

## Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ® Certification Exam FAQ

**What is the essentiALZ certification?** The Alzheimer's Association® essentiALZ® certification is an online, individual certification exam for professional care providers 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 residential and community-based 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 residential 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. Residential and community-based care organizations include nursing homes, assisted living, adult day, home care, home health care and hospice.

### **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?** Only those providers who train their staff with a training program recognized by the Alzheimer's Association are eligible to purchase the essentiALZ certification for their staff. To view training programs recognized by the Association and purchase an Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ certification exam package, please visit [alz.org/essentiALZ](http://alz.org/essentiALZ).

**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.

### **Can my organization get recognized for offering the essentiALZ certification to staff?**

The essentiALZ certification is an individual certification. Organizations that purchase an essentiALZ certification exam package for their staff, receive an approved statement of recognition from the Alzheimer's Association that references the opportunity for staff to become certified in essentiALZ. The statement of recognition can be used in internal and external

communications whenever referencing the essentiALZ certification. The Alzheimer's Association statement of recognition is not an endorsement of the professional training or evaluation of the care provided by the facility. The statement is valid for two years from the date of issue.

**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 his or her employer must offer the essentiALZ certification exam for its staff.

**Are CEUs available for essentiALZ?** No. At this time, the Alzheimer's Association does not offer continuing education credit for the essentiALZ certification exam.

**How does staff access the essentiALZ certification exam?** After the purchase of an essentiALZ certification exam package, each organization will receive a customized essentiALZ exam enrollment code. The code should only be distributed to staff after successfully completing a recognized training program. Staff then log into the Alzheimer's Association Training and Education Center at [training.alz.org/takeessentiALZexam](http://training.alz.org/takeessentiALZexam) and enter the enrollment code to launch the essentiALZ exam.

**How long does staff have to complete the essentiALZ exam?** The essentiALZ certification exam enrollment codes expire two years after essentiALZ license purchase date. If a provider purchases the Alzheimer's Association's curriculum review and essentiALZ as a combined product, exam codes will expire when curriculum recognition expires, two years from recognition date.

**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 Training and 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 exam 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.