

Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University Professional Development Units Explained

The Professional Development Unit offers the provision of training and professional development for PMU Faculty as well as providing a broad range of activities that might suite the needs and interests of the faculty.

Definition:

A **Professional Development Unit** is a measurement used in professional development to award credit for participation in a broad range of activities, including action research, staff development programs, curriculum design, faculty forums, workshops and seminars, etc. PDUs generated by such workshops, seminars and conferences are generally earned at the rate of one for each hour of participation. Such a workshop or seminar must be offered by a **provider previously approved** by the Professional Development Director.

Purpose:

The primary goal of earning Professional Development Units is to help each faculty member grow as an instructor or college professor and, in turn, improve student achievement in the courses taken. As one chooses professional development activities, think about how the professional development experiences can be used to positively affect learning.

PDU activities that are selected must address one of the following purposes:

- to advance your knowledge and skills in your current area(s) of expertise.
- to develop your knowledge and skills in areas determined to be critical for all PMU faculty.
- to expand your knowledge and skills in an additional teaching field or toward the acquisition of a relevant education degree.
- to update and/or reinforce relevant skills
- to explore other areas of interest
- to meet like-minded people to improve the quality and delivery of education
- to gain a greater understanding of the history and culture of KSA and surrounding countries.

How To Earn PDUs.

Professional Development Units may be earned by any of the following activities.

- Attending Forum meetings
- Volunteer service to professional or community organizations
- Participating on collaborative planning and professional improvement teams
- Participating in decision-making teams or relevant committees related to department or content improvement plans
- Mentoring or Peer Coaching as approved by Dean/Dept Chair/Assoc Chair

- Completing graduate or post graduate credit (upon submission of grade report)
- Completing modules from the Alison (or other) online training program. Many new courses are offered, so please check with the LRC director before starting a course so that the amount of credit can be determined.

“Other” Activities:

A faculty member may earn professional development units for activities not specifically mentioned in the PDU description. These “other” activities may be acceptable if the person involved keeps on file written evidence that:

- describes the activity and its purpose, intensity, duration, and outcomes;
- discusses how the activity is related to the improvement of your knowledge and skills;
- identifies which activity mentioned earlier most closely resembles the claimed activity proposes a number of PDUs that is commensurate with the value assigned to the similar activity identified above.

It should be noted that the category “Other” may not be used to claim credit for activities that are only partially completed. PDUs are not earned through attendance at department organized meetings.

Certificates of Completion

PDUs may be earned throughout the academic year. At the end of each academic year, certificates will be awarded to faculty based on the following criteria:

Bronze	30 PDUs
Silver	45 PDUs
Gold	60 PDUs

Reporting PDUs

Faculty will be required to report the number of PDUs earned on the annual self-assessment report that has to be completed and submitted each year. The official number of PDUs on record for each faculty member may be obtained from the office of the Professional Development Director.