



Floral Design Certificate Program Overview

The Floral Design Certificate program offers the most extensive course of study available in the region, covering all aspects of floral design. You will learn the art and science of floral design through hands-on design workshops to build your technical proficiency, gain knowledge in the principles and elements of design and color theory, and increase your range of design styles. You will become familiar with common flowers in the floral industry as well as how to design with locally grown seasonal and foraged materials. You will also build a strong foundation for enhancing your own creative inspiration. This program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing floral design for pleasure and self-satisfaction.

There is no formal enrollment in the program. Phipps maintains student records, but does not actively monitor student progress. Please track your own progress throughout the program and contact Phipps' adult education department for transcript confirmation when you have completed the required coursework. There is no time limit for completing the program.

Phipps is an AIFD education partner. Students interested in pursuing floral design as a career can use their Phipps certificate to pursue professional AIFD certification (see below for more information).

Certificate Requirements

To receive a certificate in Floral Design, students must satisfactorily complete 7 core courses, totaling **72 credit** hours, and an additional **30 hours** of electives, for a total of **102 hours**. Satisfactory completion of a class is attendance based — students must attend at least 75% of a course's class periods to receive course credit. Full attendance is strongly encouraged. After you complete the certificate requirements, you must pass a final design assessment, which includes a portfolio review, written exam and a live design assessment performed by members of the Phipps floral instruction team.

AIFD Education Partnership

Phipps Conservatory is an education partner for the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD). AIFD is the floral industry's leading non-profit organization dedicated to establishing, maintaining and recognizing the highest standard of professional floral design.

Phipps floral program graduates may be considered for recommendation to test for their Certified Floral Designer (CFD) certification through AIFD, an internationally recognized floral industry credential.

For more program information, a current course catalogue, class descriptions, AIFD affiliate information and instructor information contact our staff at [412/441-4442](tel:4124414442), ext. 3925 or edu@phipps.conservatory.org.

Disclaimer: Phipps education center will be undergoing significant renovations, planned for 2025-26. Our intent is to maintain our current floral programming at alternate class sites, but the quantity and pace of our course offerings could be impacted during renovation.

Course Overview and Worksheet

Core classes are offered at least once every **12 to 18 months**. *See disclaimer

Core Courses (70 - 72 class hours)

Entry Level Courses

- Basic Floral Design (12 hrs)**
- Study in Design Styles (12 hrs)**
- Bridal Design & Personal Flowers to Wear (12 hrs total)**

(Achieved by attending the 3 sessions listed below)

- Wedding Primer 101 (3 hrs)**
- Bouquets Design Series (6 hrs)**
- Wearable Florals (3 hrs)**

Intermediate/Advanced Level Courses

- Intermediate Floral Design (12 hrs)**
- Advanced Floral Design (12 hrs)**
- Events and Large-Scale Design (10 -12 hrs total)**

(Achieved by attending the 4 sessions listed below. Additional workshops may be added/substituted)

- Centerpiece Style Tablescape (3 hrs)**
- Ceremony Décor (3 hrs)**
- Reception & Event Décor (3 hrs)**
- Guerrilla Floral Installations (3 hrs)**
- Tributes – Study in Sympathy design (2 hrs)**
- Elevated Mass Design (2hrs)**

- Final Design Assessment (required to receive Phipps Floral Certificate)**

Electives (30 class hours)

This is a sample list of electives. Additional offerings are regularly added and the classes listed below are subject to change.

<input type="checkbox"/> Deck the Halls, Walls, and More (8 hrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pave Arrangements (2 hrs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Colors of Spring (2 hrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phipps Flower Club (6 hrs or 7.5 hrs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Language of Flowers (2 hrs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Designing with Branches (2 hrs)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dutch Flower Design (2 hrs)	

Overall certificate requirement: 102 class hours

Disclaimer: Phipps education center will be undergoing significant renovations, planned for 2025-26. Our intent is to maintain our current floral programming at alternate class sites, but the quantity and pace of our course offerings could be impacted during renovation.