

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 Orton-Gillingham Academy (OGA)? formerly known as AOGPE**

While no individual or organization “owns” the Orton-Gillingham (OG) Approach or the term “Orton-Gillingham,” and many agencies and organizations offer OG-related training, The Orton-Gillingham Academy (OGA), formerly known as The Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators (AOGPE or “The Academy”), has deep historical roots in the approach.

OGA was established by its Founding Fellows, who were trained either directly by Dr. Samuel T. Orton, Anna Gillingham, Bessie Stillman, June Lyday Orton, Paula Rome, or by individuals who had themselves been trained by these pioneers. As a result, those who complete OGA training can trace their professional lineage through a direct chain of training and mentorship to either Dr. Orton or Anna Gillingham.

The approach was named for Samuel T. Orton and Anna Gillingham in recognition of their foundational and seminal contributions to its development. OGA certifies practitioners to use the Orton-Gillingham Approach with students across the lifespan, from pre-kindergarten through adulthood.

The Orton-Gillingham Approach does not prescribe a single, standardized scope and sequence. Rather, its emphasis is on the teacher’s or tutor’s understanding and effective implementation of its instructional techniques, principles, and procedures. The approach encompasses instruction and remediation across all areas of literacy—not simply reading and spelling—and can be implemented in one-to-one instruction, classrooms, or groups of any size.

OGA training provides more than a theoretical knowledge base. Through coursework, practical experience, and ongoing guidance, OGA trainers support practitioners in developing both an understanding of the approach and the ability to apply its principles and procedures effectively in practice.

All OG training delivered by Fundamental Learning is conducted by Liisa Freure, an Accredited Training Fellow of OGA and OGC Trainer.

- **FAQ: Who/what is OGC/OG Canada?**

Formerly known as the Canadian Academy of Therapeutic Tutors, **OG Canada (OGC)** is the Canadian accrediting body for the Orton-Gillingham Approach. OGC provides certification, professional support, and ongoing professional development for Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Classroom Educators in Canada and elsewhere.

OGC certifies professional interventionists, accredits training programs, and establishes standards and policies that support effective instruction for individuals with dyslexia and other learning differences. Ongoing professional development helps practitioners translate current, evidence-based research into effective intervention strategies and maintain the highest standards of practice.

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

A program is a prescribed plan or sequence designed to achieve a specific outcome. Many programs are based on Orton-Gillingham principles and typically follow a defined scope and sequence, with lessons taught in a specific order.

Orton-Gillingham is an instructional approach—not a program, method, system, or single technique. In the hands of a well-trained and experienced practitioner, it is a flexible and comprehensive approach that can be adapted to the individual needs of the learner.

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

No. You do not need to be a certified teacher to take Orton-Gillingham training.

The training is valuable for professionals in many related fields, including Speech-Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, administrators, and tutors, who wish to deepen their understanding of literacy instruction and strengthen their professional practice.

Parents may also take the training to better support their own children. Some parents go on to work with other students after experiencing the effectiveness of the approach firsthand.

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

No. A B.A. is not required to take the training.

However, OGA requires a minimum of a B.A. to apply for certification. OGC may consider alternative evidence of post-secondary education combined with at least five years of relevant work experience—such as experience as an Educational Assistant—as equivalent to a B.A. on an individual basis.

Please contact the trainer to discuss whether your education and experience meet the requirements.

A solid level of proficiency in English is required.

- **FAQ: What is required for this online training?**

To participate in online training, you will need:

- High-speed internet access
- A computer with a webcam, monitor, speakers, and microphone
- The ability to download and print course materials hosted on the course platform
- The ability to scan and upload documents

Classes are interactive and hosted on Zoom. Before each class, you will access the course platform to download slides and handouts. Many of these will need to be printed.

Between classes, you will complete Independent Learning Modules, which may include readings, pre-recorded videos, assignments, and other learning activities. All required materials are provided through the course platform.

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

At Fundamental Learning, everyone begins with the Fundamentals course because it provides the foundation for all subsequent training.

