

Foundations Syllabus

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Course Description

The Foundations Program is a 6-week hybrid course (3 weeks online + 3 weeks in person) designed to prepare aspiring dog trainers with the essential skills in basic obedience, canine behavior, and client communication. Graduates will leave confident in training dogs and teaching owners, ready to begin a career in in-home training.

Supplies

- Notebook & pen for training notes
- Treat pouch & high-value training treats
- 5-foot leash & long line
- Slip lead or slip collar
- Access to a dog for hands-on practice (If you do not have access to a dog, one will be provided)



Course Grading



Grading Scale

100% – 90% = Pass with Distinction

89% – 80% = Pass

79% – Below = Not Yet Certified
(additional practice required)

Types of Assignments

- Online quizzes & reflection exercises
- Video observations of canine body language
- Hands-on practice with dogs in person
- Role-playing client coaching scenarios
- Other as needed
- Final skills test with certification evaluation



Be confident!



Be curious!



Be persistent!



Be engaged!

Inclusion 	Attendance & Tardies
<p>Every student brings unique experiences and perspectives. We believe dog training is for everyone — patience, persistence, and respect guide all learning environments.</p>	<p>Attendance is required to ensure competency. Students missing any in person sessions must schedule make-up training before certification. Punctuality is essential for both online deadlines and in-person practice.</p>

Travel & Attendance Policy

Students traveling from out of town must attend all 3 weeks (5 days a week) of in-person training to qualify for certification.

- If full 3-week attendance is not possible, students may opt for a 12-day one-on-one training schedule for an additional fee.
- Housing, lodging, and meals are the responsibility of the student.

Conduct & Discipline Policy

Respect for classmates, instructors, and dogs is mandatory. Any form of mistreatment of animals, disruptive behavior, or unprofessional conduct may result in dismissal from the program.

Academic Integrity

All coursework and practice should reflect your own work and understanding. Copying, falsifying training results, or misrepresenting your progress will disqualify you from certification.

AI Usage

AI may be used as a supplemental study tool (researching dog breeds, behavior science, etc.). However, students must demonstrate their own understanding and application of skills.

“ Every day is a new adventure. Be curious, be brave, and never stop learning! ”