



Study outline for CCF Applicants

The California Certified Florist exam is a self taught program that is based on a selection of study materials and is supported by selected California Educational Programs and Colleges. Information regarding these schools can be found online. Prep classes are often available annually through the California State Floral Association

Written Exam

The written Exam is made up of two components. One portion of the exam is a written test containing true/false questions, short answer questions, and multiple-choice questions. The other component of the written exam is the ID portion.

This study outline is based on the suggested study materials as listed on <http://calstatefloral.com/exam/>

Applicants must be able to identify and apply the knowledge of the topics listed below.

Care and Handling of Cut Flowers

Recognize and understand the purpose and benefits of the following basic treatment procedures for cut flower materials.

- water quality
- proper stem treatment
- storage procedures
- flower conditioning
- special care for tropical flowers and woody stems
- commonly used chemicals and their applications

History of Floral Design

Understand and recall all major historical periods in Floral Design as well as contemporary design styles and trends; recognize their distinguished design qualities and characteristics.

Principles and Elements of Design

Recognize and define the basic principles and elements of design and understand how they are used in commercial floristry.

Explain and understand the application and use of color and color theory.



Principles of Design:

- Composition
- Balance
- Proportion
- Scale
- Dominance (Composition, Emphasis, Focal Area, Accent)
- Contrast (Opposition, Tension, Variation)
- Harmony
- Unity
- Rhythm (Depth, Repetition, Transition)

Elements of Design:

- Line
- Form
- Space
- Texture
- Pattern
- Fragrance
- Size
- Color

Mechanics

Identify the following mechanics and be able to demonstrate how they may be used in floral design:

- tapes: corsage tape, bowl or anchor tape
- foams: wet and dry floral foam, Styrofoam, floral clay
- wires: bind wire, paddle wire, decorative wire, indentify floral wire gauges
- pins: corsage pins, anchor pins, steel pins
- picks: wired wood pick, hyacinth pick, skewer , candle pick, water pick
- adhesives: hot glue, cold glue, floral adhesive, Uglu
- cable ties, pipe cleaners, water tubes, pew clips, casket saddle, iglu, easel, polyfoil, bouquet holder, waxed string
- ribbon, strings, fiber



Techniques

Recognize and define or describe the following design techniques listed below:

Airtaping	Framing	Shadowing
Armature use	Grouping	Sheltering
Baling	Hand-tying	Spiraling
Banding	Kubari	Spray gluing
Basing	Layering	Stacking
Binding	Pave	Terracing
Clustering	Picking	Weaving
Collaring	Pillowing	Zoning
Facing	Reflexing	

Flower ID Exam

Applicants will be asked to identify 25 flowers, foliage and plants randomly selected from a subset of the master list on the website <http://calstatefloral.com/exam/>. There is a link to the master list and the subset list of 100 ID items for your exam year. This subset list is generally published in late June. Applicants must be able to write the common name and identify the botanical name and match it to the photo provided.

Hands on exam

The Hands On Exam is a timed test. Applicants must demonstrate:

- Good organizational skills
- Good time management skills. Applicants must finish all five designs within the time allotted.
- Appropriate use of the materials that are provided.
- Interpretation of the design scenarios when provided

The following categories of designs are included:

Corsage

Applicants must demonstrate a proficiency in:

- Appropriate selection of materials.
- Wiring and taping flowers and greens.
- Glue techniques.



- Bow making and appropriate use of ribbon
- Clean, solid and secure construction techniques.
- Artistic/saleable design
- Demonstration of appropriate design principals and elements.

Hand Tied Wedding Bouquet

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Appropriate selection of materials.
- Clean, solid and secure construction techniques.
- Well defined and secure binding point.
- Clean stems below the binding point.
- Professional finishing techniques.
- Demonstration of appropriate design principals and elements.

Duplication Design

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Ability to duplicate a sample design- mechanics and design.
- Clean, solid and secure mechanics.
- Demonstration of appropriate design principals and elements.

Sympathy Spray

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Appropriate choice of materials.
- Pleasing, professional design.
- Clean, solid and secure mechanics.
- A well finished design on all sides.
- Design must be properly secured to the easel.
- Demonstration of appropriate design principals and elements.

Designers Choice

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Creativity.
- Appropriate choice of materials.
- Clean, solid and secure mechanics.
- Demonstration of appropriate design principals and elements.