revision (message from
Lou DiBerardinis at MIT)**



ABSA EDUCATION & CURRICULUM TASK FORCE

SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS AND CURRENT INITIATIVES



WHAT IS ACADEMIC BIOSAFETY?

- For-credit coursework in biological safety concepts and their application.
- Offered at undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral levels.
- Incorporated in existing academic courses or offered as stand-alone coursework.
- Coursework offered as part of a stand-alone certificate or degree program or as an adjunct to an existing program.
- This does not include regular biosafety training offered as part of an institution's general biosafety management program.
- Academic biosafety coursework content is independent of the specific elements of an institution's safety programs.



THE NEED FOR ACADEMIC BIOSAFETY

- Could academic biosafety courses, certificates, or degree programs provide a front door to the biosafety profession to meet the continued and growing demand for qualified biosafety professionals?
- Could incorporation into the curriculum be a way to change attitudes to the incorporation of biosafety into lab culture or to prevent teaching lab acquired infections?



ECTF GOALS

- Develop strategy and resources for academic institutions to encourage and implement biosafety education.
- Develop training and education strategies and implementation methods for teaching labs to help prevent outbreaks.
- Explore resources that could facilitate a front door to the profession or a means to expand the knowledge base of the safety generalist into the field of biosafety.



ABSA MEMBER SURVEY

- Disseminated in March 2018
- Designed to collect data on current state of biosafety integration in academic curricula.
- Participants were asked to specifically exclude biosafety training that may be offered as part of the institution's general biosafety program.
- The survey collected data on:
 - Course offerings,
 - Course types,
 - Course delivery methods,
 - Development steps for biosafety integration efforts,
 - Successes and failures of initiatives.



SURVEY RESULTS

Total respondents to survey: 101

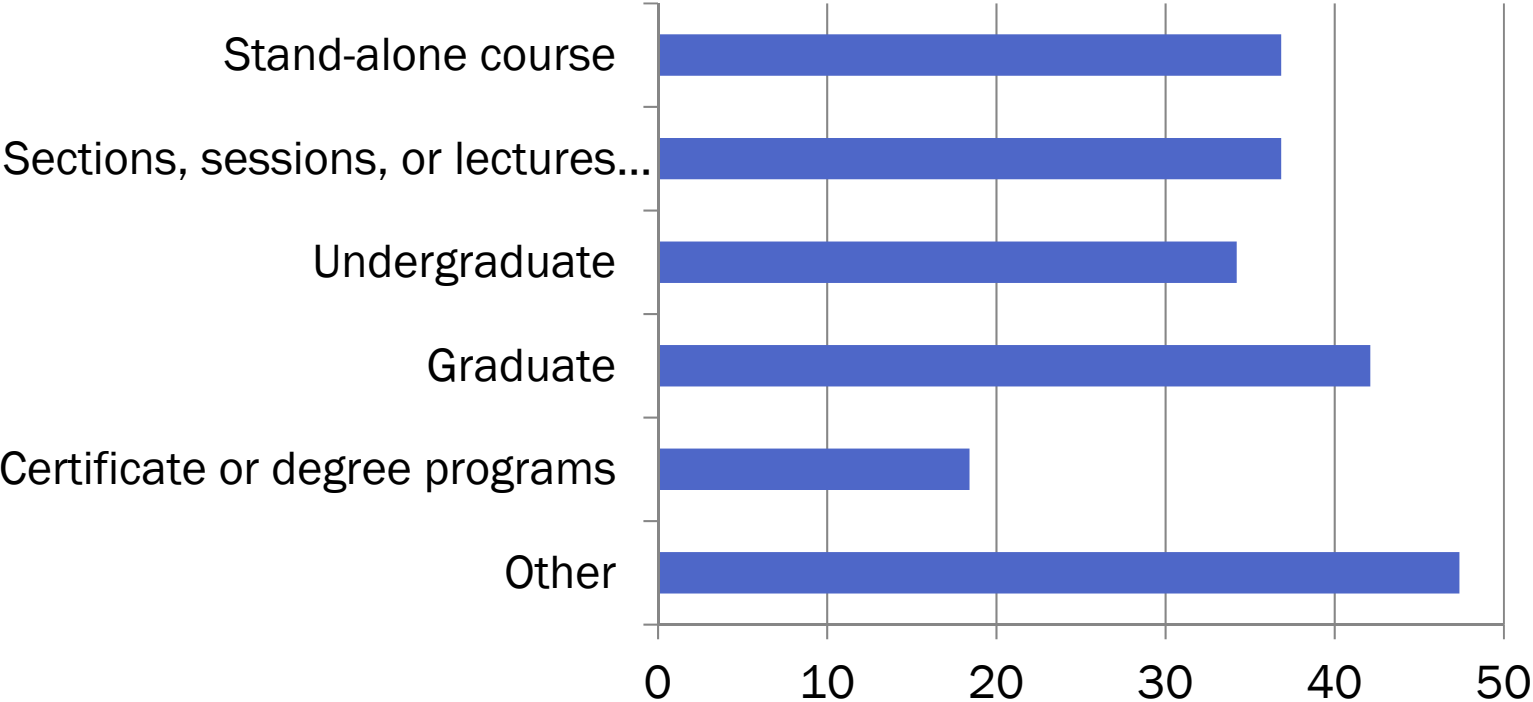
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graph TD; A[Total respondents to survey: 101] --> B[Respondents from academia: 64]; B --> C[Respondents from academia with for-credit course offerings: 13*];
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Respondents from academia: 64

