



Texas State Florists' ASSOCIATION

LEVEL 2 FLORAL DESIGN CERTIFICATION TESTING GUIDE



Level 2 Floral Certification

By earning the Texas State Florists' Association (TSFA) Level 2 Floral Certification, you will demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skills and experience needed to advance your career in the floral industry. As part of this process, you will develop a comprehensive portfolio, create multiple floral arrangements and gain the confidence and competence needed to strengthen your success as a floral designer. This certification is ideal for experienced florists, designers and event specialists. Successful completion demonstrates that an individual has the requisite skills for successful entry into the floral industry workforce.

Requirements for Level 2 Floral Certification

- Successful completion of the TSFA Level 1 Floral Certification.
- Submission of a Level 2 Portfolio during the registration process. The TSFA Education Committee reviews each portfolio. Approval is required for certification and will be communicated via email before the test. The Level 2 Portfolio requirements can be found at: tsfa.org/portfolio-requirements.
 - The portfolio must include:
 - A letter of recommendation. [View Sample letter](#).
 - Photos, materials list, and design pricing of the following designs: asymmetrical arrangement, dozen-stem vase arrangement, plant dressed with a bow, wired and taped corsage.
 - Four additional designs were completed by the student. These designs must include: identifying the design style, identifying the basing techniques used, identifying the focal-emphasis techniques used, and a self-evaluation of the design.
 - Documentation of two instances of volunteering and sharing of floral skills.
 - The portfolio must be submitted in PDF format with the slides ordered as follows:
 - Slide one — Applicant name, floral teacher's name or flower shop name, city and state.
 - Slide two — Letter of recommendation.
 - Slide three — Photo of an asymmetrical arrangement with materials list and pricing of the design.
 - Slide four — Photo of the dozen-stem vase arrangement with materials list and pricing of the design.
 - Slide five — Photos of the wired and taped corsage with materials list and pricing of the design.
 - Slide six — Photo of a plant or arrangement with a bow created by the student, with a materials list and pricing of the design.
 - Slides seven to 10 — Photos of four additional designs created by the student. Each of these designs must have the design style identified, the basing and focal-emphasis techniques identified, as well as a self-evaluation of each design.
 - Slide 11 — Photos and description of at least two examples of volunteering and sharing floral skills.
 - The portfolio can be submitted [via TSFA's Jotform](#).
 - [View an example portfolio](#).
- Volunteering and sharing of floral skills. Two of the following examples must be included in the portfolio.
 - Volunteer at a Level 1 Test site.
 - Volunteer at a community event sharing flowers.
 - Volunteer at a regional design show approved by TSFA.
 - Attend a hands-on floral workshop.
 - Attend additional events, as approved by TSFA.
 - Work full-time in the floral industry for 12 consecutive months or more.
- Level 2 hands-on test. Instructional slides and videos are available at: tsfa.org/educational-resources.
 - Dozen rose bouquet.
 - Completed arrangement should be 22"-26" tall x 16"-18" wide.
- Asymmetrical triangle floral design.
 - Completed arrangement should be 16"-18" tall x 8"-10" wide.
- Wired and taped corsage.

Dozen Rose Vase
Arrangement



Asymmetrical Triangle
Arrangement



Wired and Taped
Corsage



Provided Flowers and Materials.

Asymmetrical Arrangement

- 1 — 4" cube or similar.
- ⅓ brick wet foam.
- 2 stems of liatris.
- 3 stems of Orange Crush roses.
- 6 stems of green Carnations.
- 2 stems lavender Cremons.
- 4 stems of Lilygrass.
- 1 multi-branched pittosporum stem.
- 17" Aspidistra leaf ribbon.

Dozen-stem Vase Arrangement

- An 8 ¾ classic urn vase (SS 4036-12-09) with water.
- 12 stems of long-stem carnations or roses (60cm).
- 14 stems of Leather leaf fern.
- ⅓-½ bunch Misty Blue Limonium, wax flower or heather.

Wired and Taped Corsage

- 4 miniature carnations.
 - 1 bud with petals showing.
 - 1 slightly bud open.
 - 2 fully open blossoms.
- 5-6 Pittosporum leaves.
- Floral tape.
- 6 floral stem wires, #26g.
- 24in #3 sheer ribbon.

*There will be no extra product provided.

Please provide your own tools.

- Wire cutters.
- Bunch cutters, clippers or shears.
- Knife.
- Adhesive bandage — (There will be a first aid kit on site, but you/your applicant may want an adhesive bandage just in case.)

*No other tools will be allowed during the testing.

