UTeach Professional Development

UTeach Online Academy of Innovative Teaching and Learning

UTeach at The University of Texas at Austin has been preparing both pre-service and in-service teachers for more than 20 years, with an emphasis on learner-centered instruction, particularly blended, inquiry- and project-based teaching methods. At **uteachpd.org**, we model inquiry-based learning, integrate inquiry with technology, and promote equity for all learners. UTeach believes in the power of well-prepared teachers with effective instructional pedagogies, classroom management strategies, and technology that will spark student interest and support personalized learning.

All courses are online and asynchronous. The courses were developed by UTeach Master Teachers and are taught by UTeach Master Teachers and professional development facilitators. Educators receive a certificate of completion with the designated number of professional development credit hours.

Cost: Each hourly continuing professional education (CPE) unit costs $25. Discounted pricing available for enrollment of 10 or more educators in a course.

UTeach Online Blended Learning Series

Foundations of Blended Learning (30 hours/$750)

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to blended learning and provide you the opportunity to research best practices to model in your own classroom. You will conduct a series of learning activities to discover the best blended learning practices and resources to integrate into personal learning spaces. Blended learning professional development helps teachers thrive in the new world of hybrid and remote learning.

Length of course: 12 weeks

Foundations of Blended Learning (30 hours/$750)

Module 1 (4 hours)
Blended Learning: Where Do I Start?

This module explores relevant research literature to help you construct a new understanding of blended learning. You will become familiar with tools and strategies indicative of a blended learning environment and develop systems for creating your own blended learning classroom. The learning activities embedded throughout the course will help you answer the driving question: *What does blended learning look like in my classroom?*

Module 2 (6 hours, GT eligible)
Personalized Learning in the Blended Classroom

This module encourages you to develop strategies to personalize instruction to meet the needs of individual students. Technology tools provide access to a multitude of resources to assist with personalization as well as the incorporation of tools and strategies to foster a personalized learning experience in a blended classroom. As you work through each of the assignments, keep in mind the driving question of this module: *Which personalized learning strategies should be consistently used in my blended classroom to enhance student learning?*

Module 3 (8 hours)
Tools and Strategies for Managing a Blended Learning Environment

In this module, you will discover innovative tools and resources for managing the variety of activities taking place in a blended learning environment. You will design a classroom management plan, create technology-enhanced learning activities, and develop strategies to foster digital citizenship in your own blended classroom. You will research, implement, and collaborate while developing personalized responses to the driving question: *What tools and strategies will be most effective for managing my blended classroom?*

Module 4 (12 hours)
Capstone: Blended Learning Reflections

This module builds upon the blended learning principles from the previous modules. In this capstone course, you will observe blended learning classrooms, complete individualized efforts to enhance blended instruction, and reflect on current and future blended learning practices.

The activities in this capstone course will assist in the creation of individual responses to the driving question: *How do I best combine technology-enhanced tools, differentiation strategies, and management tools to transform my classroom into a blended learning environment?*

UTeach Online Blended Learning Series

Advanced Blended Learning (30 hours/$750)

The purpose of this advanced course is to help you discover how aspects of the **T-TESS** Domains and Dimensions evaluation tool can be applied to blended learning. Furthermore, the course uses the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) 2017 **Standards for Educators** to challenge you to rethink traditional teaching approaches, promote collaboration with peers, and deepen knowledge of blended learning practices. This is a project-based course, with a focus on personalized work products.

Prerequisite: Completion of UTeach Foundations of Blended Learning or full implementation of Blended Learning.

Length of course: 12 weeks

Advanced Blended Learning (30 hours/$750)

Module 1 (6 hours)
Planning for a Blended Learning Environment

In this first module, you will create work products and lesson plans, use learning management systems to embed links and offer choice, use technology to assess students and guide personalized pathways, and explore and analyze student agency in a blended setting. Each assignment involves creating work products to support blended initiatives and reflecting on how these products will guide blended instruction and foster student ownership and personalization of learning.

T-TESS Connection: **Planning, Domain 1**

Module 2 (8 hours, GT eligible)
Implementing Blended Instruction

This module further guides you to explore essential elements of a flexible and personalized blended learning environment, supporting students with both voice and choice as they navigate learning.

You will implement innovative tools and lesson designs and facilitate multimodal options for students of disparate backgrounds, abilities, and learning styles. You will "learn by doing" as you create standards-based content using online resources for use in your blended classrooms.

T-TESS Connection: **Instruction, Domain 2**

Module 3 (8 hours)
Supporting and Managing a Blended Learning Environment

This module challenges you to reflect on your initial forays into blended learning and evaluate your current methods to foster a positive classroom culture while supporting student learning in a well-managed blended setting.

The many reflective activities in this module offer you the opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate best practices and procedures to support student learning, allow for flexible instruction, and maintain focus and productivity in a seemingly chaotic blended setting.

Module 4 (8 hours)
Professional Practice and Responsibilities

Module 4 challenges participants to take on the role of leader.

You will reflect on your Blended Learning Action Plan from Foundations of Blended Learning to identify areas of strength and map out ideas to better target personalization of learning and high student agency.

Using your perspective, experience, and knowledge gained from this and other exercises, you will become a leader in your organization, promoting blended practices by organizing teacher observations and developing videos to model these initiatives and share ideas for frameworks and resources.

