Hello!

My name is Caryn Chavez. I am the Vice President of the Professional Development Institute (PDI) and I work very closely with the many districts and teachers we serve across the country.

The Professional Development Institute offers online courses to K-12 teachers. Every course PDI offers is approved by the University of San Diego (UCSD) Extension for graduate-level credit. Our course topics include using technology in the classroom such as Google and iPads, Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards implementation, anti-bullying strategies, social-emotional learning, working with struggling readers and writers, using math manipulatives for problem solving, and many more. The Professional Development Institute is a leader in the training industry, having successfully offered online courses to teachers since 1997. Since then, we’ve trained over 100,000 teachers and have developed a reputation among school districts as a company that provides high quality courses taught by experienced and talented instructors.

Teachers choose PDI’s courses because they are challenging, yet also practical. Every course provides strategies that can be implemented immediately in the classroom. Course content guides teachers to effectively apply the theory and strategies in the classroom through activities, examples, practice exercises, assignments, and guidance from the course instructor. Teachers are actively engaged throughout the course and have multiple opportunities to interact with the course instructor and other course participants. Each PDI course is equivalent to 50 instructional hours of training.

In addition to being approved by UCSD, a number of our courses are also approved and offered directly through seven reputable universities as part of their continuing education programs. PDI is approved by the New York State Education Department (as a CTLE sponsor) and the state of Texas, as well as promoted by many school districts to teachers in need of professional development training. PDI is also included in many school districts’ offerings through My Learning Plan. PDI is proud to be a woman-owned business whose owner/President, Connie Ryan, was a classroom teacher for years.

Being familiar with the questions districts ask most about our courses and the university credit, I have developed the FAQ list on the following page. If for any reason your questions are not answered, or you would like additional information, I invite you to call me at 949-263-4931. I’d be happy to share more information, answer questions, and provide course syllabi as well as course access to give you confidence in PDI and our courses.

Thank you in advance for your trust in PDI.

Sincerely,

Caryn Chavez
Vice President
District Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is UC San Diego Extension an accredited university?

   Yes. UC San Diego Extension is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) through the San Diego campus as part of the University of California system.

2. Is the university credit from UC San Diego Extension at the graduate level?

   Yes. All PDI courses are numbered using a 400-level numbering series to identify courses used by teachers for salary advancement and other professional purposes. Courses offered as part of the 400-series are post-baccalaureate, professional-level, credit bearing courses, delivered at the graduate level in the field of education, and specifically designed for teachers.

3. Can the university credit from UC San Diego Extension be used towards a Master’s Degree?

   It depends. Credit earned in these courses may lead to the award of a formal certificate by UC San Diego Extension or may be applied toward an academic degree or professional credential, subject to the approval of the receiving institution. These courses provide opportunities for professional or career advancement.

   If the district requires courses to be eligible for use towards a Master’s Degree, we do have a university partner who has approved PDI courses for graduate credit and to be used towards a Master’s Degree within the institution. Please contact Caryn Chavez to discuss options for ensuring this requirement can be met.

4. How many units of credit does UC San Diego Extension offer for PDI courses?

   UC San Diego Extension is on the quarter system. So, a PDI course worth 5.0 quarter units is equivalent to 3 1/3 semester units. This is equivalent to 50 instructional hours.

5. What is the difference between units and credits?

   The word unit is a descriptor of the type of credit UC San Diego issues to students who have fulfilled all of the requirements of any particular class. The terms “unit” and “credit” can be used interchangeably without altering the accepted institutional meaning of the terms.

6. Do participants interact with an instructor?

   Though PDI courses are offered entirely online, to enhance and reinforce the use of technology on a practical level while gaining skills and confidence in doing so, teachers communicate with other participants and their instructor as if they were in a face-to-face course. The interaction, collaboration, and communication in every PDI course gives participants a feeling of being in a traditional college classroom setting.

7. How does PDI assess participants’ knowledge of the material they are learning?

   Participants are assessed throughout their course using various tools such as practical lessons, projects, assignments, and formal testing. Each course has a cumulative final assignment where participants must apply what they have learned throughout the course to demonstrate full understanding of concepts and applicability in the classroom. Participants must also complete five quizzes. Grades are based on the rubrics established for each assignment, combined with test scores.
When teachers learn, students benefit.

