



**Texas State Florists' Association  
Study Guide**

**For:**

**Part 1 of the Level 1 FLORAL  
CERTIFICATION (details for  
Level 1 certification described  
inside study guide)**

**or**

**Knowledge Based TSFA Floral  
Certification – Exam Only option**  
**(this certification can be applied to cover the exam  
for the Level 1 certification if the student chooses to  
at a later date.)**

**For questions regarding the certification options, please  
contact TSFA at 512.834.0361  
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**The TSFA Education Committee voted to make changes to the certification options for students to allow for more students to attain an industry certification in the area of floral design. After meeting with florists and teachers the committee decided to offer the certification options outlined below.**

**Certification Option #1**

TSFA Level 1 Floral Certification – This industry certification will have 3 components. Component #1-The first component is the knowledge based exam identified below. Component #2-Testers will be asked to complete a nine carnation triangle design using the design guide located on [www.TSFA.org](http://www.TSFA.org). Component #3-Testers will be asked to complete a rose boutonniere using the design guide located on [www.TSFA.org](http://www.TSFA.org). The purpose of the Level 1 certification is to prepare students for entry into the floral industry with both the knowledge and the skill to be a beginning floral designer. Students passing the Level 1 certification will be encouraged to post their resume and portfolio to the TSFA website so that potential industry representatives can view their work for potential employment.

### **Certification Option #2**

TSFA Knowledge Based Certification – This industry certification will test the student’s knowledge of the floral industry, common terms associated with daily floral tasks and identify common tools and plants used in the floral industry. Because the TSFA education committee realizes that there are students who may want to enter the floral industry as a retail specialist, wholesaler or delivery driver this certification was designed to offer an option for those who may not want to be a designer.

The certification exam is a culmination of classroom instruction, hands-on training and a review of this study guide. It is the responsibility of the tester to understand the information in this guide and be able to apply the knowledge learned in scenarios presented in the form of questions on the exam. The exam will consist of 100 True or False, multiple choice, matching and identification questions to be answered by the tester through an online testing location.

High schools – Teachers will need to secure a computer for each tester or find a testing location and will be responsible for monitoring the student(s) during the exam. Each tester will receive a secure log in code and will only be allowed to use that code for one testing session. The test must be completed in one continuous, 60 minute session.

Paper Based exams – In special cases, a paper based exam may be given. Please contact the Level 1 Education Director for this request.

High School Graduates may schedule a testing with the Level 1 director in order to complete the exam.

Testers should make sure that they understand the knowledge in this study guide and should be able to apply that knowledge to different scenarios in the floral industry. If you study the following in detail, you should be able to pass this test! Good Luck.

### **UNDERSTAND THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND HOW THEY RELATE TO THE FLORAL INDUSTRY:**

FILLER: Floral Material that has an “airy” look to create the finishing touch.

DRY PACK: The Storage or shipment of flowers out of water.

PROCESSING: Cutting flowers stems properly and providing proper treatment at any stage of the distribution process.

**MECHANICS:** Supplies, methods and materials that designers use to place and hold flowers and foliage in an arrangement.

**RETAIL FLORIST:** Sells floral goods and services to the consumer.

**VASE LIFE:** The length of useful life of cut floral materials after being received by the customer.

**BUNDLING:** Firmly wrapping or tying similar materials together to form a larger, individual unit.

**PHOTOSYNTHESIS:** The process of converting nutrients, water, carbon, dioxide and sunlight into food for plants.

**LIGHT INTENSITY:** The level of light received on a plant surface.

**FRAMING:** A design technique in which branches of flowers are used around the perimeter of a floral arrangement to direct attention to the materials in the center of the arrangement.

**PILLOWING:** The tight positioning of flower clusters at the base of an arrangement forming rounded hills.

**TERRACING AND LAYERING:** Similar design techniques to place similar materials horizontally on top of each other.

**IKEBANA:** The Japanese style of floral arrangements characterized by their linear forms.

**CORSAGES:** Number 3 ribbon is the appropriate size for a corsage bow. The appropriate gauge of wire for corsages is number 24- 28 depending on the weight of the flower. Construct a corsage so it is as light-weight as possible.

**BENT NECK IN FLOWERS:** Is due to the inability of water to enter the stem.

**PAVE ARRANGEMENTS:** Flower arrangement heights should not vary in pave arrangements. The Pave Design is a technique characterized by parallel or surface contoured insertions that create a uniform area with little or no variation in depth.

**ABSTRACT DESIGNS:** Contain more than one single focal point.

**VEGETATIVE DESIGN:** A feature of this style of design is the seasonal compatibility of the plant materials in the design.

**"STAIR STEP MANNER" DESIGN PLACEMENT:** is the placement of cut material in a parallel design in each group in order to create depth.

**WATERFALL DESIGN:** Shorter stems of mass flowers provide a color & focal point near the rim of the container.

**CUSTOMER EDUCATION:** Florists must educate the customer in order to

help them enjoy their flowers to the fullest extent.

