

GAIN Certification Levels

This is a basic description of requirements for different levels of GAIN certification. More information on GAIN certification can be found in the GAIN manual or by contacting gainsupport@chestnut.org

1.) **GAIN Site Interviewer Certification** - This level of certification is for those who have been trained by a certified Local, Regional, or National trainer to administer the GAIN at a training not sponsored by the GAIN Coordinating Center (GCC). Certifications are issued by the GCC based on the recommendation of the certified trainer and a review of a final written Summary of QA feedback sheet. A certified Site Interviewer may not go on to Local Trainer certification without attending a subsequent GCC sponsored national training and achieving administration certification.

2.) **GAIN Coursework Certification** - This is the most general level of certification and the first step.

- **Prerequisites:**

- ✓ None

- **Requisites:**

- ✓ Actively participating in and completing at least 90% of training hours at a GCC sponsored GAIN training (either a 4 day National Train the Trainer event in Bloomington, Illinois or a full on-site 3.5 day GCC sponsored training).
- ✓ A signed GAIN usage agreement.

3.) **GAIN Administration Certification** - This level of certification enables a paraprofessional or clinician to administer the GAIN. Note: a supervisor should continue to review the interviews over time to guard against any deterioration in the quality of the administration.

- **Prerequisites**

- ✓ GAIN Coursework certification.

- **Requisites:**

- ✓ Ratings of sufficient or excellent by a GCC QA reviewer on all areas of the GAIN Summary Sheet for QA Feedback based on reviews of audio taped administrations.

4.) **GAIN Local Trainer Certification** - This level of certification is available for those who will be responsible for leading local GAIN trainings at their own agency. These trainings are for staff members at the Local Trainers site and are covered under the same GAIN license as the Local Trainer. The Local Trainer performs quality assurance reviews on trained individuals and recommends them to the GCC for Site Interviewer certification.

- **Prerequisites:**

- ✓ GAIN Administration certification.

- **Requisites:**

- ✓ A signed GAIN Local Trainer's Agreement.

- ✓ Pass Stage One and Stage Two of the Local Trainer process by writing feedback for GAIN interviewers and submitting the interview and feedback written to the GCC until mastery level is reached.

5.) GAIN Regional Trainer Certification - This level of certification (also known as “State Trainers”) is similar to that of a Local Trainer. However, Regional trainers can train Site Interviewers across multiple agencies in a region. Usually, Regional Trainers are supported by a region and often required to do trainings for a project. Certified Regional Trainers can train individuals only within their designated region unless special permission is granted by the GCC. Regional Trainers can train Administrators and Local Trainers if they are collaborating with the GCC to conduct a GAIN “Train the Trainer” training.

- **Prerequisites**
 - ✓ GAIN Local Trainer certification.
- **Requisites:**
 - ✓ A signed GAIN Regional Trainer’s Agreement
 - ✓ Approval of an application by senior certified National Trainers.
 - ✓ Successful participation in a week long GAIN Trainers Institute and at least one GCC sponsored national training to mastery level.
 - ✓ Successful completion of a general competency exam and exams in each specialization area of interest (e.g. clinical, GAIN-Q, GAIN ABS User).
 - ✓ Submission of participant evaluations of each regional non-GCC training conducted.
 - ✓ Annual submission of videotaped training (of one full training) for comments and feedback to maintain certification or sometimes participation in a GCC sponsored training.

6.) GAIN National Trainer Certification - This level of certification is available on an invitation only basis for those that aim to train nationally and be eligible for paid consultant training work with GCC on national and onsite trainings. Certified national trainers can train others as Site Interviewers outside their own agency or research project with proper communication with the GCC. National Trainers can train Administrators and Local Trainers if they are collaborating with GCC in a GAIN “Train the Trainer” training. Additionally, certified National trainers may train a limited number of Administrators and Local Trainers if they also achieve National QA Reviewer certification (see below) and have written permission from the GCC to do so. Requirements for certification:

- **Prerequisites:**
 - ✓ GAIN Local Trainer certification.
- **Requisites:**
 - ✓ Invitation to apply from GCC training team.
 - ✓ A signed GAIN National Trainer’s Agreement.
 - ✓ Approval of an application by senior certified National Trainers.
 - ✓ Successful participation at a week long GAIN Trainers Institute and successful participation in national GAIN trainings (usually one or two) until mastery of all GAIN training material is demonstrated.

- ✓ Successful completion of a general competency exam and exams in each specialization area of interest (e.g. clinical, GAIN-Q, GAIN ABS User).
- ✓ Submission of participant evaluations of each regional non-GCC sponsored training conducted.
- ✓ Paid participation in at least one national or onsite training with GCC each year (or videotaped submission of training with GCC permission).

Specialty Certifications

GAIN National QA Reviewer Certification. This level of certification is available to individuals who wish to review QA tapes for the GAIN Coordinating Center on a consultant basis. It is available on an invitation basis only. More information on this level of certification is available by e-mailing GAIN Research Projects Manager, Sarah Knecht at sknecht@chestnut.org.

Common Questions about Certification Levels:

Q: What is the difference between a Local Trainer and a Regional Trainer?

A: A Local Trainer can only train within their specific site or agency while a Regional Trainer can train at any licensed GAIN agency within their designated region.

Q: What is the difference between a Regional Trainer and a National Trainer?

A: A Regional Trainer is usually chosen by and sponsored by a state or region to become trainer and conducts trainings within their specified region. Regional Trainers typically do not train as a consultant for the GCC. A Regional Trainer is similar to a Local Trainer. A National Trainer is invited by the GCC training team to become a GAIN National trainer with the intent to hire this person on a consultant basis to conduct GCC sponsored GAIN trainings.

Q: Do you have to attend a GCC training in order to become a GAIN Local Trainer?

A: In most cases, yes. A certified National Trainer that is also a certified GAIN National QA reviewer can, on a limited basis and with permission from the GCC, train GAIN local trainers. Most local trainers are trained at GCC sponsored GAIN trainings and work directly with the GCC to attain this level of certification.