

TKGA Master Knitter Program FAQs – Frequently asked questions ...

Questions by knitters who are considering enrolling

Should I take the TKGA Basics, Basics, Basics correspondence course, first, or should I start with the Masters Hand Knitting Program Level I?

The Basics, Basics, Basics correspondence course is not a pre-requisite requirement for the Masters Program, but some may find it helpful. The Basics, Basics, Basics course is a study course for the **fairly new knitter** and consists of three lessons. As stated, the course covers the basics of knitting to help you establish a solid foundation. Because it is a reviewed course, some self-taught knitters take the course to make sure they have learned proper techniques and to confirm that they are thoroughly grounded in the basics before they move up to the Masters Program. Although the course is not part of the Masters Program, the format of the Basics, Basics, Basics course is similar to the Masters Program, which makes it a good introduction on how to submit work for Program review. You work on your own and at your own pace as you do the Basics, Basics, Basics course. Once you complete lesson one, you send it to the instructor to critique and offer suggestions. You may be asked to rework items until you complete that lesson and can move on to lesson two, and so on. Each lesson asks you to knit swatches, answer questions, and write reports. The course covers basic knitting techniques, gauge, various edges, increases and decreases.

In contrast, the Master Hand Knitting Program is not a class or a course. It is an evaluation program for **the accomplished knitter**. The Masters program is designed to thoroughly evaluate a broad traditional range of knitting knowledge and skills. In the process, it encourages expansion of your skills and knitting knowledge. The Program consists of Three Levels. For each Level you will be sent written instructions, which you complete at your own pace. Each Level asks you to knit items, correctly interpret and answer questions, and write reports. Once you complete all of Level One, you submit it to the Masters Committee for review by several committee members, according to specific criteria and guidelines. You may be asked to redo portions until you complete the Level to the satisfaction of the reviewers. You may be expected to research for yourself how to correct mistakes or questionable submissions. Once you complete the first level, you may proceed to the second level, etc. The requirements increase in difficulty with each level, and when you complete Level III you will have demonstrated a true mastery of knitting knowledge and techniques, earning for yourself the title of “Master Knitter”. Master knitters receive a pin and certificate. Since the program began in 1987, some of these knitters are now serving on the Review Committee for the program. Others are instructors. Others are great knitters. All are an inspiration!

Once you decide if the correspondence course or the evaluation program is for you, you can order online or by contacting TKGA.

What credential does the TKGA Master Knitting Program provide?

The TKGA Master Knitter program is an evaluation program, which encourages a great deal of self-improvement for knitters. The aim of the TKGA program is to develop and qualify excellence in all aspects of knitting. While the Master Knitter certificate is not a professional certificate, it does certainly enhance any knitting resume. It verifies, among other things, that the certificate holder:

- ~ Is able to knit properly
- ~ Understands what and why they knit
- ~ Can properly prepare designs for submission to publications
- ~ Can write reasonably well about knitting

Many people who have achieved Master Knitter status are solicited by shops and various groups to help teach knitting. Even though they do not have the professional teaching certification, their knitting expertise is in demand. Also on a professional level, some Master Knitters have written articles or had patterns published in various knitting magazines. And some even work with yarn companies, preparing original designs that promote their yarns.

Is there a certified instructors program?

CYCA (Craft Yarn Council of America) offers a certified instructors program for those who want to teach knitting. You can reach them through their web site at www.craftyarncouncil.com.