

# Master Spinner Certificate Program

The Olds College Master Spinner Certificate Program consists of six progressive levels of classroom and independent study involving skill development, research studies and project assignments in the area of hand spinning of all major types of fibres, yarns and end use of the spun yarns.

Levels 1-4 each consist of a five-day (30 hours) workshop while Levels 5 and 6 are each seven days (42 hours) in length. Each level is followed by an independent home study portion for those students working towards certification. This home study portion will require about 100-150 hours of work.

A Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) option for experienced spinners is available for Levels 1-2.

At all levels, students are evaluated on the basis of written assignments, practical projects, oral presentations and skill development.

College credits are earned upon successful completion of each level:

Level 1 - 6 credits

Level 2 - 6 credits

Level 3 - 6 credits

Level 4 - 6 credits

Level 5 - 8 credits

Level 6 - 10 credits

Those individuals who successfully complete the assignments in all six levels will receive a Master Spinner Certificate from Olds College.

## Master Spinner Program Student Policies

### Certificate Students

Students may enroll in the program with a view to earning Master Spinner certification. As such they will need to complete the assignments associated with each level. These assignments will be marked and have a percentage grade assigned.

### Audit Students

Students may enroll in a class to upgrade their skills only and not to obtain certification. As such they may choose not to do the assignments needed to obtain a grade. These students will receive an audit (AU) designation rather than a percentage grade.

## Changing From Audit to Certification

If after having received one or more audit grades, a student may make a request, in writing to the Olds College coordinator, to be considered for the certificate program.

Such requests must be made within three (3) years and will be dealt with on an individual basis in consultation with a committee of Master Spinner instructors who will decide how the student should proceed.

A fee for each level affected will be connected to this request and all assignments must be submitted according to the timeline decided on by the committee.

## Student Fees

Tuition and Marking fees will be established by Olds College and will be subject to periodic review.

Students will generally encounter costs in these areas:

- Course Tuition
- Materials Fees
- Personal Supplies
- Marking Fees

### Tuition

Classroom and PLAR fees will be set by Olds College at the time advertising is prepared. These fees will include the course manual.

### Materials

The instructor will supply many of the materials (other than those on a student supply list) that are required for successful participation and completion of a class. The fee for these materials will be payable to the instructor at the first class of the course.

### Supplies

The student is expected to come prepared with certain equipment and supplies necessary for successful participation in the classroom activities. This supplies list will be provided to all registrants and will also be available as an online download.

### Marking

Payment of an assignment marking fee will be required when an assignment is ready for evaluation.

# Student Assignments

Students who are working towards certification will complete a major homework assignment following each level of instruction according to the guidelines presented.

Unless otherwise requested or designated, the assignment will be marked by the instructor who taught that student.

The Level 6 assignment will be reviewed by **two** instructors according to the published guidelines to determine a final grade.

Upon completion of a homework assignment the student will pay the designated marking fee to Olds College and mail the project to the assigned instructor.

When the marking fee is received, Olds College will inform the instructor so that the evaluation can proceed.

## Assignment Timelines

Students who wish to obtain a mark for each level and thus be eligible for the Master Spinner Certificate will observe the following timelines:

- The workbook assignment will be submitted for marking within 12 months after the class ends.
- If the work has not been submitted, an audit (AU) grade will be assigned unless an extension has been requested from the Olds College coordinator at least one month before the due date. If granted, the extension will not exceed four months beyond the original completion date. Only one extension date will be allowed per course level. An “Incomplete” grade (I) will be assigned for that student until completion.

## Certification

Upon successful completion of all six levels along with their homework assignments, students will be eligible for the Master Spinner Designation. They will be contacted by the Olds College registrar’s office and invited to participate in the annual graduation ceremonies. As is the case in all Olds College programs, a graduation fee is included as part of the Level 6 tuition.

If the graduate is unable to attend the ceremonies, the certificate will be mailed after the graduation date for that year.

## Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

This option is currently only available for Levels 1 and 2.

An experienced spinner who wishes to enter the program without attending a class may contact the program coordinator and register for the PLAR option.

Completion timelines will be the same as for a classroom course and submissions must be marked before the student enters the next level.

When a student registers for the PLAR option, the coordinator will:

- Assign an instructor to that student
- Give the instructor's contact information to the student
- Give the student's contact information to the instructor

The student will receive:

- The current course materials
- The current assignment requirements
- 3 hours of instructor time (logged by the instructor)

The student and instructor will arrange a suitable time for an orientation session (likely by phone) in order to review the assignment requirements. This will be considered a part of the 3 hour time allotment.

The student will be able to address questions to the instructor at such times and in a manner agreed to during the orientation session.

When completed, the required marking fee will be submitted to Olds College and the assignment will be mailed to the instructor for evaluation.