



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

TITLE: University of California, San Diego/Los Angeles
Unified School District Gifted and Talented
Education Certification Program

NUMBER: MEM-5809.5

ISSUER: Alison Yoshimoto-Towery
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Instruction

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Director
Advanced Learning Options

ROUTING
Local District
Superintendents
Administrators of
Instruction
Community of School
Administrators
School Site
Principals
GATE/SAS Coordinators
Teachers

DATE: July 5, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to inform interested District K-12 teachers, counselors and administrators of the University of California, San Diego/Los Angeles Unified School District Gifted Talented Education, Advanced Learning Options, Certification Program.

MAJOR CHANGES: This Memorandum replaces the Division of Instruction MEM-5809.4 of the same subject dated July 19, 2021. The University of California, San Diego (UCSD) changed the department name from UC San Diego Extension to the Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego.

INSTRUCTIONS: I. BACKGROUND

Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) policy recommends that all K-12 teachers of gifted learner participate in a minimum of 16 hours of GATE professional development annually (4 hours for administrators). The hours of GATE professional development, indicated for teachers and administrators, are required for Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) teachers and administrators as per their SAS designation agreement.

To support effective practices for identifying and serving gifted/talented learners, Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, offers each academic year a significant number of free professional development opportunities, including salary point classes, special topics workshops, small group trainings, and online training sessions.



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Although the state of California and District do not require formal teacher certification in gifted education, the UCSD/LAUSD GATE Certification Program provides an avenue for District educators to strengthen their knowledge, understanding and skills that address the unique needs of gifted and high ability students from diverse backgrounds resulting in the implementation of equitable, evidence-based practices that support increased achievement.

II. UCSD/LAUSD GATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

- A. Program Description: The UCSD/LAUSD GATE Certification Program is a unique opportunity to obtain university GATE certification with the completion of five courses. Two of these courses are in-seat/virtual salary point classes offered by LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs. Three additional courses are instructor-led online courses offered through the Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego.
1. The certification program is aligned with the California Recommended Standards for Programs for Gifted and Talented Students, District GATE policy, and the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.
 2. The certification program emphasizes the following:
 - a. Characteristics and special needs, both cognitive and affective, of gifted students.
 - b. Relevance of cultural, ethnic, and socio-economic factors in relation to identification, assessment, and achievement of the gifted.
 - c. Research-based instructional strategies to differentiate the core curriculum, i.e., acceleration/pacing, depth, complexity and novelty.
 - d. Role of assessment used to identify, monitor, assess, and evaluate the progress of gifted learners.
 - e. California Content Standards and their relationship to gifted instructional practices.
- B. Program Benefits: All gifted learners deserve the highest quality of instruction possible. Effective practice occurs when District staff are aware of and able to respond to the unique qualities and characteristics of their students. This is accomplished through rigorous training on gifted education and differentiated instruction. Professional development in gifted education is a benefit to the employee as well as the students served. Although the certification program is optional, participation in the program ensures that educators:
1. Acquire specialized skills to construct a differentiated curriculum



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- that addresses the needs of underrepresented learners, able-underachieving learners, English learners, Standard English learners, and twice-exceptional learners.
2. Learn research-based instructional strategies to differentiate the core curriculum, i.e., acceleration/pacing, depth, complexity, and novelty.
 3. Gain a heightened ability to identify characteristics of gifted learners, with an emphasis on underrepresented populations.
 4. Meet the District recommendations for recency of training for all teachers and administrators of gifted/talented learners and the recency requirements for Schools for Advanced Studies (SAS) teachers (16 hours) and administrators (4 hours).
- C. Program Registration and Requirements (Attachment A)
1. LAUSD Program Requirements (Two Courses)
 - a. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part I
 - i. This is a free in-seat/virtual salary point class offered by the LA Unified.
 - ii. To meet this program requirement, applicants or participants may enroll for this class on MyPLN or provide evidence of class completion within the last six years. Registration is available on MyPLN: <https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>.
 - b. Any other salary point class offered from Gifted/Talented Programs
 - i. Salary point classes offered by the LA Unified are free.
 - ii. To meet this program requirement, applicants or participants may enroll for a Gifted/Talented Programs class on MyPLN or provide evidence of class completion within the last two years.
 - iii. Registration is available on MyPLN: <https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>.
 2. Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego Requirements (3 Courses): Participants must complete the LAUSD Program requirements listed above before enrolling in the UCSD coursework.
 - a. EDUC 40113 Brain-Compatible Learning (4 quarter units)
 - b. EDUC 40114 Socioemotional Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented (4 quarter units)
 - c. EDUC 40115 Practicum in Gifted and Talented Education (4 quarter units)
 3. For inquiries about application, registration, and schedule of courses, contact Stephanie Griffith at s4griffith@ucsd.edu or Tinesha Garrett at tgarrett@ucsd.edu.



