

Spinning Certificate Program
Weavers Guild of Greater Baltimore
Basic Instructions and Evaluation Criteria
Apprentice, Journeyman and Masters Levels

Skeins and Samples – all Levels:

- All yarn produced must be handspun by the participant. Any samples or items made by someone else using the participant's yarn must be identified and the person acknowledged.
- Natural or dyed, natural or manmade fibers may be used, as defined by the specific skein requirements. Since the yarns and samples submitted are the only things the judges will review, it is advisable to use good quality fibers.
- Submit only clean, finished yarns. Skeins are to be free of knots, unless otherwise noted in the detailed requirements. All skeins will be opened by the judges and tested for integrity.
- All sample swatches must be properly finished (washed and blocked).
- The participant may spin S or Z, unless otherwise stated. Submit singles yarns, unless otherwise directed.
- Each skein must be accompanied by a sample of the unspun fiber and/or starting material. If the participant started with unwashed fleece, for example, the sample of unspun fiber must be unwashed. A washed sample of the fiber may also be included. Each sample must be clearly labeled; see labeling instructions below.
- Skeins are to be tied with four figure-eight ties of fine white cord to prevent tangling. Ties are to be loose enough to allow spreading for evaluation.
- Each skein must have an appropriate surface structure, consistent diameter, and the same amount of twist throughout the skein unless otherwise stated. Plied yarns should be balanced in the ply.

Binder Preparation and Submission Directions – all Levels:

- Each participant will be given a number that is to be used on all correspondence, application forms, inquiries, and submissions to maintain the participant's anonymity.
- All work must be submitted with the pages, plastic pockets, or folders bound with loose leaf rings for ease in handling. Labels are to be neatly typed. Each submission folder is to have a label on the back identifying the participant by number only. No names are to appear on the binder.
- Each section submission will include the following:
 - A cover page to include the Section being submitted, the date, the Participant's id number.
 - Index page or Table of Contents.
 - Skein, swatch or documentation folders labeled and sequenced to correspond to the requirement numbers. There must be a folder for each numbered requirement.
 - Each skein or swatch folder will have two copies of the appropriate blank evaluation sheet (one for each judge). The participant will fill in the information required at the top of the sheet.
 - Each skein must be mounted in a folder with:
 - A skein information sheet with the requirement number, assignment and participant's identification number at the top.
 - A sample of the starting material in a small plastic bag labeled with the fiber content
 - Embroidery floss cards (3, as appropriate) wrapped with the singles and plied yarns (pre and post finishing) marked to indicate WPI of each.
 - Each swatch will measure at least 16 square inches (e.g. 4"x4", 2"x8") and must be mounted in a folder with an swatch information sheet
- Evaluation forms are available as Microsoft Word files on the Guild's web site.
- The participant will submit the folders and other work as appropriate to the Tracking Person by the section submission deadline.
- Once the evaluations are returned to the participant, they should be placed in 3-ring binders for future reference.
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Evaluation Criteria:

Criteria for Skeins and Swatches:

- All required work is submitted.
- The work shows mastery of techniques and technical execution.

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- Materials are suitable to techniques and equipment.
- Use of color/fiber is effective.
- Design applications are effective.
- All items are finished appropriately.
- Size and/or length requirements (if specified) are met. Wash/finish all yarns before measuring out skein to be submitted!

Criteria for Written Requirements:

- Submission of written work and samples is neat, clear, and presented in folders labeled to match the requirement numbers.
- Statements and terminology are accurate.
- Illustrations are appropriate and correct.
- All requirements are fulfilled.

Masters Level Criteria:

- The proposal for the Master's Level shows a well conceived plan of study to produce a specific yarn(s) for a clearly defined end use.
- The purpose for which the yarn is produced is clear and appropriate.
- The comprehensiveness and depth of the study demonstrate advanced skills.
- The application of spinning techniques achieve the stated purpose.
- The quality of concept and successful application of the study is demonstrated in items produced.
- The completeness of all required work, including documentation, samples of steps toward major pieces, and final products.

Spinning Certificate Check List for Submissions:

First, read and reread section and submission requirements to be sure you understand assignment! Make a folder for each numbered requirement and work to fill them.

Cover Page:

Title
Level
Section number
Participant number
Date submitted

Table of Contents: Listed by requirement number

Skein requirement number(s) and description
Swatch requirement number(s) and description
Bibliography

Printed Label On Folder:

Upper right corner; skein/swatch requirement number

Evaluation Sheet:

2 per folder; heading completed and inserted in each folder

Project Worksheet:

Heading: Participant number, skein/swatch number and all information requested

Intended Use of Yarn: give traditional use and what you want to use it for, if different. Be as specific as possible. Give knitting pattern info, weave structure, etc. A small picture of the intended finished item is good.

Fiber choice: fiber and why chosen; include source with contact information.

Fiber preparation: how prepared, equipment used and reasons

Spinning: Wheel with full description and drive ratio; detailed description of spinning /plying process (type of draw used that meets current spinning certificate program descriptions). Chart for TPI/WPI, grist; Z/S.

Final wash and Notes: as complete as possible.

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Your Comments: A thorough description of you liked and didn't like about the contents of the folder. State what was a challenge. What did you learn. What would you do differently.

Yarn Presentation:

Washed and unwashed samples fiber in small baggies, skeined yarn with ends connected and 4 loose figure 8 ties; 10 yard measurement checked after finished yarn is removed from niddy-noddy.

Vital Tips:

Ask one other person to read the printed project worksheet for errors, misspellings.

Keep accurate records as you are working on a section; use index cards/notebook to jot down information and techniques as you are spinning. You will need this information to create detailed documentation.

Have fun!!

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