

UPCEA PCO Professional Certificate Program

My Experience

Each year I outline development goals for personal growth as well as adding new tools, resources or skills to share with my PCO team. The UPCEA PCO Professional Certificate Program fulfills all of these criteria. The program includes the flexibility to establish your own goals for the class and how deep you want your learning to be.

Key Takeaways

- Networking and key relationships
- PCO units are more alike than not
- The historical and political climate of higher education and PCO units
- How to advocate for my PCO unit within the university
- The importance of research and solving the right problem

I was able to apply all that I learned to help myself, my current positions, and my institution.

It was important to me that the certificate program was online. I am a full-time mother/wife and an employee. The convenience of taking the course online and not traveling became an incentive to complete it. I also appreciated the structure and the autonomy this program provides for people like me to set aside some time and complete the work.



Saira Cooper
Executive Director of Operations
Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, Rice University



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How has this program contributed to your success and that of your college or university?

The program allowed me to do some preliminary research to develop a dissertation topic for my graduate program, create a concise budget model for our services, and helped further my understanding of the PCO enterprise from various perspectives.

It also provided the scope and understanding of planning, executing, partnering, and evaluating new PCO initiatives, as well as understanding marketing strategies for the continuing studies program, helping me manage the marketing team and their work. I was able to apply all that I learned to help myself, my current positions, and my institution.

Who do you believe would benefit from this program?

I think that this program has something to offer everyone, whether new to higher education, online education, PCO units, or those who have worked in higher education and continuing education for some time. This program allows you to learn and understand the landscape and explore practical problems and strategies to solve them.

The networking and close relationships I've been able to establish with both the instructors and with like-minded colleagues across the continent have been most impactful.