



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 State Colleges. Information regarding these schools can be found online. Hands on components are described below, after the ID list.

Written Exam Components

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 below.

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 and 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

This study outline is based on the following suggested study materials and the Flower and Plant ID list below:

The AIFD Guide to Floral Design

Published by The American Institute of Floral Designers

The Art of Floral Design

By Norah T. Hunter

Principles of Floral Design

By Pat Diehl Scace and James DelPrince

Farm and Flower Guide

Produced by The California Cut Flower Commission



Techniques

Recognize and describe the following design techniques as listed below:

Air taping	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 and Plant Identification Test

Below you will find the **ID Master List**, a list of 100 flower and plant materials will be selected each year for more focused study for that year's exam.

The selection from this listing of flowers and foliage must be identified and labeled with both, common names and matched with their botanical names. The common name will be written and the botanical name selected from a list that will be provided.

Each year in July the subset of this list will be published for your study. The exam will contain 50 flowers and plants to identify. [See the website for a link to the 100 list for this year.](#)

ID Master List

Botanical (Genus) Name	Common Name
Achillea	Yarrow, Cottage Yarrow
Aconitum	Monkshood, Aconite
Aechmea	Bromeliads, Aechmea, Guzmania, Urn Plant
Agapanthus	Agapanthus, Lily-of-the-Nile, African lily
Ageratum Sp.	Ageratum, Blue Floss flower
Alchemilla	Lady's Mantle
Allium	Allium, Onion Flower, Flowering Onion, Giant Onion
Alpinia	Ginger, Shell Ginger
Alstroemeria	Alstroemeria, Alstro, Peruvian Lily
Amaranthus	Amaranthus, Amaranth, Love-lies-bleeding



Amaryllis	Belladonna Lily, Naked Lady, Amaryllis
Ammi	Queen Anne's lace, Bishop's Weed
Ananas	Ornamental Pineapple, Dwarf Pineapple
Anemone	Anemone, Windflower
Anigozanthos	Kangaroo paw
Anthurium	Anthurium, Flamingo flower
Antirrhinum	Snapdragon
Aquilegia	Columbine
Asclepias	Milkweed, Butterfly Weed
Aster ericoides	Monte Casino, Heath Aster, Spray Aster
Aster Novi Belgi	Novi-Belgi Aster
Astilbe	Astilbe, False spirea, Meadowsweet
Astrantia major	Astrantia, Masterwort, Hattie's Pincushion
Atriplex lumex	Dock, Lumex
Banksia	Banksia, Protea, Bird's Nest
Boronia	Boronia
Boronia	Heather Baronia, Baronia
Bouvardia	Bouvardia
Brassica	Kale, Flowering Kale, Ornamental Kale
Brunia	Brunia
Buddleja	Butterfly Bush
Bupleurum	Bupleurum
Calathea lancifolia	Rattlesnake Plant, Calathea
Calendula	Pot Marigold
Callicarpa	Beauty Berry
Callistephus	China Aster, Aster, Matsumoto Aster
Camellia	Chinese Rose, Camelia
Campanula	Bell Flower, Chimney Bells
Capsicum annum	Ornamental Pepper
Carthamus	Safflower, False Saffron
Cattleya	Cattleya Orchid



