FAQ About the Learning, Design & Technology (LDT) Program Certificates

Please contact Dr. Sara McNeil (smcneil@uh.edu) for more information.

Q. What certificates are available?
A. There are four University of Houston LDT certificates:
   1. Master Technology Teacher (This is for certified Texas teachers only.)
   2. Certificate in Designing and Developing Educational Graphics
   3. Certificate in Designing and Developing Educational Multimedia
   4. Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning

Q. How many courses do I take for each certificate?
A. For each certificate, students take a total of four courses (12 semester hours) which provide experiences in a wide variety of technology applications and involve them in studying how educational technologies can support instructional strategies. Students learn techniques of instructional design, collaborative development, and the design of technology-based instructional resources. Students complete a mini-portfolio project with a reflection for each certificate.

Q. Do I have to be a UH student or can I apply for a certificate directly?
A. You do not need to be a current UH student to enroll in the Certificate program. However, you will need to apply for graduate study at UH and be admitted into a Certificate program before you can enroll in courses.

Q. What are the admission requirements?
A. The requirements are:
   1) completion of a college degree at an accredited college or university;
   2) college transcripts with an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.6 and reflecting the ability to achieve a 3.0 average in graduate courses;
   3) a statement from the applicant explaining why this certificate is appropriate; and
   4) a resume/CV showing work experience and career goals that indicate the appropriateness of this certificate.

Q. Do I need to take the GRE?
A. No, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is not required for the certificate program, but the GRE is required for an application to a graduate program in the College of Education.

Q.: Are there special admissions requirements for international applicants?
A. Yes. Satisfactory TOEFL scores are required for ALL international applicants. All applicants who did not graduate from native English-speaking countries are required to provide adequate proof of their English proficiency before receiving admission to the University of Houston. A satisfactory score of 550 on the TOEFL paper based exam or 213 for the computer-based exam or 79 on the Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) is generally acceptable proof of English proficiency. The minimum required IELTS score for admissions is 6.5 on a scale from 1 to 9. Applicants are expected to complete the Test of Written English portion of the TOEFL whenever it is included as part of the exam. Scores must not be more than two years old. Scores should be sent directly to the university from the testing center and photocopies or other duplication of scores are not acceptable. When sending scores, be sure to include the University of Houston's ETS School Code, which is 6870. You are exempt from the TOEFL/IELTS requirement if you:
   • Have earned a high school diploma or bachelor’s degree or higher from an accredited U.S. high school, college or university.
   • Speak English as your native language. This exemption refers to students from Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, the British Isles, English-speaking Canadian provinces, the Fiji
Q. Can undergraduate students apply for these certificates?
A. No, only students who have earned a college degree (for example: B.S., B.A., B.F.A) may apply for these certificates.

Q. How much does it cost to apply?
A. There is no application fee at this time for in-state or out-of-state applicants. For the Master Technology Teacher (MTT) certificate, there is a fee to file a UH deficiency plan for the State Board of Education.

Q. What are the deadlines for applications?
A. The deadlines for certificate application (all of the components noted earlier including transcripts must be received by this date) are: [http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/admission-app-instructions/admission-deadlines.php](http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/admission-app-instructions/admission-deadlines.php)

Q. How do I apply?
A. Information about the admissions process is here: [http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/](http://www.uh.edu/education/admissions/graduate/)

Q. How much does it cost?
A. Certificate students receive graduate credit for courses and are enrolled in graduate courses that are currently taught. They pay regular graduate tuition and fees.

Graduate tuition and fees vary depending on the educational program, residence status, graduate level and courses a student is currently taking. Prospective and current students are encouraged to review tuition and fees applicable to their graduate study. Additional fees, such as parking, are not included on the schedule of charges.

For more information about costs for tuition and fees, you may visit the University of Houston website’s tuition pages: [http://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/](http://www.uh.edu/financial/graduate/tuition-fees/)

Tuition costs for out-of-state and international students are higher than for Texas residents.

