



500-Hours Practitioner Certification

American Bowen Academy's 500-hours certification program covers the following:

*** Knowledge of:**

- Human anatomy and physiology as it relates to bodywork
- Pathology as it relates to bodywork
- Professional bodywork ethics
- Effects and benefits of Bowenwork
- Contraindications to Bowenwork
- Sanitation, hygiene and safety measures
- Bowenwork techniques
- Successful business practices
- Bowenwork history and theory

*** Ability to:**

- Communicate in a clear, professional manner
- Establish rapport with a client
- Use critical thinking practices to determine therapeutic courses of action
- Perform sound, safe, healing Bowenwork
- Know when to refer a client out

The main reason for the Academy's 500-hour certification program is to make it easier for practitioners to gain exemption from state massage laws. Having documentation of 500 hours of training enables practitioners to convince legislators that Bowenwork training is the equal of massage training — except for specific massage techniques, which are not necessary for obtaining results.

Classes that qualify for 500-hour certification after completing Modules 1–12 include any of the classes currently listed on our [Focused Studies](#) page. We highly recommend including the 60-hour Pathology class, since it is a required subject for most professional massage and bodywork practitioner certifications.

How difficult is it to accumulate 500 hours? After completing Modules 1-12, most Level-I practitioners need only approximately 180 additional hours of continuing education classes. All classes taken are counted toward the total, even modules or other classes that are repeated. Practitioners complete the 500-hour program over time at whatever pace meets their lifestyle and needs. As soon as they reach that milestone, they will be issued a 500-hours certificate and their listing in search results for practitioners will indicate "500 hours" next to their name.

Learn more about the [Professional Bowenwork Practitioner Certificate Program](#).