So You Want to have your Program Accredited!

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Introductions

• One question you have about accreditation

• One hope for your program
AOGPE Accreditation

A process leading to recognition of education organizations as having a level of performance, integrity, and quality that entitles them to the confidence of the educational community and the public they serve.
• The Academy does not accredit the school or organization; it accredits the Orton-Gillingham Instructional and/or Training Program.

Process toward Accreditation

✓ Program submits preliminary application with fee
✓ The committee reviews preliminary application and if accepted, assigns a mentor
✓ Program conducts self-study and submits narrative and documentation
✓ The committee reviews and sets up a site visit
✓ Committee sends a letter and logos
✓ Program pays annual dues
✓ Re-accreditation at 3 years and then 7 years
Accreditation of Instructional Programs

• Schools, camps, and clinics may be accredited as providing an OG instructional program designed to meet the needs of students with dyslexia. Only schools that have already been accredited by national and/or state certifying organizations are eligible to apply.

• Accreditation also requires that the instructional leadership of the program be vested in a staff member who is a Fellow of the Academy.

Instructional Program Indicators

• Program rationale and evaluation
• Organization and governance
• Nondiscrimination policy
• Provide details of the effective educational/instructional programs following the Orton-Gillingham Approach for students with dyslexia
• Curriculum
• Instructional staff
• Physical facilities and resources
**Site visit**

the committee will want to view:

- Classes and/or tutorials
- Sample student records and assessments
- Schedules
- Curriculum
- Library

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**Accreditation of Training Programs**

The Academy accredits training programs to train individuals interested in becoming Orton-Gillingham practitioners. The primary instructor of the program must be a Fellow of the Academy. Academy criteria for accreditation of an Orton-Gillingham practitioner training program emphasize the adequacy of curricula used by a program and the preparation and experience of the staff providing the training.

The Academy has established standards for the accreditation of Orton-Gillingham programs at the Associate and Certified levels of training.

**Accreditation also requires that the instructional leadership of the training program be vested in a staff member who is a Fellow of the Academy.**
**Training Program Indicators**

- Mission statement and goals
- Shows evidence that it engages in ongoing, systematic self-study, and how it affects the program, planning, and curriculum design
- Demonstrates verifiable and ongoing evaluation of graduates, for example the percentage of trainees who achieve Academy membership status
- Information on the organization and governance
- Information on trainee development
- Curriculum
- Instructional staff
- Physical facilities and resources

**Site visit:**

*the committee will want to view*

- A training session in progress
- Syllabus and schedules
- Curriculum modules and handouts
- Trainee assessments
- Attendance records
- Records of trainee observations and feedback
- List of trainees already accepted into the Academy
Benefits of Becoming an Accredited Training Program

• Accredited training programs send their trainees through the Accredited Training Track application process. This type of application enables the trainee to apply to the Academy on a rolling basis which substantially reduces the time between the application and acceptance to the Academy.

Important Criteria

• The program needs to be in operation for 3 years before accreditation by the Academy can begin. If it is a school, it must already hold accreditation from an official school accreditation agency.
• Academy accreditation requires that the instructional leadership of the program be vested in a staff member who is a Fellow of the Academy.
Deadlines?

• While programs can apply at any time, applications are generally reviewed in September, January, and March.
• AOGPE Board meetings are held in October and April.

My next action steps