



Instructor Position Description

ROLE: Plan and lead quality Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program classes for people with arthritis.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Prerequisites for attending an Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program Instructor Training Workshop include:
 - Background, education and/or relevant experience as a Tai Chi instructor or student or in another exercise, fitness or health-related field such as physical or occupational therapy, recreational therapy, physical education, nursing, exercise physiology, kinesiology, dance therapy or movement therapy. A person's previous experience or background in related education or work with the elderly, disabled or other special populations may be considered at the discretion of the Arthritis Foundation in lieu of this qualification.
 - Use of the Tai Chi for Arthritis instructional DVD to learn the 12 Tai Chi movements is strongly recommended for all trainees and required for those who want to become authorized by Tai Chi Productions as an instructor.
 - Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation is required, and first aid certification is strongly recommended.
 - Affiliation with a facility or organization that can provide space for the Tai Chi classes and insurance coverage for the program.
 - Other desirable abilities include:
 - Empathy towards people with arthritis and related diseases gained through personal or professional experience.
 - Interest in working with groups of people with arthritis and related diseases.
 - Experience in teaching exercise classes and skill in group process and instructional techniques.
 - Desire and ability to help others.
 - Strong belief in the value of regular physical activity.
2. To teach Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program Instructor requires successful completion of an Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program or Tai Chi for Arthritis Instructor Training Workshop, resulting in:
 - Knowledge of basics about Tai Chi, arthritis disease processes, principles of arthritis exercise, joint protection and energy conservation, and role of exercise in total management of arthritis
 - Competence in demonstrating the 12 Tai Chi movement forms
 - Ability to teach Tai Chi safely and effectively
 - Ability to work with groups



3. After successful completion of the instructor workshop, participants will be issued an attendance certificate. Qualified participants (as determined by the trainer) will also receive an instructor certificate from Tai Chi Productions that is valid for two years.
4. Certification by the Arthritis Foundation requires the following:
 - Successful completion of the Tai Chi Instructor Training Workshop
 - Successful teaching of at least six one-hour Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program classes within six months of completing the training workshop and submission of participant data to the Arthritis Foundation.
 - Teaching at least one class series annually and submission of participant data.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Commit to following all Arthritis Foundation program policies regarding the Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program and conduct all class sessions in accordance with the *Arthritis Foundation Tai Chi Program Instructor's Guide* without changing the exercises or making other changes, additions or deletions. Sign a Statement of Understanding to document this commitment and submit this to the local Arthritis Foundation chapter.
2. Participate in pre-class planning and activities as time and ability allows to ensure successful classes, including tasks such as: setting class meeting dates and times, publicizing classes to recruit class participants, notifying the Arthritis Foundation of class schedules, arranging to register participants, scheduling the use of facilities and obtaining participant materials and equipment.
3. Establish and enforce guidelines for participants and monitor safety:
 - Avoid discussion or promotion of specific physicians, health professionals, health institutions or unproven remedies.
 - Do not provide answers to specific medical questions, specific treatment advice, or individualized exercise programs.
 - Adhere to a "no touch" policy - no one is allowed to manipulate another's limbs to help with exercises.
 - Remind participants to observe safety principles such as the "two hour pain rule," slowing down when tired, limiting movements that are painful, and avoiding vigorous exercising of inflamed joints.
 - Assure that exercises are performed correctly and overexertion does not occur.
4. Understand and comply with the facility's emergency policies, procedures and practices.
5. Take attendance at every class and submit timely and accurate participant data (such as attendance lists and program report forms) and release forms from new participants on a quarterly basis or as required by the Arthritis Foundation.
6. Participate in evaluation procedures established by the Arthritis Foundation, including but not limited to site visits, participant surveys and instructor questionnaires.
7. Inform class participants about other Arthritis Foundation resources and activities that may interest them.
8. Communicate problems, concerns, questions or suggestions promptly to the Arthritis Foundation.



TIME COMMITMENT:

- Attendance at a two-day instructor training workshop
- Attendance at one-day Tai Chi recertification workshop every 2 years
- Preparation time (approximately 4-6 hours per quarter)
- Class time (approximately 2 hours per week)
- Logistics time (approximately 2-4 hours per class series)