

How to become a Certified Floral Designer with AIFD



American Institute of Floral Designers



About the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD®)

Established in 1965, the American Institute of Floral Designers is, today, the floral industry's leading non-profit organization dedicated to establishing, maintaining and recognizing the highest standard of professional floral design. AIFD and its accredited members worldwide are at the forefront of the industry in presenting educational design programs and in designing flowers for such renowned events as the Tournament of Roses Parade, Academy Awards and Presidential Inaugurations. They are an extraordinary group of talented artists.

Each summer, AIFD presents its acclaimed National Symposium.

Considered to be the most important design education event in the floral industry, this dynamic conclave attracts designers, educators and interested individuals from all corners of the world.

In the U.S., AIFD Accredited members participate in six regional chapters that each host activities for the education of the floral industry as well as for the floral consumer market. AIFD partner members, as manufacturers and distributors of products and services to the floral industry, are also an important part of the Institute as they help fund numerous design education events.

AIFD's Mission Statement: The mission of AIFD is to advance the art of professional floral design through education, service and leadership, and to recognize the achievement of excellence in this art form.

AIFD offers an accreditation (the letters "AIFD" after one's name), that can only be achieved by attending a Professional Floral Design Evaluation (PFDE) and achieving scores high enough to obtain the AIFD designation. One can also receive their CFD designation in this fashion. In addition, one can receive their CFD designation by attending and successfully completing the appropriate floral design education programs at an AIFD floral education provider, such as the education provider that you are attending, paying the appropriate fees with AIFD and then passing AIFD's online test. More details are below:

Becoming an AIFD Certified Floral Designer:

AIFD offers the opportunity to qualified floral designers to become Certified Floral Designers through our organization once you complete the following requirements:

Step 1: Complete the necessary courses at your selected floral design education provider

Step 2: After you have completed the necessary courses of your selected education provider, and if your education provider agrees that your work is at the level required of AIFD's CFD credential, you will receive an invitation to become an AIFD Certified Floral Designer (CFD) via email and will need to complete the following:

- Your instructor must send your contact information to AIFD.
- Complete the CFD Application and submit with a \$124 certification fee (which includes your re-certification fees through June 30.).
- Take the AIFD online test based off *The AIFD Guide to Floral Design*, which is a required textbook in the CFD program, and receive an 80% or better within two (2) weeks of receiving access to the online test. You have two opportunities to pass the online exam.

** You must pass AIFD's online exam to become a CFD. Online exams administered by your education provider cannot be used in lieu of AIFD's online exam.*

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Once you have successfully completed all of these steps, you will be awarded the coveted CFD designation and may begin using the CFD designation after your name! You will be listed in the printed AIFD directory, and listed on the AIFD “Find a Designer” search tool on our website: www.aifd.org. You will receive a confirmation email and your CFD certificate and pin in the mail, to wear proudly.

Maintaining your CFD status

CFD Annual Fees:

CFDs pay an annual fee to AIFD of \$124 (\$174 if paid after May 1). CFD dues invoices are set out annually on February 15.

CFD Continuing Education Requirements:

To maintain the status of a CFD, individuals must meet certain continuing education requirements every three years. Every three (3) years he or she must earn 25 Continuing Education Units and must submit an online CEU renewal form (no fee). The Continuing Education requirements can be easily accumulated by attending a Symposium or by attending a plethora of other floral industry design education programs. Continuing Education units can also be earned through demonstrated leadership and participation in floral industry organizations including AIFD. Click here to learn more about how to earn your Continuing Education units.

Important Notes

AIFD is a separate entity from the floral education provider that you are attending, and only AIFD can award the CFD designation. Once you have completed the courses you are attending at your floral design education provider, you must complete the additional steps as outlined above, which are only offered by AIFD. If you have questions, please feel free to contact AIFD directly at 443-966-3850.

The process of obtaining the American Institute of Floral Designer’s CFD designation after completing your education provider’s required education and then completing the AIFD steps as outlined above is not related to AIFD’s Professional Floral Design Evaluation (PFDE) process and does not constitute as registration into AIFD’s PFDE process. AIFD’s PFDE process is a separate process where one can obtain their CFD or AIFD designation without attending a floral design school, but they must still take an online test and then appear in person to take a four (4) hour hands-on design evaluation. There are separate requirements and deadlines associated with AIFD’s PFDE process, and you can contact AIFD directly to receive an application to participate in the PFDE should you wish to become an accredited member of AIFD (i.e. use the AIFD credentials after your name).

****This information is subject to change at any time. It is imperative that you visit www.aifd.org and review “How to Become a CFD” to be sure you have the most up to date information. AIFD is only responsible for information posted on its own website: www.aifd.org.***