Level 2 Testing Information

- Select the most convenient industry-focused testing date and location from the TSFA Event Calendar and register to attend.
- Bring your floral knife, stem cutter or shears, and wire cutters. There will be no tools provided.
- The design portion of the certification process will be timed at 90 minutes total for the three designs.
- You must pass the judging criteria for the asymmetrical design, corsage, and vase design to be awarded Level 2 Certification.

Pricing Information

- **Industry and Teachers** — TSFA members save \$25 off Level 2 hands-on training. You can register for a certification testing site here: members.tsfa.org/event-list.
 - Level 2 Hands-on — Includes in-person training and hands-on certification test — \$350. Must have previously completed knowledge-based and Level 1 certification. Portfolio approval is required prior to application.
 - The design portion of the certification process will be timed at 90 minutes total for the three designs.
 - Applicants must pass the judging criteria for the asymmetrical design, corsage and vase design to be awarded Level 2 certification.
 - Retest for Level 2 Hands-on — \$150. To request retesting, email tsfaadmin@tsfa.org.
 - Retesting is available for those who do not pass one or more items in the design portion. The retesting fee is \$150.
 - You will have 30 minutes per design during retesting, and you will only test for the design that you did not initially pass.
 - Retesting may be done by appointment at the Leander headquarters or at an industry-focused TSFA event.
- **High School Students** — High School students must be registered by the stated deadline for specific testing locations. Please check the test dates below and on the registration form.
 - A \$135 testing fee applies.
 - The design portion of the certification process will be timed at 90 minutes total for the three designs.
 - Students must pass the judging criteria for the asymmetrical design, corsage and vase design to be awarded Level 2 certification.
 - Retest for Level 2 Hands-on — \$150. To request retesting, email tsfaadmin@tsfa.org.
 - Retesting is available for those who do not pass one or more items in the design portion. The retesting fee is \$150.
 - You will have 30 minutes per design during retesting, and you will only test for the design that you did not initially pass.
 - Retesting may be done by appointment at another high school test site or at an industry-focused TSFA event.

Educational resources, including how-to videos and instructional slides, are available at: tsfa.org/educational-resources.

Testing Policies

TSFA offers Level 1 and Level 2 Floral Design Certification testing. To effectively measure the students' knowledge, these exams must be securely administered. Therefore, those who assign and schedule tests and the proctors who administer them must acknowledge and comply with all program procedures.

- **Testing Dates and Times** — TSFA Level 1 and Level 2 certification tests may be administered any time during the current academic year (July 1 through the following June 30) when a proctor and an appropriate testing facility are available, excluding blackout dates that are listed on tsfa.org.
- **Testing Environment** — The TSFA Knowledge-based certification test and online version of the hands-on Level 1 certification test may be administered on any computer that meets the minimum technical and security requirements. The computer delivering the TSFA certification tests must be located in a computer lab, test center or other appropriate testing location that provides for monitoring by the proctor, reasonable shielding from others, freedom from distractions and comfort for the tester.
- **Proctors** — The proctor may be a school or site administrative staff member, a current or retired faculty member or any other individual deemed qualified by TSFA.
- **Proctor's Responsibility** — The proctor is responsible for verifying the test candidate's identity, enabling the test for the candidate and providing general oversight of the candidate during the testing session. This includes ensuring there is no cheating of any kind, including giving or receiving help, using books, notes, etc.
- **Accommodations** — Candidates with special needs (e.g., applicants with Individualized Educational Plans) may receive reasonable accommodations for their needs, at the discretion of TSFA, provided that such accommodations do not compromise test integrity. See Request for Special Examination Accommodations Application Form.
- **Retests** — Candidates are eligible for one retest attempt for any of the TSFA certification tests completed during the current academic year (July 1 through the following June 30), provided such retest attempt is scheduled 30 days or more from the test completion date of the first attempt. Retest attempts must be completed on or before the last day of the academic year (June 30) in which the first attempt was completed. An additional retesting fee is required.
- **Instructor (Role) Level Access** — All persons assigned to the Instructor role are provided unique credentials to the testing platform in order to register applicants and monitor their progress. Instructors may not share their access credentials with anyone (student or other school personnel) and must take reasonable precautions to safeguard their credentials.
- **Cancellation of Scores** — TSFA reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel any test score and bar participation in the TSFA Level 1, Level 2 or Knowledge-based certification testing program if TSFA has reason to question the validity of a test score. Misconduct during the testing session, multiple tests assigned to an individual candidate within an academic year, and Instructors' access to test forms, among others, may compromise test validity.
- **Good and Reasonable Effort** — TSFA considers each school or site participating in TSFA Level 1, Level 2 or Knowledge-based certification tests an active partner in the test delivery process. TSFA expects all school or site staff involved in the testing program to exercise good and reasonable effort to maintain the integrity of the testing program.
- **Photos** — When completing Level 1 testing online, it is vital to ensure all required photos are submitted through TSFA's testing platform. First, scan the QR code provided. Next, using the app, take the required photos of each arrangement in front of a white trifold, ensuring that each high-quality image is uploaded into the appropriate field (e.g., the right side symmetrical box includes an image of the right side of the symmetrical arrangement, etc.). Finally, click submit after verifying all photos have been uploaded into the appropriate spaces.
- **User Name** — All student users must use a valid email address in their TSFA Level 1 certification testing username.