See why teachers and districts choose PDI for their professional development training needs.

Increasing student achievement by improving teacher quality. That has always been the goal of the Professional Development Institute. Since 1997, PDI has been a leading provider of quality, affordable online professional development courses for PreK-12 teachers. Since then, we’ve successfully trained over 100,000 educators across the globe.

PDI has earned a stellar reputation for our high-quality training and customer service. Below are additional highlights.

- PDI’s graduate-level courses are approved by and can be taken for credit through UC San Diego Extension.
- PDI courses are also proudly offered through seven top universities throughout the country as part of their extended learning catalogs.
- PDI offers a catalog of over 80 courses on the most critical topics including Common Core, technology integration, anti-bullying, social-emotional learning, and classroom management.
- PDI courses are instructor-led and interactive, allowing for collaboration among educators as well as discussion between the participant and instructor.
- PDI boasts a highly-qualified team of instructors who work with teachers to ensure they gain authentic classroom practice through practical activities and assignments. Instructors provide valuable, constructive feedback on every assignment, in every course.
- Student-centered teaching strategies are presented through results-driven content.

PDI consistently meets the high expectations for professional development by offering exceptional courses that challenge teachers while offering them practical strategies that can be applied immediately in the classroom. The online format allows flexibility with no time away from students.

Please contact Caryn Chavez at caryn@webteaching.com or 949-263-4931 if you would like more information about special pricing available for your school district, or if you have any questions about PDI courses.

Click Here to request access to a PDI course.
Technology
- Mastering Google Apps for Education (K-12)
- Effectively Using iPads to Transform Your Classroom (K-12)
- Google as a Classroom Tool for Learning (K-12)
- Multimedia Project Design and Development (K-12)
- Using Google Classroom for Teaching and Learning (K-12)
- Making the Most of the Internet in the Classroom (K-12)
- Educational Technology 101 (K-12)
- The Flipped Classroom (4-12)
- Digital Storytelling: Using Technology to Write Stories (4-12)

Math and Science
- Next Generation Science Standards (K-12)
- Teaching STEM and NGSS at the Primary Level (K-3)
- Unleashing the Power of the NGSS and STEM (3-5)
- Math Manipulatives in the Primary Classroom (K-3)
- Math Problem-Solving Strategies for Grades 3-6
- Support Math Foundational Skills in the Primary Grades
- Middle School Math Problem Solving Skills (6-8)
- Teaching Primary Grade Math Problem Solving Skills (K-3)
- Learner-Centered Math Instruction Using Manipulatives (3-6)

Teaching Strategies
- Instilling a Growth Mindset in Students (K-12)
- Embracing Diversity and Equity through Culturally Responsive Teaching (K-12)
- Study Smarter, Not Harder: Study Skills for Students (K-8)
- Differentiated Instruction: One Size Does Not Fit All (K-6)
- Improving Your Students’ Test Taking Skills (2-12)
- Data-Driven Instruction (K-12)
- Implementing the Workshop Approach to Reading, Writing, Math and Science (4-8)

Special Needs
- Conquering Behavioral Challenges of Special Needs Students (K-2)
- Preparing Students with Special Needs to Meet the Standards (K-6)
- Teaching Students with Special Needs in a Mainstream Classroom (K-6)
- Preparing English Language Learners (ESL/ENL/ELL) for Success (K-6)
- Content-Area Multi-Sensory Teaching for Students with Special Needs (K-5)
- Instructional Strategies for ELD and SDAIE (K-12)

Reading and Comprehension
- Focus on Phonics (K-3)
- The Daily Five (K-3)
- Reading Interventions for Middle School Students (6-8)
- Reading Foundations for Early and Emergent Writers (PreK-2)
- Mastering the Text Complexity Challenge in Grades 4-8
- Response to Intervention in Reading (4-12)
- Reading to Learn: Developing Strategic Reading Skills (4-12)
- Vocabulary Instruction in the Primary Grades (K-3)
- Comprehension: The Key to Successful Reading (K-3)
- Guided Reading 101 (K-5)
- Reading Workshop Approach for Students in Grades 4-12
- Interventions for Middle Grade Struggling Readers (4-6)

