UC SAN DIEGO EXTENSION CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION FOR LAUSD TEACHERS

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Education Department at UC San Diego Extension are excited to offer a new certification program in gifted education which is designed specifically around the unique needs of LAUSD teachers working with diverse gifted and talented learners.

The program, which began in mid-March, 2017, offers teachers the opportunity to blend professional development in GATE undertaken at the district and online coursework taken at the university to earn GATE certification and twelve 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 teachers.)

- **Contextually grounded seminars that explore practical solutions** for gifted students in poverty, twice-exceptional gifted students, gifted English Learners, and historically underrepresented minorities who are gifted.

- **Flexible and low-cost programming ($200 per university course)**. Readings are embedded within courses and there are no books to purchase or rent. Each course is compacted and focused, lasting approximately one month.

- **Small class size (course enrollment will not exceed 20 teachers)**, offering opportunities for synergistic conversations between teachers as they investigate how to meet the unique needs of gifted students.

- Courses are **differentiated for elementary, middle, and high school teachers**.

- **Incorporation of state standards and frameworks, best practices for gifted and talented learners, STEAM, and special topics**, such as the arts and gifted education and working with parents and the community.

For additional questions or comments, please contact Morgan Appel at (mappel@ucsd.edu) or 858-534-9273. At LAUSD, please contact Robert Grubb at (rgrubb@lausd.net) or 213-241-6500.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The certification program is aligned with the California Recommended Standards for Programs for Gifted and Talented Students, LAUSD instructional goals, and the Office for Civil Rights agreement with LAUSD. This unique hybrid program combines existing Los Angeles Unified School District 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 from both a LAUSD and UCSD perspective. Providing both perspectives will create 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 these courses are in-seat LAUSD salary point classes offered on the Learning Zone. Three additional courses are online courses offered through the Education Department at UC San Diego Extension. The total cost of the program is $600.00. All courses need to be completed within five years.

LAUSD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

LAUSD Program Requirements: (2 Courses)
1. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part I - This is a FREE, salary point class offered by the Los Angeles Unified School District. Participants may have taken this class within the last six years (since the 2011-2012 school year). Registration is available on MyPLN: https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln
2. Any other salary point class offered from Gifted/Talented Programs – This is a FREE salary point class. Participants may have taken this class within the last two years (since the 2015-2016 school year). Registration is available on MyPLN: https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln

LAUSD GATE SALARY POINT CLASSES

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

1. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part II
2. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part III
3. Meeting the Needs of Gifted Learners: Part IV
4. Differentiated Curriculum and Instruction for Gifted Learners and the Common Core Standards
5. Differentiation: Simplified, Realistic, and Effective: Challenging Gifted Potential in Mixed-Ability Classrooms
6. Getting Started with iPads to Differentiate Learning for GATE Students: Part I
7. Getting Started with iPads to Differentiate Learning for GATE Students: Part II
8. How to Use Writing and Data to Create Novel Experiences for Gifted/Talented Learners
9. Implementing Student Work Groups in Your Common Core Classroom
10. Implementing the Internet into the Curriculum for Teachers of Gifted and High-Achieving Students
11. Make it! Take it! Differentiate it!
12. Using “Maker Projects” in the STEAM Classroom for Gifted/Talented Learners
13. Arts and the Gifted Learner: There’s More Than One Right Answer
15. Any new salary point classes offered by Gifted/Talented Programs in the future

APPLYING TO UC SAN DIEGO EXTENSION

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

In addition to the application form, participants will need to submit verification of successfully completing LAUSD Coursework. Proof of attendance (transcript) can be printed for classes completed on the Learning Zone from the archived Learning Zone:

- Log on to the Learning Zone: https://lz.lausd.net/
- Click on “My History” from the Learning Zone home page
- Print your transcript
- Highlight applicable classes

To obtain proof of attendance for classes completed on MyPLN:

- Log on to MyPLN: https://achieve.lausd.net/mypln
- From the drop down menu under “Learning” select “View Your Transcript”
- Click on “View Certificate” for applicable classes
- Print your certificate(s)

For inquiries about the application, registration process, and schedule of courses please contact Natalie Leroux-Lindsey at: nlerouxlindsey@ucsd.edu.

UC San Diego Extension Courses

The following courses are offered online exclusively for LAUSD teachers by the Education Department at UC San Diego Extension. 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 instructional strategies trainings through the LAUSD Gifted/Talented Programs office 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-SES 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. Cost: $200.00.

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 gifted students and English Learners. Strategies for the design and delivery of curriculum that attend to 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. Cost: $200.00.

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. 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. Cost: $200.00.

**UCSD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

UCSD Program Requirements (3 Courses)

1. EDUC 40113 Brain Compatible Learning (Cost: $200.00)
2. EDUC 40114 Socioemotional Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented (Cost: $200.00)
3. EDUC 40115 Practicum in Gifted and Talented Education (Cost: $200.00)