

MISD/USD Partnership for Early Childhood Education (ECE) Units

California requires preschool teachers to have at least 12 Early Childhood Education (ECE) units from a post-secondary institution such as a community college, college, or university. While the MISD AMI diploma has been considered to be in fulfillment of that requirement in the past, California Licensing would not issue an explicit statement that the MISD diploma is equivalent to the required units when a local AMI school was recently questioned for being out of compliance.

As a result, the Montessori Institute of San Diego has partnered with the University of San Diego to provide MISD **Assistants to Infancy (birth-3)** and **Primary (age 3-6)** students the opportunity to earn up to 12 ECE units through USD's School of Professional and Continuing Education for work completed in the AMI training. MISD students are eligible to enroll for these USD courses either while taking the AMI training, *or after completion of the AMI diploma*, at a cost of \$75 per unit, payable to USD. Students receive their transcripts within several weeks of completing the USD classes.

- ➔ **Upcoming Courses** will be offered **January-May, 2019** (Primary academic year students) and **June-August, 2019** (A-I and Primary summer students). See below for more information.

TO REGISTER: Click [here](#) or visit pce.sandiego.edu and search for "Montessori".
You can only register during the designated registration periods below.

USD Courses

Primary

- Summer format*: **Registration 6/1-6/25/19**; Class runs from 6/10/19-8/26/19
- Academic year format: **Registration 12/26/18-1/15/19**; Class runs from 1/4/19-5/18/19

1. MO636 Teaching Strategies and Social Development, 3 units
2. MO626 Practicum Part 1- Observation, 3 units
3. MO630 Human Relations and Self Awareness Among Young Children, 3 units
4. MO634 Foundations of the Montessori Method, 3 units

Total: 12 units

Assistants to Infancy

- Summer format* only: **Registration 6/1/19-6/25/19**; Class runs from 6/10/19-8/26/19

1. AIMO637 Psychology and Philosophy of the Montessori Method, 2 units
2. AIMO638 Child Growth and Development 1, 3 units
3. AIMO640 Creating Healthy, Safe Environments for Infants, 3 units
4. AIMO643 Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Toddlers, 3 units

5. AIMO644 Working with Parents and Families of Young Children, 1 unit

Total: 12 units

***NOTE:** Student currently enrolled in **summer format MISD courses** may enroll in the USD classes in their *final summer*, not before. For example, a student taking the 2015-17 Primary Course may only enroll in the USD classes in the summer of 2017 or later.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Is this a mandatory purchase for MISD students?

A: No. This is an *optional* purchase which students may find useful depending on their unique circumstances. The USD ECE credits are NOT for you if

- You already have 12 ECE units from bachelor's or master's degrees
- You are currently enrolled in the Loyola University M.Ed. program
- You do not plan to work in California**

**If you know what state or country you will be working in, you may wish to investigate if they require ECE units

Q: How popular are these classes?

A: Over the past several years, about 5% of our current students have chosen to register for these classes. We encourage you to think carefully about your personal situation, academic background, and career goals before deciding if and when to make this purchase.

Q: Do you “register” or “apply” for these USD classes?

You register online. Be sure to register for the correct classes associated with either A-I or Primary.

Q: What is the cost?

A: The cost is \$900 for the 12 units (\$75 per unit) payable to the University of San Diego.

Q: Can students who hold an AMI diploma from a training center other than MISD obtain these ECE units?

A: No. These classes were approved for MISD students only; graduates of other Montessori institutions are not eligible to apply.

Q: Is additional work required beyond the normal work of the MISD AMI training?

A: No. These courses are designed to validate work that MISD students already do as part of their regular AMI training. If a currently enrolled student at MISD is concerned about his/her progress in the AMI training course, it is recommended to consult with the Director of Training before registering for the USD courses.

Q: Does this partnership apply to other MISD training programs aside from Assistants to Infancy and Primary?

A: No. It does not, for example, apply to the Elementary Course for ages 6-12.

Q: Hypothetically, could I work in a Montessori school in California with only the MISD AMI diploma and no ECE units from a college?

A: Certainly. Our graduates have done it for years. But, it seems that California has taken a stricter interpretation of the law recently, which is why we are now offering this resource to our students

Q: Can these USD ECE units be counted toward a future degree at another university?

A: Possibly, but this partnership was not designed for that purpose. The USD School of Professional and Continuing Education includes the following statement on all courses: *“USD’s graduate level extension credit is offered in semester units. It is transferrable to a degree program only if approved by the school or college being petitioned.”*

Q: I have taken other college classes on the topic of early childhood education or child development. Can MISD guarantee that those classes will be considered in fulfillment of the California ECE unit requirement?

A: No. If a California Licensing representative visits a school where you are working, they will evaluate your credentials and make a personal determination about whether the classes you have taken will count toward the 12 ECE units. Even the classes through USD, designed with the ECE unit requirement in mind, are not guaranteed to be considered as fulfilling the requirement by any particular Licensing representative. Each representative makes their own decision. That said, we know that the USD ECE unit program has helped several MISD students working in different parts of California in the past few years to fulfill the ECE unit requirement.

Q: Aside from this USD program, are there other ways to obtain ECE units?

A: Many. You can take traditional classes at a junior college or university, or online classes. The advantage of the USD partnership is that it does not require additional work from you beyond the coursework you already complete in the AMI diploma program.

Q: Can MISD alumni obtain the USD ECE units?

A: Yes. The registration process is the same whether you are currently enrolled at MISD or have graduated in the past. We update the registration periods annually and post them on our website [here](#).