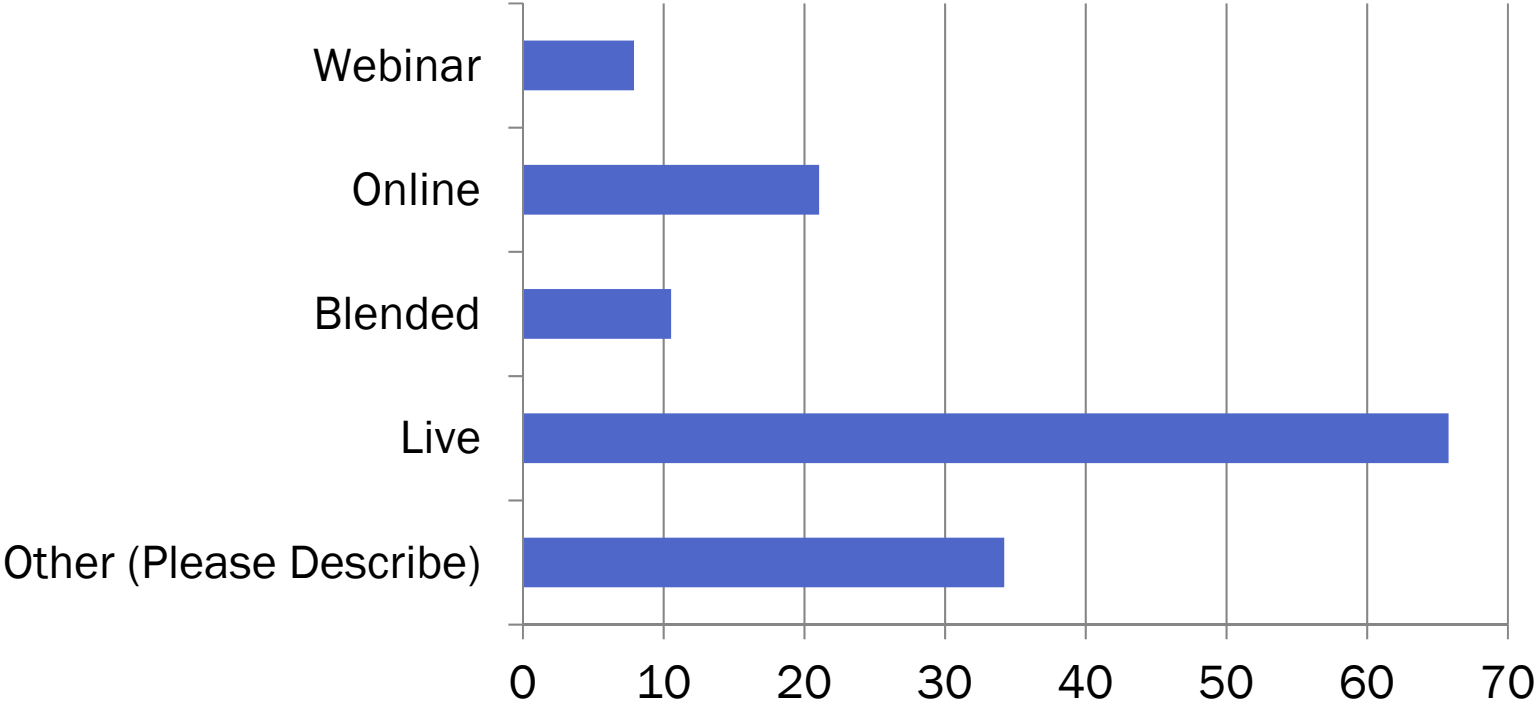
Respondents from academia with for-credit course offerings: 13*

*From additional information collected only about 1/3 of these institutions are actively offering and enrolling students in courses at this time.

SURVEY RESULTS: Q4 HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE COURSE OFFERINGS? CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY. (REPORTED AS PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES)



SURVEY RESULTS: Q5 HOW ARE YOUR COURSE OFFERINGS DELIVERED? CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY. (REPORTED AS PERCENTAGE OF RESPONSES)



THE NEXT SURVEY...

- Second Initiative of the ECTF: Survey of academic program administrators
 - Attempt to determine what drives colleges and universities to initiate and support new coursework and programs.
 - Includes introductory material describing academic biosafety, the need for trained biosafety professionals, and the goals of the survey.



WHY AM I TELLING YOU THIS?

- Prior to the 2nd survey, ABSA /ECTF will be reaching out to ABSA academic members for contact info for academic program administrators in their institution
- Please take a moment to gather this info and respond



ANSI/ASSP Z9.14 REVISION

- Z9.14: “Testing and Performance Verification Methodologies for Ventilation Systems for Biosafety Level 3 and Animal Biosafety Level 3 (ABSL-3) Laboratories”
- Revision subcommittee has 10-12 members, comprised of participants from industry and academia as well as government, professional, safety, and health organizations.
- Hope to complete revision by Sept. 2019
- Lou DiBerardinis is requesting input/concerns/likes about the current standard from NEBSA members
- Email: loudib@mit.edu



Thank you!