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- D. Program Verification Requirements: It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to obtain and submit documented evidence of completion of the LAUSD Program requirements to UCSD prior to enrolling in the UCSD coursework. Applications with incomplete or ambiguous documentation will be returned to the candidate to obtain and submit documented evidence of completion of the LAUSD Program requirements to UCSD prior to enrolling in the UCSD coursework. Applications with incomplete or ambiguous documentation will be returned to the candidate.

**RELATED
RESOURCES**

For more information regarding the current schedule of Gifted/Talented Programs salary point classes, refer to the Gifted/Talented Programs website, <https://achieve.lausd.net/gate>.

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information please contact Rasienna Forss, District Specialist, Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, at (213) 241-6500 or rasienna.willars@lausd.net.



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ATTACHMENT A

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO (UCSD)/LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (LAUSD) GATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego and the Gifted/Talented Department at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) offer a certification program in Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) which is designed specifically around the unique needs of LAUSD teachers working with diverse gifted and talented learners.

This program, which began in March 2017, offers educators the opportunity to blend District GATE professional development and university online coursework to earn GATE certification **and** 12 quarter units of salary-scale applicable academic credit.

Other features of the program include:

- **Research and practice-based curriculum**, with coursework in brain-compatible learning; socioemotional characteristics and needs of the gifted and talented; differentiated instruction (foundations and practice); and a personalized capstone/portfolio course.
- **Coursework that focuses on the unique needs of diverse gifted learners** and the policies, procedures, and resources available within LAUSD. (Courses are only available to LAUSD educators.)
- **Contextually grounded seminars that explore practical solutions** for gifted students in poverty, twice-exceptional gifted students, gifted English Learners, and historically underrepresented students who are gifted.
- **Flexible and low-cost programming.** Readings are embedded within courses and there are no books to purchase or rent. Each course is concise and focused, lasting approximately one month.
- **Small class size (course enrollment will not exceed 20 educators)**, offering opportunities for synergistic conversations between educators as they investigate how to meet the unique needs of gifted students.
- **Courses are differentiated for elementary, middle, and high school educators.**
- **Incorporation of state standards and frameworks;** best practices for gifted and talented learners; science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM); and special topics, such as the arts and gifted education and working with parents and the community.



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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The certification program is aligned with the California Recommended Standards for Programs for Gifted and Talented Students and District instructional goals. This unique hybrid program combines existing District Gifted/Talented Programs salary point class training with coursework presented from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Participants will experience a holistic training model that encompasses multiple approaches and strategies to best meet the needs of gifted/talented learners. This is a unique certification model that is also cost-sensitive for participants.

Participants in the joint certification program will complete a total of five courses. Two of the courses are in-seat/virtual District Gifted/Talented Programs salary point classes offered on MyPLN. Three additional courses are online courses offered through the Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego. All UC San Diego certification courses must be completed within five years.

Hours accrued in completing the UCSD/LAUSD GATE Certification Program may be counted toward the District recommended 16 hours (four hours for administrators) of GATE-specific professional development per year. UCSD/LAUSD GATE certification hours accrued within an academic year will not roll over to the next academic year.

LAUSD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

LAUSD Program Requirements: (2 Courses)

- 1. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part I** - This is a **free** Gifted/Talented Programs salary point class. To meet this program requirement, applicants or participants may enroll for this class on MyPLN or provide evidence of class completion within the last **six** years. Registration is available on MyPLN: <https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>.
- 2. Any other salary point class offered by Gifted/Talented Programs** –This is a **free** salary point class. To meet this program requirement, applicants or participants may enroll for a no cost salary point credit class on MyPLN or provide evidence of class completion within the last **two** years. Registration is available on MyPLN: <https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>.

LAUSD GATE SALARY POINT CLASSES

In addition to **Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part I**, program participants must choose one course from the following MyPLN courses:

- Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part II
- Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part III
- Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part IV
- Arts and the Gifted Learner: There's More Than One Right Answer



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- Arts Integration and Complexity for Gifted Learners: Point of View and Universal Themes of Power and Relationships (3-12)
- Beyond Academics: What Else Do Gifted/Talented Learners Need?
- Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction for Gifted Learners and the Common Core Standards
- Differentiation: Simplified, Realistic, and Effective: Challenging Gifted Potential in Mixed-Ability Classrooms
- Exploring the Universal Theme of Change through Arts Integration for the Gifted/Talented Learner (K-12)
- Getting Started with iPads to Differentiate Learning for GATE Students: Part I
- Getting Started with iPads to Differentiate Learning for GATE Students: Part II
- How to Use Writing and Data to Create Novel Experiences for Gifted/Talented Learners
- Implementing Student Work Groups in Your Common Core Classroom
- Using Google Apps for Education to Differentiate for Gifted/Talented Learners
- Using “Maker Projects” in the STEAM Classroom for Gifted/Talented Learners
- Any new salary point classes offered by Gifted/Talented Programs in the future

APPLYING TO THE DIVISION OF EXTENDED STUDIES AT UC SAN DIEGO

To apply for the joint UCSD/LAUSD GATE Certification Program, a completed application must be submitted to the Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego before enrolling in UCSD coursework.