The TSFA Knowledge-based exam is an industry-based certification that tests a student's knowledge of the floral industry, familiarity with common terms associated with daily floral tasks and ability to identify common tools and plants used in the floral industry. The teacher or Career and Technical Education Director must verify that the student is enrolled in a floral design class.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is it better to use pittosporum or Israeli ruscus for the corsage?

A: Pittosporum is easier to obtain. Pittosporum can be grown in greenhouses or around the school and used for practice in class. Israeli ruscus should be used as a substitution if pittosporum is unavailable.

Q: Do roses come without thorns for the rose vase arrangement testing?

A: No. Applicants will have to remove the thorns once testing begins. They will not be counted off for having a few thorns left on the roses. Graders look at the mechanics of each arrangement.

Q: What length of roses should be ordered when practicing at school?

A: It is best to order 60cm roses when practicing at school.

Q: If there is a weak rose, does it need to be wired?

A: No. If you receive a rose that is too damaged to work with, you may exchange it before the testing begins. If there are a few weak roses, it is recommended that they be used toward the bottom of the arrangement and the stronger ones be used toward the top.

Q: What are some common mistakes seen on Level 2 arrangements?

A: Flowers are barely in the wet floral foam and are too loose. Not enough depth has been created. Some asymmetrical designs look more like a Level 1 symmetrical arrangement.

Level 2 Certification Exam Standards

1. Portfolio Standards

- a. Applicants are required to create a portfolio of their design work to ensure applicants are prepared to apply for positions in the floral industry. (TEKS 127.57.d.1.A & TEKS 127.53.d.6.C)
- b. Slide 2—Applicants must include a letter of recommendation from their instructor to demonstrate successful preparation of hands-on career skills in their training program. (TEKS 127.57.d.1.A)
- c. Slides 3-6—Photos of the asymmetrical design, dozen-stem vase arrangement, dressing a plant, and wired and taped corsage are included to determine the applicants' preparedness of their design skills. (TEKS 127.57.d.10.B)
- d. Slides 3-6—Submit a materials list and pricing structure for the asymmetrical arrangement, dozen-stem vase arrangement, wired and taped corsage and plant dressed with a bow, which will demonstrate understanding of accurately pricing a floral arrangement to industry standard. (TEKS 127.53.d.9.B)
- e. Slides 7-10—Submit photos of four additional designs. Each design must be created by the applicant, placed on an individual slide and be representative of the design skill of the applicant. (TEKS 127.57.d.5.A)
- f. Slides 7-10—Identify the style of each design, such as abstract, assemblage, asymmetrical, Biedermeier, cascade or waterfall, hedgerow, parallel, synergistic, submerged, topiary or vegetative. (TEKS 127.57.d.4.C)
- g. Slides 7-10—Identify the basing design techniques utilized in the design. (TEKS 127.57.d.4.E)
- h. Slides 7-10—Identify the focal-emphasis design techniques utilized in the design. (TEKS 127.57.d.4.F)
- i. Slides 7-10—Write a paragraph for each design to self-evaluate each of the four additional designs. (TEKS 127.53.d.5.A, TEKS 127.57.d.5.B&C)
- j. Slide 11—Photos and description of at least two examples of volunteering and sharing floral skills. This allows applicants to complete a brief industry internship opportunity. (TEKS 127.57.d.1.A&B)
- k. Applicants must use advanced botanical terminology when evaluating the four additional designs they submit with their portfolio. (TEKS 127.57.d.4.A)

