



Answers to some Frequently Asked Questions

Please see our [website](#) for more answers to commonly asked questions

Q. What is WIDE World?

A. WIDE World is an online and on-site professional development program based at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. WIDE offers courses in the following areas: math, reading, writing, differentiated instruction, multiple intelligences, integrating technology into the classroom, and instructional strategies. All WIDE courses teach and model effective teaching strategies, and are based on more than 30 years of research at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Q. What is the time commitment that would be expected of me if I enroll in a course?

A. Most WIDE courses take place over 12 weeks and contain six sessions which are 2 weeks in length. During the school year, because teachers are working in the classroom at the same time they're enrolled in the course, each session is two weeks in length, and you can expect to spend approximately 3-4 hours per week completing course work. In the summer, each session of a WIDE course is one week in length, and you can expect to spend approximately 7 hours per week completing course work. (Note that mini courses are two weeks in length, and each session of the mini course is one week long.)

Q. What will happen during each session of the course?

A. During a typical session, you will begin by reading the "welcome note" from your course instructor and any supplementary, assigned readings. The instructor will initiate new and invigorating learning activities and discussions each session, which may include anything from testing out instructional strategies with your students, reflecting on the outcomes, looking at student work, or observing teachers in action through vivid case studies.

Q. My staff and/ or I have never taken an online course before. What can I expect?

A. WIDE World has created an easy-to-use, online course environment where you will engage in learning activities that connect to your professional priorities and help you to build upon the good work you're already doing with your students. At the heart of each course is the online discussion area, where you will participate in lively and stimulating discussions with other teachers, with the ongoing support of WIDE's expert coaches. To ensure the discussions are meaningful and relevant to you, you'll be placed into a small study group with other teachers who share your passions and learning goals, and whose subject and/or grade-level expertise matches your own. An expert coach will guide your study group's discussions, to ensure a constructive and nurturing environment, and provide you with personalized feedback throughout the course.

Q. Do I have to be online at any particular time during the course?

A. No. WIDE courses are designed to be flexible and the schedule will allow you to complete the coursework at times that are convenient for you. During each session, you can log on at any time, day or night, to complete the work for that session. You can log on from school, from home or from anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Q. Do I need to know a lot about technology to participate in an online course?

A. No. WIDE courses were designed with very minimal technology requirements. As long as you know how to turn on your computer and can access the Internet, you'll be able to work online in a WIDE course. WIDE's online course environment is extremely user-friendly, but if you find you need help at any point, WIDE has a supportive and friendly technology team ready to assist you.

Q. I prefer to work with my colleagues as a team. Is this possible online?

A. Absolutely! You can enroll in WIDE's courses in a team of 3-4 people or you can enroll as an individual. If you are working in a team, you will work on course assignments as a team, discuss course readings as a team and post any comments in the discussion area as a team. Typically, team members rotate responsibility for posting comments or documents in the online course environment and work out an arrangement among themselves whereby one team member is responsible for

posting on behalf of the entire team during each session of the course. Team members can meet face-to-face or communicate via email to complete their work.

Q. Will WIDE World offer face-to-face workshops for my school or district so that my colleagues and I can meet to discuss our course work, our progress, and share our successes?

A. Yes, certainly. If your school or district is interested in having WIDE World conduct face-to-face workshops to supplement the work that is being done in the online courses, we would be more than happy to do so. Your school or district administrator will need to contact WIDE World to arrange the face-to-face workshop.

QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE

Q. How many professional development hours will I earn and will I get a certificate from Harvard?

A. When you complete a six-session WIDE course, you will receive a certificate of completion from the Harvard Graduate School of Education that provides you with 35-45 professional development hours. If you enroll in a two-session mini-course, you will receive a certificate of completion from the Harvard Graduate School of Education reflecting 14-15 professional development hours.

We look forward to learning with you!