Q. What do I receive when I complete the certificate program?
A. Except for the MTT certificate, students who complete all of the requirements for a certificate will receive an actual paper certificate, and the certificate will be shown on their University of Houston transcript. Applicants for the MTT certification must take and pass the Master Technology Teacher Test from the State Board of Education in order to receive this certification from the State.

Q: How do I get an advisor?
A: Upon acceptance into a certificate program, students will be assigned a faculty advisor. After meeting with their advisor, students may then enroll in classes.

Q: How long does it take?
A: The time required for completion of each certificate is based on the number of courses offered and how many courses a student is able to complete each semester; the average duration of study is one year.

Q. Are the courses offered online or face-to-face?
Courses are offered online and face-to-face. If there is a group of students from a particular region, the LDT program could offer a certificate program exclusively for your group either online or at your location.
Q. Is there a minimum grade I have to earn in each course in order for it to count towards a certificate?
Yes, you must earn a grade of B- or higher in order for the course to count towards one of the certificates.

Q: Can these courses count as credit toward a graduate degree?
A: All four of the courses taken (12 hours) can be used towards a graduate degree in Learning, Design, and Technology. Other graduate programs may also decide to count these courses, but it is up to the individual program to determine this. Students in a certificate program are encouraged to adhere to the admission criteria for UH College of Education graduate programs so that they may apply the courses in a certificate program toward a graduate degree, if they choose.

Q. Does earning a certificate help me in applying to a graduate program?
A. Completion of a certificate program does not guarantee acceptance to a graduate program, but successful completion of courses as well as student work could be used as a factor in admissions consideration.

Q. What are the course requirements and schedule?

Certificate in Designing and Developing Educational Multimedia
For professionals who wish to enhance their ability to design, create, and evaluate educational multimedia.

In consultation with their advisor, students choose four courses from the following:
• CUIN 7305: Courseware and Presentation Tools
• CUIN 7347: Seminar in Learning, Design and Technology
• CUIN 7358: Digital Storytelling
• CUIN 7376: New Tools for Creating Online Educational Materials
• CUIN 7374: Educational Multimedia
• CUIN 7389: Digital Media
• CUIN 7390: Instructional Design

Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning
For professionals who wish to enhance their ability to design, create, and evaluate online learning.

In consultation with their advisor, students choose four courses from the following:
• CUIN 7308: Computer Mediated Communication
• CUIN 7316: Design of Online Educational Resources
• CUIN 7318: Current Issues in Learning and Design
• CUIN 7319: Current Issues in Learning and Technology
• CUIN 7347: Seminar in Learning, Design and Technology
• CUIN 7356: Issues in Distance Education
• CUIN 7376: New Tools for Creating Online Educational Materials
• CUIN 7390: Instructional Design

Certificate in Designing and Developing Educational Graphics
For professionals who wish to enhance their ability to design, create, and publish effective educational graphics.

In consultation with their advisor, students choose four courses from the following:
• CUIN 7305: Courseware and Presentation Tools
• CUIN 7347: Seminar in Learning, Design and Technology
• CUIN 7358: Digital Storytelling
• CUIN 7368: Digital Imaging
• CUIN 7376: New Tools for Creating Online Educational Materials
• CUIN 7389: Digital Media
• CUIN 7390: Instructional Design
Master Technology Teacher Certificate

A State of Texas-approved certification intended to help school districts identify teachers with an expertise in technology integration and mentorship in technology skills.

State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) criteria for Master Technology Teacher certification:

- Three (3) years of classroom teaching experience** OR
- Technology Applications Certification

** SBEC requires teachers to have 3 years of classroom teaching experience in order to take the TExMaT exam. Applicants with less than 3 years teaching experience may be eligible for this program, however they would need to wait to take the exam until they reached that level of experience.

Students complete these four courses:
1. CUIN 7350: Integrating Technology into the Curriculum
2. CUIN 7390: Instructional Design
3. CUIN 7374: Multimedia for the Classroom
4. CUIN 7328: Technology and Teacher Education