Writing
- Guiding Emergent and Early Writers to Success (K-2)
- Helping Struggling Writers Achieve Success (3-6)
- Effective Strategies to Improve Student Writing (4-12)
- A New Approach to Teaching Spelling (K-6)
- Effective Strategies for Emergent and Early Writers (PreK-3)

Classroom Management
- Educating the Whole Student: Mindfulness and Social-Emotional Learning in the Classroom (K-12)
- Teaching Tolerance and Respect: Preventing Bullying in High School (9-12)
- Anti-Bullying Strategies for Primary Grades (K-3)
- Bullying: Awareness, Prevention, & Intervention for Grades 4-8
- Classroom Management Strategies for High School Teachers
- Character Education for the 21st Century (K-12)
- Responsive Classroom Management for the Primary Grades (K-3)
- Classroom Management Survival Course (K-12)
- Best Practices for a Successful Classroom (K-3, 4-6, Middle School, and High School)

Call today to request access to a PDI course.
Professional Development Institute / 949-263-4931 / www.webteaching.com
Quality Training
Backed by an Accredited, Top Ten-Ranked University

PDI is proud to share that every course we offer is approved for university credit at the graduate level through the prestigious UC San Diego Extension. UC San Diego Extension is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) through the San Diego campus as part of the University of California system and is ranked a top university in the country by US News and World Report.

Upon successful completion of PDI coursework, UC San Diego Extension issues a transcript with letter grades to participants who registered with credit.

All PDI courses are numbered using a 400-level numbering series to identify courses used by teachers for salary advancement and other professional purposes. Courses offered as part of the 400-series are post-baccalaureate, professional-level, credit-bearing courses, delivered at the graduate level in the field of education, and specifically designed for teachers.

Credit earned in these courses may lead to the award of a formal certificate by UC San Diego Extension or may be applied toward an academic degree or professional credential, subject to the approval of the receiving institution. These courses provide opportunities for professional or career advancement.

Both UC San Diego Extension and PDI are happy to answer any questions about the university credit option.

Feel free to contact PDI, or UC San Diego directly. Contact information is included below.

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949-263-4931 (telephone)
caryn@webteaching.com

Dr. Morgan Appel
Assistant Dean, Education and Community Outreach
UC San Diego Extension
858-534-9273 (telephone)
mappel@ucsd.edu
What teachers can expect from PDI...

→ Rigorous, relevant courses that provide teachers with practical skills, knowledge, and student-centered teaching strategies that can be immediately applied in the classroom.

→ Results-driven content developed BY teachers FOR teachers that is clearly connected to student achievement.

→ Increased opportunities for professional collaboration among and between teachers from all over the world.

→ Strategies for applying more accurate and appropriate assessment techniques.

→ The convenience of taking an online course that allows teachers to participate on their own schedule, without time away from students.

What teachers are saying about PDI...

"Great course! I leave with an arsenal of new ideas for structuring my classroom activities!" - Shannon O’Shea  (The Flipped Classroom: An Interactive Approach to Student Engagement)

"Very valuable. From the very first unit, I was discovering so many things that I will doing in my classroom next year. I wish I had been exposed to these ideas and resources years ago." - Tina Mischke  (Helping Middle Grade Struggling Writers Achieve Success)

"I absolutely loved this course! I thought all of the resources were fantastic! This is such an important topic that needs to have more of a priority in the classrooms." - Diana Ajello (Anti-Bullying Strategies for Primary Grades)

"I absolutely loved this course as it has been so valuable in helping me with real-world suggestions and handouts that I can take and use immediately." - Andrea Walker (Best Practices for a Successful High School Classroom)

"The strategies in the course will be extremely helpful to me. I am excited to get started. My students will never be bored!" - Donna Snyder  (Comprehension Strategies for Middle and Upper Grades)

"The content of this RTI course was relevant to the needs of my classroom. The lessons addressed the current trends I’ve seen in my district and have provided me with useful tools and lessons that will support me as I implement RTI." - Jodi Piazza  (Response to Intervention in Reading)