

2024 MISD/USD Partnership for Early Childhood Education (ECE) Units

Notice to Alumni

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 questioned for being out of compliance several years ago.

As a result, the Montessori Institute of San Diego partnered with the University of San Diego to provide MISD **Assistants to Infancy (ages 0-3)** and **Primary (ages 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 their final portion of the AMI training, *or after completion of the AMI diploma*, at a cost of \$79 per unit, payable to USD online. Students receive their transcripts 4-6 months after registration.

In 2024, the USD ECE validation policy was updated and as a result, alumni are no longer eligible for the units EXCEPT for this one-time only allowance through December 31, 2024. See below for further details.

- **Registration Period** now until December 31, 2024. Receive transcript February 2025

TO REGISTER: Click [here](#) or copy and paste the url in your internet browser. Note that you will see two options for each course. You **MUST** choose the course option that matches the proper registration end date, December 31, and audience of "MISD Alumni with a finishing date prior to 2024". See the last page for a visual aid.

https://pce.sandiego.edu/courses/?area_of_study=credit-validation-affiliations-pa0006&topic=montessori-institute-of-san-diego-ps0150&is_course_available=1

USD Courses

Primary

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

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

There will not be another chance for retroactive USD credits after 12/31/2024.

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: Each year, about 5% of our current students choose 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: Can MISD alumni obtain the USD ECE units?

A: Not after December 31, 2024.

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

You register online. Be sure to register for the correct classes associated with either Assistants to Infancy (birth-3 years) or Primary (3-6 years).

Q: What is the cost?

A: The cost is \$948 for the 12 units (\$79 per unit) payable online 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 or Inclusive Education, etc.

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. Recent experience has shown that the MACTE certificate could be acceptable in place of the USD ECE units. Contact training@misdami.org for more information.

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

A: Probably not because 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 transferable 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.

VISUAL AID OF REGISTRATION COURSE OPTION

Make sure that as an alumni, you choose the option with the end date in December and Audience of “MISD Alumni with a finishing date prior to 2024” then add to cart.

COURSE	DATE	UNITS	PRICE
EDC-X763J - 012	11 Jan 2024 – 13 May 2024	3	\$237
Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Toddlers (AIMO643)			
Available • Course Format: Credit Validation Type: Online			
Audience: MISD Students			
Refund Policy: All Credit Validation enrollments are refundable, less a \$25 fee, if requested within 30 days of enrollment date. There will be no refunds for Credit Validation courses after the allotted 30 days.			
Enrollment Open Through: May 22nd, 2024 (11:59pm PT)			
ADD TO CART			
EDC-X763J - 013	01 Jan 2024 – 31 Dec 2024	3	\$237
Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Toddlers (AIMO643)			
Available • Course Format: Credit Validation			
Audience: MISD Alumni with a finishing date prior to 2024			
Refund Policy: All Credit Validation enrollments are refundable, less a \$25 fee, if requested within 30 days of enrollment date. There will be no refunds for Credit Validation courses after the allotted 30 days.			
Enrollment Open Through: December 31, 2024 (11:59pm PT)			
ADD TO CART			