



# LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDUM

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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](mailto:s4griffith@ucsd.edu) or Tinesha Garrett at [tgarrett@ucsd.edu](mailto: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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Division of Instruction

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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](mailto:راسيenna.willars@lausd.net) or (213) 241-6500, or Dr. Morgan Appel at [mappel@ucsd.edu](mailto:mappel@ucsd.edu) or (858) 534-9273.