Celastrus	Bittersweet
Celosia (cristata)	Cockscomb
Celosia (plumosa)	Celosia, Chinese Wool Flower
Centaurea (cyanus)	Cornflower, Bachelor's Button
Centaurea (macrocephala)	Globe cornflower
Centranthus ruber	Valerian
Chaenomeles	Flowering Quince
Chamelaucium	Waxflower
Chelone	Turtlehead
Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema)	Daisy Spray Chrysanthemum, Daisy Mum
Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema)	Button Pompon Chrysanthemum, Button Mum
Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema)	Spider Pompon
Chrysanthemum (Dendranthema)	Disbud Chrysanthemum, Football Mum, China Mum, Spider Mum
Clarkia	Godetia, Farewell-to-spring
Clematis	Clematis, Old Man's Beard, Traveler's Joy, Virgin's Bower
Clivia miniata	Clivia, Kaffir Lily
Coleonema	Diosma, Breath of Heaven
Consolida	Larkspur, Annual Delphinium
Convallaria	Lily of the Valley
Coreopsis	Coreopsis, Tickseed
Cosmos	Cosmos
Craspedia	Billy buttons, Craspedia
Crocsmia	Crocsmia, Montbretia
Cymbidium	Cymbidium Orchid
Cynara	Globe Artichoke
Cytisus	Genista, Broom, Sweet Broom
Cytisus x praecox Albus	Genestra, White Genista
Dahlia	Dahlia



Daucus	Chocolate Lace, Black Lace
Delphinium	Delphinium
Dendrobium	Dendrobium, Dendro, Singapore Orchid
Dianthus	Carnation, Standard Carnation
Dianthus	Mini Carnation, Carnation Spray
Dianthus barbatus	Sweet William
Didicus coeruleus	Blue Lace Flower
Digitalis	Foxglove
Echinacea	Echinacea, Purple Coneflower
Echinops	Globe Thistle
Eremurus	Eremurus, Foxtail Lily, Desert Candle, King's Spear
Erica	Heather, Heath
Eryngium	Eryngium, Sea Holly
Euphorbia	Euphorbia
Eustoma	Lisianthus, Prairie Gentian, Texas Bluebell
Forsythia	Forsythia, Golden Bells
Freesia	Freesia
Fritillaria	Checkered Lily, Guinea Flowr, Fritillaria
Fuchsia	Fuchsia
Gaillardia	Gaillardia, Blanket Flower
Galanthus	Snow Drop
Gardenia	Gardenia, Cape Jasmine
Gentiana	Gentian
Gerbera	Gerbera, Transvaal Daisy
Gilia capitata	Blue Thimble Flower
Gladiolus	Gladiola, Gladiolus
Gloriosa	Gloriosa Lily, Glory Lily, Climbing Lily
Gomphocarpus brasiliensis	Milkweed, Balloon Plant
Gomphrena	Globe Amaranth
Gypsophila	Baby's Breath, Gypsophila
Helianthus	Sunflower



Heliconia	Heliconia
Helleborus	Lenten Rose, Hellebore, Christmas Rose
Hippeastrum	Amaryllis, Barbados lily
Hyacinthus	Hyacinth, Dutch Hyacinth
Hydrangea	Hydrangea, Hortensia
Hypericum	Hypericum, St. John's Wort, Coffee Bean
Iberis	Candytuft
Iris (Dutch)	Iris, Dutch iris
Ixia	Ixia, Corn Lily, African Corn Lily
Kniphofia	Torch Lily, Red Hot Poker
Lathyrus	Sweet pea
Lavandula	Lavender
Leptospermum	Leptospermum, Tea Tree, New Zealand Tea Tree
Leucadendron	Leucadendron, Silver tree, Flame tip
Leucanthemum	Shasta Daisy
Leucospermum	Leucospermum, Pincushion Protea
Liatris	Liatris, Gay feather, Blazing star
Lillum	Asiatic lily
Lillum	Oriental lily, Stargazer lily
Limonium	Caspia, Misty, Statice
Lupinus	Lupine
Lysimachia	False Dragonhead, Gooseneck Flower, Lysmachia
Magnolia	Magnolia (Star magnolia)
Matthiola Incana	Stock, Gillyflower
Moluccella	Bells-of-Ireland, Shellflower
Muscari	Grape Hyacinth
Myosotis sylvatica	Forget Me Not
Narcissus	Narcissus, Daffodil
Narcissus	Paper Whites, Paper White Narcissus
Nerine	Nerine, Guernsey Lily
Nigella	Nigella, Love-in-a-Mist



