

## Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ® Certification Exam FAQ

**What is the essentiALZ Certification?** The Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ Certification is an online, individual exam for professional care workers that tests knowledge of evidence-based and person-centered care practices outlined in the nationally recognized Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations.

**What are the benefits of the essentiALZ Certification?** The essentiALZ Certification helps long-term and community-based care organizations remain on the leading edge of person-centered care for those living with dementia. The exam tests knowledge necessary to provide consistent, evidence-based and person-centered care in five key areas of the Dementia Care Practice Recommendations, including: Alzheimer's and dementia, person-centered care, assessment and care planning, activities of daily living, and behaviors and communication.

**Who is eligible to take the essentiALZ Certification Exam?** The essentiALZ Certification Exam is intended for professional care workers in long-term or community-based care organizations who have completed a training program recognized by the Alzheimer's Association for incorporating the evidenced-based Dementia Care Practice Recommendations. Long-term and community-based care organizations include nursing homes, assisted living, adult day, home care, home health care and hospice. To view training programs recognized by the Association eligible for the essentiALZ Exam, please visit [alz.org/trainingandcertification](http://alz.org/trainingandcertification)

### **How were the essentiALZ Certification Exam questions developed?**

Exam questions were developed based on content from the Dementia Care Practice Recommendations and in accordance with industry standards for question structure, difficulty level and 6th grade readability. Training programs recognized by the Alzheimer's Association have been thoroughly reviewed to ensure content reflects the Dementia Care Practice Recommendations.

**How can I purchase essentiALZ?** Individuals and providers who purchase *essentiALZ - Alzheimer's Association Training and Certification* will automatically receive access to the essentiALZ Exam. Providers who train their staff with a training program recognized by the Alzheimer's Association are also eligible to purchase the essentiALZ Exam for their staff.

**How are staff recognized for completing the essentiALZ Certification?** After completing a dementia care training program recognized by the Alzheimer's Association and passing the essentiALZ Certification Exam at 90% or higher, individual staff members will receive a personalized essentiALZ certificate.

**How long is the certification valid?** An individual's essentiALZ Certification is valid for two years from the date the exam is successfully completed. The individual essentiALZ certificate will display both the recognition and expiration date.

**How do staff remain certified in essentiALZ?** To remain certified in essentiALZ, an individual must complete a training program recognized by the Alzheimer’s Association and complete the essentiALZ Exam. The essentiALZ Exam is available through the purchase of essentiALZ - Alzheimer’s Association Training and Certification.

**Are CEUs available for essentiALZ?** Continuing education credit is available for learners who complete the essentiALZ Training and pass the Certification Exam. To learn more, visit [alz.org/essentiALZ-credit](http://alz.org/essentiALZ-credit).

**How does staff access the essentiALZ Certification Exam?** After a provider purchases essentiALZ - Alzheimer’s Association Training and Certification, they will receive a customized enrollment code. Staff use this enrollment code to launch their training and/or essentiALZ exam from the Alzheimer’s Association Education Center at [training.alz.org/takeessentiALZexam](http://training.alz.org/takeessentiALZexam).

**How long does staff have to complete the essentiALZ Exam?** For providers purchasing essentiALZ Exams for their staff, access will expire two years after the purchase date. Individuals who purchase essentiALZ - Alzheimer’s Association Training and Certification have access to the training and certification for six months from the date of purchase.

**How long does the exam take to complete?** The essentiALZ Certification Exam consists of 45 multiple choice questions grounded in the principles of person-centered care. The exam is not timed and staff can return as often as necessary before final submission.

**What if a staff member fails the essentiALZ Exam?** Providers are encouraged to help staff who have failed the exam twice, review exam results by topic area (available through the Alzheimer’s Association Education Center) and repeat training if possible before re-launching the exam. If multiple staff are not passing the exam you may consider reviewing how training program content is being delivered.

**How can I view the status of staff certifications?** The Alzheimer’s Association offers providers access to an Administrative Portal which provides information on the activation of enrollment codes and individual exam status. Please contact the Alzheimer’s Association using the [Contact Us](#) to learn more.

**Additional questions?** Please contact the Alzheimer’s Association using the [Contact Us](#) form.

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