

# Ways to Earn Your CPDA PDU's

For those of you contemplating earning your CPDA and those already with a CPDA, the prospect of earning Professional Development Units (PDUs) might seem like a daunting task - but it is easier than you think. The Group A (Education) and Group B (Giving back to the Profession) categories offer a variety of ways, including some which you may have not thought of, to earn your PDUs.

*For example, you could:*



## Attend a Conference.

This does not necessarily have to be a PPDM Association conference (although we are always delighted to welcome you to our conferences). Any conference related to petroleum data such as [dama.org](http://dama.org), or [waset.org/data-management-conferences](http://waset.org/data-management-conferences), etc. are eligible. Furthermore, a vendor event that requires registration (e.g., a Schlumberger or Halliburton Online Conference) can count as attending a conference. Just stick to the basic rule that one hour = one PDU, you can claim up to a maximum of five PDUs per day (a maximum 20 PDUs per three-year term).

## Take a Course.

This doesn't have to be a certified college or university course. For example, IPIMS ([ihrdc.com/ipims](http://ihrdc.com/ipims)) offers many online courses in petroleum geology, geophysics, and reservoir engineering. Also, [onlinetutorials.org](http://onlinetutorials.org) offers online courses in the petroleum industry. Your employer may send you to internal company courses or have open access to online course providers. For example, many E&P companies now require employees to take internal courses on how to safeguard company data or how to recognize and handle phishing attempts. These can count as data security courses for part of your self-directed learning PDUs. Classes around coding, machine learning, AI, etc. may also be considered for keeping your skills current with available technology and tools to support you in your role.



The basic rule is one hour = one PDU. There are different maximum PDUs allowable depending on whether the course is registered, in-house, or self-directed.



## Read & Listen

Read a published article - many E&P companies and Associations have a blog or a newsletter where they feature their published articles. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for “oil and gas data” to listen to webinars aimed at developing your various competencies. Find free journals like the PPDM Association’s Foundations online or through your library. Claim up to 20 PDUs in this area under Self-Directed Learning.



## Volunteer



Time spent volunteering for any organization where your activities are petroleum or data industry related can contribute towards PDUs. A good way to do this is to be on a committee or team. For example, a variety of eligible committees can be found on [ppdm.org](https://ppdm.org). Also check out your local DAMA chapter at [dama.org](https://dama.org), and other local organizations.

## Teach

You do not have to be an academic to teach. You could choose to act as a mentor to your colleagues. For it to contribute to PDUs be sure to formalize it with your team lead or HR department, so that you have documented evidence that you did it. This counts as Knowledge Sharing. Another way is teaching a topic as part of a committee activity. Teaching at a conference or event, internal or external are also options. You can claim up to 15 PDUs for teaching/ mentorship under Share Knowledge.



## Give a Presentation



Presentations related to E&P, whether given internally at your place of employment, as part of a volunteer education program, or at a conference count towards PDUs. Both the hours you spent preparing the presentation as well as the time spent giving the presentation count towards your maximum of 15 PDUs per term.





## Create

If you have created, or helped to create any resources for use by the industry, provided you retain details of the materials and the outcomes you can claim up to 15 PDUs per term.

## Work

This option is often overlooked by CPDAs. You can claim up to 15 PDUs for working in your certified role; even if you just worked short-term contracts totaling 15 hours you are able to claim these as PDUs under Work as a Practitioner.



This is a summary of some of the Professional Development requirements taken from the [Credential Maintenance Handbook](#). Please refer to this document for a complete overview of the Credential Maintenance requirements including the competency areas, PDU groups and reporting requirements.

For any additional support or questions that you have, please reach out to the Registrar at [certification@ppdm.org](mailto:certification@ppdm.org).

