

# Professional Development Units

## Q & A

### What is a PDU?

For purposes of the STSN Professional Development Recognition Program (PDRP), a Professional Development activity is one which is directly related to improving one's skills in providing speech-to-text services. Examples of "directly related" activities for speech-to-text services providers are classes or presentations that teach improved keying techniques, note/transcript editing techniques, work ethics, communication access to PowerPoint presentations, improved chunking and condensing strategies, and dictionary building techniques. Examples of "directly related" activities for administrators and service coordinators would be classes or presentations related to mentoring service providers, developing site policies and handbooks, and matching consumer needs to available services.

General knowledge topics are not automatically eligible for PDUs, but can be submitted for approval with an explanation of how they relate directly to the individual member's current delivery of services. Examples of general knowledge classes/presentations are: a basic computer programming class, a political debate, an art exhibition and talk. While these general knowledge presentations may increase a service providers ability to provide communication access in a class/meeting on the topic studied, professional development activities must be relevant to a current work assignment, or one that will be worked within the next 6 months.

### How is a PDU different from a CEU?

A Professional Development Unit (PDU) is similar to a Continuing Education Unit (CEU) in that both Units represent hours spent in improving one's skills. Whereas it is often mandatory to accumulate CEUs to maintain one's membership in good standing in certain professional organizations (e.g. Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf), it is not mandatory to accumulate PDUs. The STSN PDU Program is a **voluntary program**, aimed at recognizing the achievement of **STSN members** in increasing their skills in the field.

### Why should I accumulate STSN PDUs?

Continuing educations, and striving for increased skills, are hallmarks of every formal profession. As a member of the speech-to-text service community, your attainment of Professional Education Units is a way to demonstrate your commitment to the field, and to your ongoing professional growth. Such commitment and growth are valued by employers and consumers alike. By adding your name to the list of professionals within the speech-to-text community who recognize the need for continuing professional growth, you benefit both yourself and the field of speech-to-text services.

### How many contact hours equal one PDU?

One contact hour = one PDU

### Do I have to be a member of STSN to get credit for PDUs?

Yes, only STSN members are eligible for STSN PDUs. To become a member, go to the [www.stsn.org](http://www.stsn.org) and click on the Membership link. Complete the form and mail it along with your membership dues to the address shown on the form.

### How do I apply for PDU credit?

To apply for STSN PDUs, print out and complete the STSN PDU application form found online at [www.stsn.org](http://www.stsn.org) (see Continuing Education link). Attend a presentation, course or other educational event that meets the guidelines for an STSN PDU activity. Have the course instructor sign the PDU application form. Snail mail the completed form, and all required supporting documentation listed on the form, to the address on the form. The STSN Continuing Education Committee will review your materials for acceptance, and then email you a PDU Certificate. The committee will also keep a record of the PDUs you accumulate. You can request a copy of your transcript by writing to the chair of the STSN Continuing Education committee.

### Is there a charge for PDUs?

There is no cost to apply and record STSN PDUs as long as you are an STSN paid member in good standing.