



TAGT Awareness Certificate Questions & Answers

What is the TAGT Awareness Certificate?

The **TAGT Awareness Certificate (AC)** is a professional development certificate for teachers interested in gifted education. A recipient must have completed 45 clock hours of TAGT-approved training in gifted education, with a minimum of 6 hours in each of the five core areas:

- Nature and Needs of G/T Learners
- Identification and Assessment
- Social and Emotional Needs
- Creativity and Instructional Strategies
- Differentiated Curriculum

The remaining 15 clock hours may address individual needs or interests in any of these core areas or in the category of “Other.” These five core areas were established in November 1994, following a statewide survey of experts in gifted education, extensive review of the literature and communications with national organizations. Based on their recommendations, the five core areas and respective competencies were identified.

TAGT also offers the **TAGT Administrator Awareness Certificate (AAC)**, a professional development certificate for administrators in gifted education. A recipient must have completed 18 clock hours of TAGT-approved training in gifted education, with a minimum number of hours in each of the following four core areas:

- Program Options and Designs (6 clock hours)
- Nature and Needs of G/T Learners (3 clock hours)
- Law and Policy for Gifted and Talented (3 clock hours)
- Additional Study/Other (6 clock hours)

These four core areas were established by TAGT in September 2001, following similar procedures to those outlined above.

Why should I be interested in receiving a TAGT Awareness Certificate?

Everyone who earns and displays a TAGT Awareness Certificate is an advocate for gifted children. It provides an opportunity to talk about gifted education with parents, community members, and educators who may be unaware of the expertise needed to provide quality programs.

If I receive a TAGT Awareness Certificate, will I meet state requirements?

Yes, providing that the local school district accepts the training hours. While that is a local district decision, most districts will accept these training hours. A teacher who earns a TAGT Awareness Certificate will have exceeded the minimum state requirement of 30-clock hours of staff development required by the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 89.2.

If I earn a TAGT Awareness Certificate, do I have certification in gifted education?

No. The only way to be formally certified in gifted education (in other words, something that is noted on your teacher certificate) is to take and pass the TExES examination in gifted education. This is a voluntary certification and is not required of any teacher at this time.

Can a teacher meet state requirements without a TAGT Awareness Certificate?

Yes. A teacher who provides instruction and service that are a part of a program for gifted students can meet the minimum state requirements with 30 clock hours of staff development. According to the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 89.2, the 30 clock hours must cover specific areas such as “nature and needs of gifted and talented students, assessing student needs, and curriculum and instruction for gifted students.” The local school district has the authority to determine what training is accepted for professional development credit in gifted education.

Who may receive a TAGT Awareness Certificate?

Anyone who accumulates the required number of clock hours of TAGT-approved professional development activities and completes an application with proof of attendance may receive the appropriate certificate. The TAGT Awareness Certificate is recommended for all teachers, and the TAGT Administrator Awareness Certificate is recommended for all administrators.

How do I know if a workshop is TAGT-approved?

Ask the workshop sponsor. He or she should know if an application for Awareness Certificate credit was submitted. If no application was submitted to TAGT by the workshop sponsor and approved by TAGT, then the workshop will not count toward the Awareness Certificate. You can also ask the workshop sponsor to apply for TAGT-approval. It is easy to do; what’s needed is the one-page application form, a workshop outline, and the presenter’s resume.

Will Education Service Center workshops count toward the TAGT Awareness Certificate or Administrator Awareness Certificate?

All of the 30-hour institutes offered by the Education Service Centers (including online versions), are approved for TAGT Awareness Certificate credit. Other workshops they offer are not necessarily approved; the workshop sponsor must apply to the TAGT office for approval to grant AC or AAC credit.

Will sessions from the TAGT Annual Professional Development Conference count toward either of the TAGT Awareness Certificates?

Most sessions at TAGT conferences count toward one or both of these certificates. Check the conference program to make sure that the session is marked “AC” or “AAC.” To work toward these certificates, make sure to attend sessions that cover all of the required core areas.

Are administrators and counselors in Texas required to have professional development training in gifted/talented education?

Yes. According to the Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 89.2), these professionals need a “minimum of six hours of professional development that includes nature and needs of gifted/talented students and program options.”

If I complete a graduate course in gifted education at a university, could I receive a TAGT Awareness Certificate?

Perhaps. If the university professor has covered the TAGT core areas and competencies and the course has been approved by TAGT for Awareness Certificate credit, you can submit a copy of your transcript with the course grade to TAGT with your Awareness Certificate application. In some cases, the university professor will award the Awareness Certificate.

How do I document attendance at a TAGT-approved professional development activity?

Make sure that you leave with evidence indicating that you attended and completed the professional development activity. Evidence might be an attendance record or a certificate or a log sheet that is signed by the coordinator of the activity; such evidence needs to include the title of the session, date, length, and the signature of the activity coordinator. It is your responsibility to maintain a record of these hours, and TAGT suggests you make photocopies of attendance certificates before turning them in to your district or submitting them to TAGT.

How do I apply for one of the TAGT Awareness Certificates?

When you have accumulated the necessary clock hours for either of these two certificates, complete an application for the appropriate certificate from TAGT. You can find the applications on the TAGT website at www.txgifted.org under "Professional Development." Be sure to attach your documentation from the TAGT-approved professional development attended. Make a copy of all materials for your files and mail the original to TAGT. The TAGT staff will verify that everything is complete and satisfies the requirements; if so, then the certificate will be issued. If not, the TAGT staff will send an explanation of what requirements must still be met.

Once I complete my TAGT Awareness Certificate or the TEA 30-clock hour requirement or my endorsement, am I finished with professional development in gifted education?

No. According to the Texas Administrative Code (Chapter 89.2), a "teacher who provides instruction and services that are a part of the program for gifted students must receive a minimum of six hours annually of professional development in gifted education."

Thank you for your support of quality professional development for educators of gifted students!
For more information about TAGT certificate programs, please contact:

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