

## INDEPENDENT STUDY: SPECIAL TOPIC EXPLORATION

### EARN YOUR GRADUATE-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CREDIT(S) IN 3 SIMPLE STEPS

- Participate in a professional development experience (Complete an online course, read a book, attend a seminar, or watch one of UMass Global's live or recorded webinars for educators.
- Enroll in the "Independent Study" course by registering for the number of credits you would like and pay the registration fees (\$150 per credit).
- Select your project(s) type (create a lesson plan or professional development initiative) and complete coursework.



# Choose **ONE** of the following projects to complete

### OR UNIT PLAN

or

## CREATE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

1 CREDIT 15 HOURS Create 1 lesson or unit plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 1/2 page reflection

Record 15 hours in the time log

Create a 15-20 min training presentation OR 2-3 page strategic plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 1/2 page reflection

Record 15 hours in the time log

2 CREDITS 30 HOURS Create 2 lesson or unit plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 3/4 page reflection

Record 30 hours in the time log

Create a 25-30 min training presentation OR 2-3 page strategic plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 3/4 page reflection

Record 30 hours in the time log

3 CREDITS 45 HOURS Create 3 lesson or unit plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 1 page reflection

Record 45 hours in the time log

Create a 35-40 min training presentation OR 4-5 page strategic plan (include at least one artifact)

Write a 1 page reflection

Record 45 hours in the time log



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#### **LESSON OR UNIT PLAN**

Once you are enrolled in the course, download the lesson or unit plan template. You can use the template to create one or more lessons demonstrating strategies you learned from your professional development experience. You will include at least one artifact (e.g., slide presentation, flyer, infographic, etc.) created by you for the lesson(s).

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Once you are enrolled in the course, download the professional development initiative template. You can use the template to create a training presentation or write up a strategic plan for an initiative. For each option, identify the specific audience and provide at least one artifact (e.g., slide presentation, flyer, infographic, etc.) that would support your presentation or initiative.

#### **REFLECTION**

Answer 1 set of questions below depending on whether or not you are able to implement your project.

If you were able to imple lesson/unit plan or PD i	

How did the implementation go?

What worked well and why?

What can be improved on?

How was this project unique compared to your typical work as an educator?

If you were **NOT** able to implement your lesson/unit plan or PD initiative

What challenges do you think you may encounter?

How will you address the challenges?

Identify resources or processes you will implement to ensure the success of your project.

How will this project be unique compared to your typical work as an educator?

#### **TIME LOG**

The time log should detail the time you spend on your coursework, including your professional development, reading, and your assignments. For each entry, you will include a short reflection of how you spent your time and insights gained. You will also note the date and amount of time spent for each log. A template will be provided for your time log. See sample time log below:

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	REFLECTION
October 21st	1 hour	Attended the "How to Support Struggling Student in Blended and Online Learning" webinar	This webinar was packed with information that I can use immediately to re-engage students who have become disengaged. The speaker also provided a few key resources and strategies that I can use in my lesson plan