Nymphaea	Waterlily
Oncidium	Oncidium, Dancing Lady Orchid
Ornithogalum	Chincherinchee, Star of Bethlehem
Oxypetalum caeruleum	Tweedia
Ozothamnus	Rice Flower
Paeonia	Peony
Papaver	Poppy, Iceland Poppy
Paphiopedilum	Lady's Slipper Orchid
Parthenium sp./ Tanacetum	Feverfew
Penstemon	Beardtongue, Penstemon
Phalaenopsis	Phalaenopsis, Moth Orchid
Phlox	Phlox
Physalis	Chinese Lantern
Platycodon grandiflorus	Balloon Flower
Polianthes tuberosa	Tuberose
Protea	Protea
Ranunculus	Ranunculus, Persian Buttercup
Rosa	Standard Rose, Rose, Tea Rose
Rosa	Spray Rose
Rudbeckia	Cone Flower, Black-eyed Susan, Gloriosa Daisy
Saintpaulia	African Violet
Salvia splendens	Sage, Salvia
Sandersonia	Sandrsonia
Saponaria	Saponaria, Annual Gyp.
Sarracenia	Pitcher Plant, Sarracenia, Swamp Lily, Cobra Lily
Scabiosa	Scabiosa, Pincushion Flower
Sedum	Sedum, Stonecrop
Serruria	Serruria, Blushing Bride
Solidago	Solidago, Goldenrod
Solidaster	Solidaster, Yellow Aster
Spirea	Spirea, Bridal Wreath



Stephanotis floribunda	Stephanotis, Madagascar Jasmine
Strelitzia	Bird-of-paradise
Symphoricarpos	Snowberry
Syringa	Lilac
Tagetes	Marigold, French Marigold
Thunbergia	Black-eyed-Susan Vine, Clock Vine
Trachelium	Throatwort, Blue Throatwort, Trachelium
Trachymene	Didiscus, Blue Laceflower, Laceflower
Tricyrtis	Toad Lily
Triticum	Wheat
Tulipa	Tulip
Veronica	Veronica, Speedwell
Vibernum 'Roseum'	Viburnum, Snowball
Viola	Pansy
Xeranthemum	Strawflower
Zantedeschia	Calla, Calla lily, Arum lily,
Zinnia	Zinnia, Youth-and-old-age
Botanical Name (Genus)	Common Name
Foliage and Botanical	
Abies	Noble Fir
Acacia	Acacia, Knifeblade Acacia
Acacia	Silver wattle, Mimosa
Actinidia	Kiwi Fruit Vine, Kiwi Vine
Acuba japonica	Acuba
Adiantum	Maidenhair Fern
Alocasia	Alocasia, African Mask
Antherium	Antherium
Arctostaphylos	Manzanita
Artemisia	Sagebush, Artemisia
Asparagus (asparagoides)	Smilax



Asparagus (plumosus)	Plumosa Fern, Lace Fern
Asparagus (pyramidalis)	Tree Fern
Asparagus meyeri	Foxtail Fern, Meyeri
Asparagus retrofractus	Ming Fern
Aspidistra	Aspidistra, Cast-iron Plant
Asplenium nidus	Bird's Nest Fern
Atriplex hortensis	Saltbush
Bruxus	Boxwood, Box, Oregonia
Caladium	Angel's Wings, Elephant's Ear
Calathea species	Zebra Plant, Peacock Leaf
Caleocedrus decurrens	California Incense Cedar. Incense Cedar
Callistemon	Bottle-Brush Plant
Camellia	Camellia
Centaurea ragusina	Dusty Miller
Chaenomeles	Flowering Quince
Chamaedorea	Commadore, Parlour Palm
Codiaeum	Croton
Cordyline	Ti, Ti Leaf
Cotinus	Smoke Tree, Smoke Bush
Cryptanthus	Cryptanthus
Cycas revoluta	Cycad, Sago Palm
Cyperus	Papyrus
Cytisus	Scotch Broom, Broom
Dicranopteris linearis	Fern Fiddleheads
Diffenbachia	Diffenbachia, Dumb cane
Dracaena	Dracaena
Dracaena sanderiana	Dracaena, Lucky Bamboo
Echeveria	Echeveria, Hens and Chicks
Equisetum	Equisetum, Horse Tail, Snake Grass, Scouring Rush
Eucalyptus pressiana	Flowering Eucalyptus, Mount Wellington peppermint, Tasmanian snow gum