In addition to the application form, participants need to submit verification of successful completion of LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs coursework. Proof of attendance or a transcript can be printed from the archived file in MyPLN:

1. Log on to MyPLN: <https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln>.
2. Hover over the Learning menu and select “View Your Transcript” or click on the Transcript tile.
3. Click the ellipsis (“...”) and select “Run Transcript Report.”
4. Select the following options:
 - Under Training, select “Session” from the Type drop-down and enter the course Title.
 - Under Advanced, select “Include Archived Training”, “Include Completed Training Only,” “Include Training Detail Information,” and “Training Hours.”
5. Click the “Run Report” button.
6. Click “OK” in the pop-up message “Open with Microsoft Excel.”
7. Click “Yes” in the file format pop-up message and the report will display.

For inquiries about the application, registration process, and schedule of courses, please contact Stephanie Griffith at: s4griffith@ucsd.edu or Tinesha Garrett at tgarrett@ucsd.edu.



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DIVISION OF EXTENDED STUDIES AT UC SAN DIEGO COURSES

The following online courses are offered exclusively for LAUSD educators by the Division of Extended Studies at UC San Diego. Each course is approximately one month in duration. With the exception of the practicum, courses may be taken in any order and combination. All courses are required for certification. Please note that all teachers must first successfully complete the District Gifted and Talented Programs requirements to be eligible for participation/certification through the university.

UCSD Course Descriptions: (3 required courses)

EDUC 40113 Brain-Compatible Learning provides an interactive exploration of the neurophysiology of gifted and talented education in the conceptual age, contextualized within the cognitive and affective needs of diverse gifted and talented students at the elementary and secondary levels. Rooted in the seminal work on the 'gifted brain' and Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's research on "flow," *Brain Compatible Learning* explores the ways in which problem-centered learning; experiential and epiphany-based learning; empowerment and choice; memory; technology use; informal/formal learning resources; and practical relevance serve as catalysts for creativity and commitment within and across disciplinary areas embedded with state standards for gifted and talented students. Implications and strategies for instruction will be presented and discussed, especially as they relate to English Learners, low-socioeconomic status learners and culturally and linguistically diverse learners. This course is a prerequisite for enrollment in **Practicum in Gifted and Talented Education**. **Format: online, instructor-led. Duration: one month. Credit: 4 quarter units.**

EDUC 40114 Socioemotional Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented offers a review of the history and politics of GATE in the United States, setting the stage for a more detailed understanding of the nature of giftedness and talent. This course also explores the social and emotional characteristics unique to diverse gifted individuals, including the impacts of asynchrony; perfectionism; twice exceptionality; among others. Special attention is paid to the needs of multicultural and English Learner gifted students. Strategies for the design and delivery of curriculum to address these characteristics will be presented for collaborative discussion. This course is a prerequisite for enrollment in **Practicum in Gifted and Talented Education**. **Format: online, instructor-led. Duration: one month. Credit: 4 quarter units.**

EDUC 40115 Practicum in Gifted and Talented Education is a course that provides educators an opportunity to demonstrate competencies in the development and delivery of assessment-based strategies within gifted education (differentiated instruction, iconic teaching, depth and complexity, tiered assignments, and technology use, for example), connecting them together in a cohesive manner. Candidates will collaborate with the course instructor to determine an appropriate signature project based on academic and professional interests and to establish meaningful benchmarks and artifacts. This may take the form of an action research project on a topic of professional interest or a curated portfolio of work. The signature project includes organized reflections of practice and artifacts offering evidence of knowledge, skills and abilities that can be used by peers.

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Prerequisites: Socioemotional Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented; Brain-Compatible Learning I; and Instructional Strategies (LAUSD). Format: online, instructor-led. Duration: one month. Credit: 4 quarter units.

For additional questions or comments, please contact Gifted/Talented Programs, Advanced Learning Options, Rasienna Forss, at راسيenna.willars@lausd.net or (213) 241-6500, or Dr. Morgan Appel at mappel@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-9273.