

O-G Training

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Explicit
Systematic
Structured
Research-validated
Literacy instruction



Orton-Gillingham (O-G)
Dyslexia Specialists

funlearning.ca

Making sense of language

416.433.9580

- **FAQ: Who/what is OGA/AOGPE?**

The Orton-Gillingham Academy (OGA), formerly known as The Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE or “The Academy”) has deep roots. It was established by its Founding Fellows, who were either trained directly by Dr. Samuel Orton, Anna Gillingham, Bessie Stillman, June Lyday Orton, Paula Rome or other individuals trained by the previously mentioned individuals. The approach was so named because of the foundational and seminal contributions of Samuel T. Orton and Anna Gillingham. The Academy certifies people to use the Orton-Gillingham Approach with students of any age—pre-k through adult. We do not follow a set scope and sequence. What is important is that the teacher/tutor understand how to use and implement the OG teaching techniques and procedures. It involves how to teach/remediate all areas of literacy, not just reading and spelling and to provide this instruction one-on-one, in a classroom, or with any size group. We provide not only the knowledge-base with our coursework but also the practical experience and support learning how to apply the knowledge-base.

- **FAQ: What is the difference between a program and an approach?**

A program is a plan, schedule or procedure to be followed to a specified end. An OG program follows a set scope and sequence. An approach is the means adapted to tackling an issue. Orton-Gillingham is an instructional approach. It is most properly understood and practiced as an approach, not a method, program, system or technique. In the hands of a well-trained and experienced instructor, it is a powerful tool of exceptional breadth, depth, and flexibility.

- **FAQ: Do I have to be a teacher to take the training?**

No, you do not need to be a teacher to take this training. Many professionals in related fields benefit from this training and use it to enhance their knowledge and practice (e.g., Speech Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Administrators, Tutors)

Parents often take this training to learn how to support their children (whether or not they tutor their own children) and many even go on to work with other students once they see the effectiveness of this approach.

- **FAQ: Is a B.A. required to take the training?**

No, you do not need a B.A. to take the training. However, OGA requires a minimum of a B.A. to apply for certification.

A solid level of proficiency in English is required.

- **FAQ: Since I already have some training/knowledge, can I skip the Fundamentals course?**

Everyone begins with the Fundamentals course (formerly known as Foundations) as it is the foundation of everything that follows. Even if you have prior related training, you may be surprised by what you learn! If you have prior training that is accredited by OGA, please contact Fundamental Learning to discuss.

- **FAQ: What will I receive after completing the training?**

FUNDAMENTAL LEARNING will provide trainees a *Certificate of Completion of Coursework* (at the level completed) after satisfactory completion of coursework, readings, assignments, and tests. This coursework is taught by a Fellow of AOGPE and meets or exceeds the standards set by the Academy (OGA) as well as IDA (International Dyslexia Association).

- **FAQ: Will I be certified after I finish the coursework or are there additional requirements?**

The coursework is just the first step toward certification. In addition, there are required readings and assignments, as well as a supervised practicum for each level of certification. Upon completion of all requirements, trainees are invited to submit their application package to the Academy.

- **FAQ: What is the supervised practicum?**

The practicum is designed to guide and support trainees as they learn to put into practice what they learned in the training courses. Trainees work with (a) student(s) while being mentored by a Fellow. FUNDAMENTAL LEARNING allows for trainees in various situations and locations to be supported in their learning journey by using a combination of in-person visits and video conferencing. There are limited practicum spots for each training session. *Please see following sections for minimum requirements.*

- **FAQ: What is the difference between Classroom Educator and Associate Levels?**

- The **Classroom Educator** is qualified to apply the principles of the Orton-Gillingham Approach to modify and provide literacy instruction for the classroom or small groups (Tier 1 only*).

The Warranty for Classroom Educator states:

"I will not engage in promotional/advertising contexts designating myself as qualified to teach using the Orton-Gillingham Approach outside of my work in a school setting."

COURSEWORK required: (minimum)

- Fundamentals (f.k.a. Foundations),
Classroom Educator

PRACTICUM: 50 hours supervised practicum over 8 consecutive months, minimum, which includes 5 observations of the trainee teaching complete lessons in a group (of at least 2 students) or classroom setting

- **Associate** level practitioners are qualified to provide Tier 1, 2 and 3 instruction.

**A teacher who intends to provide remedial support for a student needs to enroll in the Associate training course.*

- **What is the difference between Associate Option A and Associate Option B?**

- **An Associate A member** is qualified to provide 1:1 Orton-Gillingham instruction under the mentorship of an Academy Fellow.

COURSEWORK required: 60 hours (minimum)

- Fundamentals (Foundations), Associate
PRACTICUM: 100 hours; 10 observations 1:1

- **An Associate B member** is qualified to provide 1:1 and small group instruction under the mentorship of an Academy Fellow

COURSEWORK required: 70 hours

- Fundamentals (f.k.a. Foundations),
Associate, Classroom Educator

PRACTICUM: 50 hours and 5 observations are done 1:1; 50 hours and 5 observations are done teaching in a group (of at least 2 students) or classroom setting

- **What does "Certified Level" mean?**

The Certified member is qualified as an independent practitioner in the Orton-Gillingham Approach (Tier 3).

COURSEWORK: 100 hours minimum (in addition to 60 hours at Associate for a total of 160 hours)

PRACTICUM: 200 hours over 2 academic years, minimum, with 10 entire 40-60 minute lesson observations (in addition to the 100 hours at Associate for a total of 300 hours)

The Certified practicum is with two different students: one at the lower level of language instruction and another at a higher level of language instruction. One of the practicum students need to have a diagnosis of dyslexia (although the term dyslexia may not be used).

More information about the Practicum can be found in Practicum - Frequently Asked Questions.

Please go to funlearning.ca for more information or to register for training.