2. Wired and Taped Corsage

- a. Applicants create a corsage using the elements and principles of design. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.B)
- b. Applicants actively and correctly use tools during the exam. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.D)
- c. Elements and principles, line and form—Ideal line throughout corsage. Flowers expertly placed. Proper arch effect. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- d. Elements and principles, Physical visual balance—Flowers are placed smallest to largest at focal area. Light weight corsage. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- e. Elements and principles, Proportion and scale—Flowers and foliage are perfectly sized for each other. Size of finished design is perfect for bloom size. Nice mix of various size blooms. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- f. Elements and principles, Depth and rhythm—Ideal depth with radial placement. Best front view of flowers. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- g. Elements and principles, focal area—Focal area has two large blooms and a bow. All stems point to this area. (TEKS 127.57.d.C, TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- h. Foliage—Correct and proportionate foliage used, wired correctly and skillfully attached. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)
- i. Mechanics—Correctly pierced calyx. Taping is tight and secure. Nice wiring on foliage. Good stem length. The end of stem is covered with floral tape. Great “backbone”. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)

3. Asymmetrical Triangle Design

- a. Design an asymmetrical design with fresh flowers with accurate flower placements to demonstrate the correct asymmetrical triangle form. (TEKS 127.57.d.4.C)
- b. To complete the Level 2 exam with precision and accuracy, applicants must evaluate their own skills and design speed and determine a production schedule that allows for time to design and evaluate the results of the plan. The results of the plan is always the completed project. Applicants evaluate their own designs before submission to determine if the designs are saleable. (TEKS 127.57.d.6.A)
- c. Applicants actively and correctly use tools during the exam. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.D)
- d. Applicants apply proper planning techniques and time management skills when creating the mechanics for the designs. (TEKS 127.57.d.6.A)
- e. Correctly demonstrate focal-emphasis design technique, shadowing, with accurate placement of the two liatris and the two cremons. (TEKS 127.57.d.5.C)
- f. Correctly demonstrate the basing design technique, pillowing, with accurate placement of the green carnations and Pittosporum. (TEKS 127.57.d.5.D)
- g. Elements and principles, skeleton and form—Has a high side and low side. Meets 16"-20" tall x 8"-10" wide. Radial placement, with all elements correctly placed. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- h. Elements and principles, unity—All blooms, foliage and the container produce a cohesive look. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- i. Elements and principles, line—Implied line is clearly visible with high left and low right. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- j. Elements and principles, physical and visual balance — Ideal balance using placement and correct flower and foliage size. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- k. Elements and principles, proportion—Container and floral product in correct proportion. Cohesive design. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- l. Elements and principles, depth and rhythm—Positive space occupied by flowers, leaving ample negative space showing depth. Great rhythm and movement from one flower to another. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- m. Elements and principles, Focal area—Area of greatest visual impact is evident. All stem ends point to bottom center of bowl with proper radial placement. Supported by foliage and filler. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- n. Foliage—Foliage follows correct shape. Lily grass accent follows the line. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)
- o. Mechanics—Shows high construction quality. No foam is showing. Deep, secure insertions. Nicely groomed overall. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)

4. Dozen-stem Vase Arrangement

- a. Applicants execute the steps of effective planning used to design floral arrangements for specific occasions by creating a dozen-rose bouquet that is a crucial Valentine's Day design. (TEKS 127.57.d.6.B)
- b. Applicants actively and correctly use tools during the exam (TEKS 127.57.d.7.D)
- c. Elements and principles, form—Proper height of 22"-26". Ideal placement of 12 stems, round shape, 16"x18" wide, all stems are radial to achieve focal area. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- d. Elements and principles Spacing and depth—Each flower has its own space, nice balance of negative space, great depth and openness. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- e. Elements and principles, physical and visual balance—Perfectly placed components to achieve the best physical and visual balance. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- f. Elements and principles, Proportion, scale and unity—Correct proportion of flowers to vase, proper amount of each component. (TEKS 127.57.d.7.E & TEKS 127.53.d.5.D)
- g. Foliage—Is radial and follows the line of the design, even and round shape, nice grid of foliage. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)
- h. Mechanics—No debris in water, stems are deep within water level, stems in grid. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)
- i. Filler—Radial and dispersed evenly throughout. Appropriate length. (TEKS 127.53.d.4.E)

References

Texas Administrative Code. (2024, September). Title 19-Education, Part 2-Texas Education Agency, Chapter 127- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education, Subchapter C-Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Rules 127.57.Advanced Floral Design. Retrieved from [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F14%2F2025&recordId=220478](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F14%2F2025&recordId=220478)

Texas Administrative Code. (2024, September). Title 19-Education, Part 2-Texas Education Agency, Chapter 127- Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education, Subchapter C-Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources, Rules 127.53.Floral Design. Retrieved from [https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?\\$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F14%2F2025&recordId=220478](https://texas-sos.appianportalsgov.com/rules-and-meetings?$locale=en_US&interface=VIEW_TAC_SUMMARY&queryAsDate=08%2F14%2F2025&recordId=220478)