

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **What is the Native Education Certificate Program?**

The UW College of Education and UW Professional & Continuing Education are partnering to offer the Native Education Certificate Program for educators launching August 2022. It is designed to cultivate the educators' abilities to create meaningful and effective relationships with Native American students, families, and communities through the perspective of community-based teaching. The 2-year hybrid program will consist of online courses combined with a 3-day Summer Institute on the UW campus or on Zoom.

## **Who would benefit from a Native Education Certificate?**

All those invested in improving educational relationships with Native American students, families, and communities. We encourage applications from all professionals in the education field as well as people who work closely with, or in, Native communities and their governments. Both formal and informal educators and professionals are welcome to apply.

## **How is the Native Education Certificate different from other programs?**

The Native Education Certificate Program seeks to emphasize building cultural partnerships between communities and community-based educators and professionals. We will also explore how to establish relevant community-based tools for working with colleagues, communities, and students. Participants will develop the expertise to engage Native students, peoples, families, and communities' knowledge in instruction to help Native students thrive with pride in school.

## **How do participants pay for their certificate tuition?**

Participants have found various options for funding tuition for the certificate program. Participants can check with their employer, school district or organization to see if there are professional development funds available to help fund tuition. In addition, grants may be available, especially those offering support for those who work with Native programs. Also, many tribes offer their tribal citizens higher education assistance. An individual can also elect to pay out-of-pocket or use a credit card with award incentives.

## **What are the benefits of earning a Native Education Certificate?**

The certificate program seeks to help create educational experiences where Native American students and people can prosper. The main benefits are developing an understanding of tribal culture and traditions while aligning work and career with Native communities and participants building on wisdom. Additionally, the certificate program offers significant professional development opportunities by offering credit towards continuing education and professional development that can lead to career advancement.

## **How many credits can I earn?**

Completion of the certificate results in 10-graduate level credits earned over the course of two years at 5-credits each.

## **I have plenty of credits; can I earn Clock Hours?**

This program only offers academic credits. For information on applying academic credit towards the maintenance of a Professional Administrator Certificate, visit the OSPI website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/ClockhoursFAQ.aspx>.

## **What is the time commitment?**

Considering many participants work full-time, there will be a graduated emphasis of courses during the program that will create allowances to work at your own pace over an allotted timeframe.

## **Do I need to be on campus? When and where are courses held?**

The three-day Summer Institute is the only time when participants will be on campus. The rest of the time, participants will work online and in smaller cohorts within their context over a 2-year timeframe. Courses are online and can be operated from home or with a cohort group at your place of employment, or anywhere Internet connections are available.

## **What is the tuition rate for the entire course and per credit?**

The 10-credit certificate cost per credit is \$2,500 per year or \$5,000 for completion of certificate in the two years. This amount is much less than typical graduate level credits. Typical student technology and registration fees also apply.

## **Are there other expenses such as books and other materials?**

No, all books and materials are available in the online Canvas courses. Those living outside of the King County area may need to stay overnight during the 3-day Summer Institute held on the UW Seattle campus, thus may incur lodging expenses.

## **I technically am an out-of-state resident; do I need to pay more?**

No, the tuition rate is the same for in-state and out-of-state residences.

## **Where is the Summer Institute and what does it entail?**

The Summer Institute is held at the wə'təb'altx™ – Intellectual House. This interactive experience allows participants to meet other cohort members and become familiar with the components of the online program and obtain student ID's.

## **What is the Experiential Culminating Project?**

The culminating project allows participants to experientially work in collaborative engagement with a project of their choice that incorporates learned content in their profession.