



# The Power of Difference Certification (PDC):

*A seven-level experiential learning adventure!*

## 7 KEY POINTS FOR ALL BELTS ("LEVELS")

1. The Power of Difference Certification consists of 7 sequential belts (or levels).
2. All learning outcomes/capabilities for a given belt must be demonstrated before progressing to next level by successfully completing a test with a minimum of 90% correct.
3. All webinars are free, from the white to the brown belt, however the test to pass to the next belt is \$87.
4. Meeting dates/times are decided by the participants and their partners.
5. Learning activities occur independently, w/ a partner, & in the whole group sessions.
6. Activities are mostly experiential but also include, articles, videos, book chapters, & reflection prompts.
7. Each belt is designed to be completed in 4 weeks (except the black belt which is personalized/variable).

### Emotional Readiness:

The PDC can:

- Challenge your most basic assumptions.
- Restimulate unresolved historical trauma.
- Reveal “blind spots” and previously unconscious patterns.

We ask that you only pursue the PDC past the White Belt only if you have a high level of self-trust for these kinds of activities and that you have an adequate professional and/or personal support system. While this work can feel and be “therapeutic,” it is not therapy and is not intended to serve in this capacity. *If you have related questions or concerns, please contact our executive director: [jelliottcisneros@thesum.org](mailto:jelliottcisneros@thesum.org).*

### Further Details:

1. The Power of Difference Certification consists of seven belts: white (1), red(2), green(3), blue(4), purple(5), brown(6), and black(7), inspired by many martial arts systems. *Over decades we observed that participants who proceeded in any curriculum without demonstrating acquisition of the earlier, more foundational skills (as in any martial art) the acquisition of the successive skills did not effectively occur.*
2. Each belt consists of between 3 and 5 outcomes/capabilities that must be demonstrated.
3. In order to be certified for a belt and to be eligible for the next belt, a culminating test must be successfully completed (scoring a minimum of 90%). Included in this percentage is the anonymous recommendation of peers which accounts for 10% of a person’s final score.
4. Culminating tests include multiple choice, scenario-based prompts, self-reflections, and peer evaluation, all reviewed by The Sum.
5. If a test is not passed, participants must schedule a consultation/coaching session with The Sum, and follow any recommendations before retesting (any additional tests may be taken at no cost).
6. The above process applies to all levels except the black belt. This final belt represents a “co-created” process between The Sum and the initiate.
7. For payment plans, sliding scale, scholarship or work trade information, email us at [info@thesum.org](mailto:info@thesum.org).

## Certification Benefits

- 10 CEUs per level.
- Graduate credits available after the orange (level 2), green (level 4), and purple (level 6) belts.
- Personalized certification through The Sum.

## Structure:

1. The PDC belts progress in cohorts which include 4-6 participants.
2. New cohorts begin once at least 4 people are registered for that belt/level.
3. Meeting times for small groups and partners will be established by those participants. Each of these gatherings will be 1 hour (2 hours weekly). The large group dates/meetings will be led by The Sum and held on Saturday mornings 10 a.m. to noon, EST.
4. All sessions emphasize high feedback and high accountability.

## Weekly Work:

Weekly time commitment: ~7 hours (~28 hours over 4 weeks)

- Independent work (~3 hours).
- Partner work (1 hour – day/time set by partners).
- Small group meeting (1 hour – day/time set by small group).
- Whole group meeting (2 hours) Saturdays 10 a.m.-12 noon (4x) (cohorts may agree on a different whole group meeting time).