Eucalyptus sp.	Spiral Eucalyptus, Baby Blue Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus sp.	Seeded Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus sp.	Silver Dollar Eucalyptus
Eucalyptus sp.	Willow Eucalyptus- Agonis
Euonymus	Euonymus
Euphorbia marginata	Euphorbia, Snow on the Mountain
Fatsia	Japanese Aralia, Fatsia
Galax	Galax
Gaultheria	Salal, Lemonleaf
Hedera	Ivy
Heuchera	Coral Bells
Hosta	Hosta
Hoya	Hoya
Ilex	Holly, American Holly
Juniperus	Juniper
Laurus nobilis	Laurel
Liriope	Lily grass
Lycopodium	Lycopodium, Club moss, Ground pine
Magnolia	Magnolia
Mahonia	Mahonia, Oregon Grape
Malus	Crabapple
Maranta	Prayer plant
Mentha	Mint
Monstera	Monstera, Swiss Cheese Plant, Cutleaf Philodendron
Myrtus	Myrtle, Greek Myrtle
Nandina	Nandina, Heavenly bamboo
Nephrolepis (cordifolia)	Sword Fern, Oregon Fern?
Pandanus	Hala, Screw Pine
Peperomia obtusifolia variegata	Variegated Peperomia
Philodendron Xanadu	Philodendron Xanadu



Phormium	Flax, New Zealand Flax
Pinus strobus	White Pine
Pittosporum	Pittosporum, Pitt, Australian laurel, Mock orange, Japanese mock orange
Platycerium bifurcatum	Staghorn Fern
Podocarpus	Podocarpus, Tropical Yew, Buddhist Pine
Polystichum	Sword Fern, Shield Fern
Prunus	Flowering Plum, Flowering Almond, Flowering Peach, Flowering Cherry
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas Fir
Pteris Cretica	Brake Fern
Rhamnus	Rhamnus, Buckthorn, Italian Buckthorn
Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
Rumohra	Leather Fern, Leatherleaf, Baker Fern
Ruscus sp.	Israeli Ruscus
Ruscus sp.	Ruscus, Italian Ruscus
Sabal	Palmeto palm
Salix	Curly willow, Fasciated Willow, Dragon-claw Willow, Corkscrew Willow
Salix	Pussy Willow
Sanseveria	Mother in Law Tongue
Schinus molle	California Pepper Berry
Senecio cineraria 'Diamond'	Dusty Miller Diamond Frost
Senecio rowleyanus	String-of-pearls, String-of-beads
Setaria italica	Foxtail Millet
Sorghum	Broom Corn
Stachys	Lamb's Ear
Syngonium podophyllum	Arrowhead plant
Tillandsia	Tillandsia, Air plant
Typha	Cattails
Vaccinium	Huckleberry
Viburnum	Viburnum Berries



Xerophyllum	Bear Grass
Zamia pumila	Cycad, Coontie Fern

Hands on Exam

Applicants must demonstrate:

Good organizational skills

Good time management skills.

Applicants must finish all five designs within the time allotted.

Good use of the materials that are provided.

Corsage

Applicants must demonstrate a proficiency in:

Selection of appropriate materials.

Wiring and taping flowers and greens.

Gluing techniques.

Bow making.

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.

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.

Appropriate selection of materials.