→ T-TESS Connection: **Professional Practices and Responsibilities, Domain 4**

→ International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) 2017 Standards for Educators Connection: Leader

UTeach Online Restorative Practices Course

Foundations of Restorative Practices in K-12 Classrooms

(20 hours/$500)

The purpose of this online course is to introduce restorative practices for K–12 classroom use. In the course, you will learn about the need for restorative practices and explore the positive benefits of using them in your classroom and school. Restorative practices are about creating positive relationships. Using restorative practices in schools requires a paradigm shift from a rules-based, punitive mindset to a focus on building relationships and community throughout the school. When conflict arises, restorative practices help repair the harm and restore relationships, thus promoting a calm, safe learning environment for all.

Foundations of Restorative Practices in K-12 Classrooms
(20 hours/$500)

Module 1
What Are Restorative Practices?

You will reflect upon your classroom and analyze similarities and differences with restorative practices culture. Through guided exploration, you will learn about restorative practices and review the importance of parent integration in your classroom.

Module 2
Restorative Circles

You will reflect upon the definition of restorative circles and observe circles in various settings. You will create and practice a circle script for classroom use.

Module 3
Connecting Restorative Practices with Behavior

You will explore and reflect upon student interactions and the effect of using restorative practices. You will create restorative practices anchors to use in your classroom and participate in activities focused on mindfulness and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) integration with restorative practices.

Module 4
Implementation of Restorative Practices

You will create an action plan for incorporating restorative practices in your classroom and share with your colleagues in the course. You will create a progress-monitoring tool to track student behavioral changes in your classroom.

UTeach Online Inquiry-Based Learning Series

Earn your UTeach Inquiry-Based Teaching and Learning designation. All courses are online, asynchronous, and led by UTeach professional development facilitators. You'll review inquiry-based instructional strategies and learn content-specific practices that recognize the diverse perspectives students bring to the learning experience.

IL 101 (4 hours/$100)
Foundations of Inquiry Teaching and Learning

This course shares the inquiry-based learning philosophy that is the hallmark of UTeach's model for preparing pre-service teachers and a key element of the UTeach professional development model for practicing teachers. The course is designed for educators who may not be familiar with or who need a refresher on inquiry-based learning and the 5E Instructional Model (engage, explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate). You will identify levels of inquiry-based learning, describe each E in the 5E learning cycle, critique 5E lesson plans, and create an action plan for implementing inquiry-based learning strategies.

IL 107 (8 hours/$200)
Mentoring Math and Science Teachers

This course is designed for educators who mentor their colleagues. We'll discuss what makes mentoring successful and review ways to provide effective, productive feedback for mentees. Teachers will use what they've learned to design a mentoring program that meets the needs of new teachers and follows the guidelines established by the school or district.

IL 108 (8 hours/$200)
Teaching Algebra Through Inquiry

In this course, you will fully develop a working definition of inquiry-based learning for your classroom. This course helps determine the level of guidance students need to participate in inquiry-based algebra activities, as well as the nature of activities that will increase student learning. You will review sample inquiry-based algebra lessons and share observations regarding the vital features of these learning activities. You will also create, review, and revise inquiry-based algebra lessons to use in their classrooms.

IL 110 (12 hours/$300)
Makerspace in the Classroom

This course is designed for teachers interested in learning more about Makerspaces and implementing Maker ideas and practices into their own classrooms. You will research and articulate findings relevant to the Maker movement. You will also connect to larger Maker communities, collaborate on and design Maker activities and projects for students, learn how to advocate for schoolwide Makerspace connections, and develop an action plan for implementing Makerspaces in your school.

IL 111 (20 hours/$500)
Supporting English Language Learners

You will receive an introduction to working with English language learners (ELLs) in your classroom. The course leads you through a series of learning activities that provides resources and classroom strategies for welcoming ELLs and their families. Topics include creating productive learning environments, understanding language-acquisition concepts, providing comprehensible input, using language in classrooms, and supporting students as they assess their own progress.

UTeach Online Project-Based Instruction Series

Earn your UTeach Project-Based Instruction (PBI) designation. All courses are online, asynchronous, and led by UTeach Professional Development facilitators. Project-Based Instruction is an instructional strategy that helps to engage students, make content relevant, and provide active learning experiences. The course series draws on recent publications, web-based resources, and video examples that focus on various topics related to PBI. Each stage of the course contains application tasks that will help you use key concepts and practical strategies. The course series is designed for educators who are interested in providing authentic and challenging experiences for their students.

PBI 101 (12 hours/$300)
Exploring Project-Based Instruction

This course provides opportunities for you to engage in a mini PBI project, learn about the instructional philosophy behind PBI, develop tools for writing and teaching PBI lessons, and engage in online discussions about PBI with colleagues. By the end of the course, you will have planned a PBI unit for your own classroom and received feedback on your work.

PBI 102 (20 hours/$500)
Designing Project-Based Instruction

This course begins with a review of project-based instruction (PBI) and guides you step by step through the process of planning your own project. The PBI approach to teaching allows students to work together to ask questions, create artifacts, and present their ideas for solving authentic problems. By the end of the course, you will have completed a project planning guide.

PBI 103 (10 hours/$250)
Implementing Project-Based Instruction

This course is part three in a three-part series. To fully participate in this course you will need a strong understanding of PBI as an instructional approach and you will need to have created or identified a project to implement in your classroom. During this course, you will participate in planning activities, implement your project, reflect on your work, and engage in discussion.

Customized Professional Development

Any of the topics covered in UTeach online courses can be customized and provided in face-to-face sessions or webinars with an entire school or subset of educators. We also provide follow-up coaching and support.

The cost varies with the degree of customization, the number and roles of educators being served, the number of days and hours of support, and travel.

Contact us for more information and to discuss your professional development needs.

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We prepare teachers. They change the world.
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