Fundamentals is not intended to be a stand-alone certification course. Rather, it establishes the essential knowledge and skills needed for both Classroom Educator and Associate-level training. It is therefore a prerequisite for all other OG courses offered by Fundamental Learning.

Even if you have previous related training, you may find that Fundamentals provides new insights, perspectives, and resources.

The Fundamentals course also includes resources and materials that are used in subsequent Classroom Educator and Associate courses and practicums.

If you have completed prior training accredited by OGA, please contact Fundamental Learning to discuss your options.

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

Upon satisfactory completion of the required coursework, readings, assignments, and assessments, Fundamental Learning will provide a Certificate of Completion of Coursework at the level completed.

The coursework is delivered by an OGA Accredited Training Fellow /OGC Trainer and meets or exceeds the standards established by OGA, OGC, and the International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

Please note: A Certificate of Completion of Coursework is not the same as OGA / OGC certification. Certification requires additional requirements, including a supervised practicum and formal application.

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

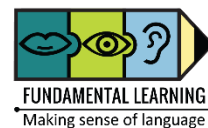
No. Coursework is the first step toward certification.

In addition to completing the required coursework, trainees must complete specified readings, assignments, and a supervised practicum appropriate to their certification level.

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

A supervised practicum provides trainees with the opportunity to apply their training in practice while receiving guidance and mentorship from an OGA Fellow / OGC Trainer.

Trainees work directly with one or more students while developing their instructional skills under supervision. Fundamental Learning supports trainees in a variety of settings and locations through a combination of in-person observations and video conferencing, as appropriate.



The practicum must generally begin within 2–3 months of completing the coursework. If more time has elapsed, a trainee may be required to audit or retake some coursework.

Please see the *Practicum FAQ* for additional information.

- **FAQ: What does it mean to be "certified"?**

Certification involves more than completing coursework. Each level has specific coursework, readings, assignments, assessments, and supervised practicum requirements.

Once all requirements have been successfully completed, the trainee submits a formal application to OGA and/or OGC for review.

OGA Levels of Certification:

- Classroom Educator
- Associate
- Clinical (formerly Certified)
- Fellow

OGC Levels of Accreditation:

- Classroom Educator *
- Practitioner Associate-Interim
- Practitioner Associate
- Supervisor
- Trainer
- Master Trainer

Annual dues and ongoing Professional Development are required for ongoing membership in OGA/OGC.

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

The two levels differ primarily in scope of practice, training requirements, and the populations and settings in which the practitioner may provide instruction.

Classroom Educator

A Classroom Educator is certified by OGA / OGC to provide and adapt Orton-Gillingham-based literacy instruction for whole classes or small groups requiring supplemental reading support, generally within Tiers 1 and 2.

Training requirements:

- Minimum 30 hours of coursework
- Minimum 50 practicum lessons over approximately 8 months
- 5 observations

The Classroom Educator certification includes a commitment not to represent oneself in promotional or advertising contexts as qualified to provide Orton-Gillingham instruction outside of one's work in a school setting.

Associate

An Associate is qualified to provide Orton-Gillingham instruction to struggling readers of all ages, including individuals with dyslexia, in individual or group settings across Tiers 1, 2, & 3.

Training requirements:

- Minimum 70 hours of coursework
- Minimum 100 practicum lessons over approximately 8 months
- 10 observations

- **FAQ: What does 'Clinical' Level" mean?**

The Clinical level, offered by OGA, *formerly known as Certified*, recognizes an independent practitioner who is qualified to provide Orton-Gillingham instruction across Tiers 1, 2, and 3.

Training requirements:

Minimum 100 additional hours of coursework following completion of Associate-level training and practicum

Work with at least two different students

Minimum 200 practicum lessons over approximately 2 years

10 observations

Clinical-level practitioners have completed advanced training and supervised practice that prepares them to work independently with learners requiring individualized Orton-Gillingham instruction.

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