**PROCESSING FLOWERS:** Growers, Wholesalers and Retail Florist must process their flowers.

**FLORAL PRESERVATIVE:** A chemical consisting of a mixture of ingredients that when added to water extends the vase life of cut flowers by lowering the water PH.

**HYDRATING SOLUTION:** A Citric acid solution that causes flowers to take up water rapidly to prevent dehydration after flowers being dry packed.

**RESPIRATION:** Cell process in which stored food reserves are converted into useful energy for the plant.

**TRANSPIRATION:** The process of plants losing water through stomata in their leaves.

**INTERPRETIVE DESIGN:** A combination of both natural and man made materials in an unnatural manner to create new images.

**FORMAL-LINEAR DESIGN:** An asymmetrically balanced design of few materials usually placed in groups that emphasize forms and lines.

**PARALLEL DESIGN:** Design that consists of clusters or groups of flowers & foliage that strengthens the element of line which moves the eye through the arrangement.

**LINE FLOWERS:** used as primary flowers to establish the skeleton outline height or width of an arrangement.

**FORM FLOWERS:** Used to create focal point with unusual and distinctive shapes.

**MASS FLOWERS:** Are usually single stem with large rounded heads used inside or along the arrangement to fill in.

**CASCADE DESIGN:** The design consists of several layers of materials, varying in size and texture to create a flowering effect.

**FOCAL POINT:** The location within a design that attracts the most attention; the center of interest. In a corsage, the focal point is where the largest flower is placed.

**PRIMARY COLORS:** Red, yellow and blue are primary colors.

**SCALE:** The relationship between the completed arrangement and its location.

**SECONDARY COLORS:** Two primary colors combined in equal amounts.

**PROPORTION:** The relationship between the flowers, foliage and container.

**SKELETON FLOWERS:** Primary or line flowers used in a design to establish the outline of the arrangement.

**BALANCE:** The impression of the design being stable and self-supported.

**CONDITIONING:** The process in which cut flowers & foliages have been treated to extend their freshness.

**PIERCING METHOD:** Corsage wiring technique in which a wire is inserted through the calyx and bent downward along the stem.

**ASYMMETRICAL DESIGN:** A triangular pattern with a strong "L-Line".

**SYMMETRICAL DESIGN:** A formal, equilateral triangular design.

**ROUND DESIGNS:** Do not require a focal point.

**HOOK METHOD:** Wiring technique in which the wire is inserted through the flower and a small hook is formed in the wire before it is pulled back into the flower.

**HAIRPIN METHOD:** Corsage wiring technique in which the wire is shaped into a hairpin.

**INTERMEDIATE COLORS:** Combination of equal amounts of primary color and adjacent secondary color.

**FILLER FLOWER:** A type of flower used to complete a design.

**WEDDING FLOWERS:** Bride's bouquet, Bridesmaid's bouquet, Corsages, Boutonnieres, Alter flowers, Pew Flowers, on the candelabra, Bride's Throw bouquet, table decorations and on the wedding cake.

**FOLIAGES:** A purpose of foliage is to hide the mechanics in a flower arrangement.

**LINE ELEMENT:** The element of the line in a floral arrangement is the visual path the eye follows as it proceeds through the arrangement.

**FORM:** Form is the geometric shape or line design that forms the outline of the flower arrangement.

**COLOR:** The Color Spectrum is made up of twelve major colors. Using color properly is just one important design element essential in creating a well-designed floral arrangement.

**BACTERIAL GROWTH:** Removing all foliage from the stem that is below the water level in an arrangement helps prevent bacterial growth.

**WIRE:** #28 wire is a finer wire than #16 gauge wire. #20 and #22 gauge wire is best suited to support roses, carnations and chrysanthemums.

**INTENSITY:** The brightness or darkness of a hue.

**TONE:** The measure of color intensity when gray is added to a hue.

**SHADE:** A hue darkened by the addition of black forms a shade of the hue.

VALUE: Describes the lightness or darkness of a hue.

TINT: Adding white to a color lightens its tint.

RE-CUTTING STEMS: Re-cutting stems of fresh product helps prevent stem blockage, increase water uptake, maximize the freshness of the product and keeps the stem from sealing to the bottom of the container, if the cut is slanted.

REFRIGERATION OF FRESH PRODUCT: Refrigeration of fresh product with a combination of low temperature and high humidity helps slow down respiration, reduce water lost by transpiration, slows down maturity and reduces microbial growth and development. An ideal temperature range to keep your refrigerator is at 38-40 degrees F.

#### IDENTIFICATION:

Ficus Benjamina=Weeping fig

Aglaonema=Chinese Evergreen

Spathiphyllum=Peace Lily

Aspidistra Elatior=Cast Iron Plant

Dracaena Fragans=Corn Plant

Ficus Elastica=Rubber Plant

Dieffenbachia=Dumb Cane

#### BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY SKETCHES OF THE FOLLOWING:

Plumosa

Baby's Breath

Huckleberry

Bird-of-paradise

Leather Leaf Fern

Cattleya orchid

Flat Fern

Rose

Carnation

Gladiolas