

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Orton-Gillingham Approach?

<https://www.ortonacademy.org/resources/what-is-the-orton-gillingham-approach/>

What does Orton-Gillingham training involve?

Orton-Gillingham training includes coursework, readings, practicum, and a portfolio at each level of certification.

What are the different levels of Orton-Gillingham (OG) certification?

1. **Orton-Gillingham Classroom Educator Level, OGCE/OGA**, members are qualified to apply the principles of the OG Approach to provide and adapt literacy instruction for the whole classroom or small groups needing supplemental support. This credential is appropriate for general education classrooms.
2. **Associate Level, A/OGA**, members are qualified to work with struggling readers of all ages, including those with dyslexia, in individual or group settings. Members provide OG intervention at the introductory level under the mentorship of an Academy Fellow. The practicum focuses on 1:1 lessons and may extend to small group instruction. This credential is appropriate for tutors, interventionists, and special educators.
3. **Certified Level, C/OGA**, members are independent practitioners qualified to tutor individuals and teach small groups at the advanced level using the OG Approach. Associate Level training is a prerequisite for this level.
4. **Fellow Level, F/OGA**, members are independent practitioners qualified to train and supervise other professionals in the OG Approach. They are also qualified to tutor individuals and provide literacy instruction for the classroom and small groups. The Certified Level credential is a prerequisite for this level.

Is practicum required?

Practicum is necessary and therefore very strongly encouraged. Much like learning to drive or becoming a doctor, mentorship is vital for developing the knowledge and skill needed to teach successfully. Coursework provides the foundation, and practicum guides the trainee to implement OG principles with a particular student or group. Trainees should consider coursework and practicum as a combination that promotes effective teaching.

Can practicums be completed remotely?

Yes. Recorded, unedited videos may be submitted. Debriefing in-person is encouraged, but arrangements may be made with your practicum supervisor to meet virtually if you live out of town.

Do you offer virtual coursework or online classes?

Not at this time. Our courses are offered on our campus in Greenville, South Carolina. In-person attendance at each class session is required.

How can I afford training?

There are two major ways we often see trainees recoup the cost of their investment in this professional training. Many trainees choose to work with a private student during practicum. As 100 lessons are completed, the trainee has often earned more than the cost of the course and practicum combined. Other trainees who are working within schools may seek to use professional development funds. Check with your principal or head of school to see what funding is available.

To begin my training, which course should I take?

Classroom Educator training is a stand-alone credential that seeks to equip general educators to provide effective Tier 1 instruction. For trainees seeking to provide intervention to struggling readers, Associate training is appropriate. The Associate course is the starting point for all other credentials including Certified and Fellow.