

Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) Training Program



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FOAT® Training Program: Training Description

The Focusing and Expressive Arts Institute provides introductory, foundational, intermediate, and advanced levels of FOAT leading to:

1. Certification as a FOAT® Practitioner or FOAT® Facilitator
 - Granted by the Focusing and Expressive Arts (FOAT) Institute
 - See [Certification Page](#) for details and difference between the designations.
2. Certification as a Professional or Focusing-Oriented Therapist (FOT): Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)
 - Granted by The International Focusing Institute (TIFI)
 - For certification as Focusing Trainer: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®), an additional training module is required.

Trainings are tailored to 2 applications:

- *Clinical*: Psychotherapeutic applications (e.g. art therapy, expressive arts, psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, etc.)
- *Non-clinical*: Such as coaching, body-work professions, community, organizational, ministry/spiritual, self-care, health, personal growth, and wellbeing

The Focusing and Expressive Arts Institute meets the requirements of the International Expressive Arts Institute Association (IEATA) to be an approved training institute. For those interested in becoming a Registered Expressive Arts Therapist (REAT) or Registered Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator (REACE), please view the requirements through the [IEATA website](#).

FOAT® Training Program: Training Sequence

The FOAT® Training Program begins with introductory courses that provide an overview of the main theory and practices of FOAT– and help you to see if you are interested in further training. Our trainings are designed so that you can progress through them based on your interests. After successfully completing each level, you may decide whether or not you'd like to continue to the next. We trust that your felt sense will guide you to take the levels of training and/or certification that feel right.

Note: Progression through each level and certification is competency-based. A Certificate of Completion is granted after the successful completion of each level.

Introductory FOAT® Training:

- Introduction to Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)

The following courses may be substituted for the Introduction to FOAT® course, with permission of the Training Director ([click here](#) to email).

- FOAT workshops and courses presented at educational institutions or conferences
- FOAT® Tools I and II (Live Zoom participation)

*Note: **Introduction to FOAT®** provides more theoretical material and case examples than the FOAT® Tools Series. If you are interested in Certification, we recommend taking the Introduction to FOAT® course for these additional components.*

Foundational FOAT® Training:

- Level 1: Foundations and Approaches of Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)
- Level 2: FOAT Facilitation and Partnership Skills

After successfully completing the competencies and requirements for Level 2, trainees will be eligible for the “Proficiency in Focusing Partnership Award” (granted by The International Focusing Institute– requires additional TIFI membership and processing fees). [Click here](#) for full award information.

Intermediate FOAT® Training:

- Level 3: Advanced FOAT Practice Skills and Applications

Advanced FOAT® Training and Certification:

Note: Prior to Certification as a FOAT® Practitioner or FOAT® Facilitator, you need to document 25 hours of Expressive Arts learning. This can be attained through in-person/online courses or workshops, and may be prior to or during the FOAT® Training Program.

- Level 4: Integration and Application of FOAT into Practice
*After successful completion of Level 4 and competence evaluation, trainees may apply for the following **Dual Certification**. For full Certification information, [click here](#).*
 1. **Certification as a FOAT® Practitioner or FOAT® Facilitator** (granted by the FOAT Institute)
 2. **Certification as a Focusing Professional or Focusing-Oriented Therapist (FOT): Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)** (granted by TIFI)

- For those interested in becoming a *Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)* (granted by TIFI), an additional training module on how to train others in Focusing and FOAT® is required. Training module information will be announced at a later date.

FOAT® Training Program: Course Descriptions

I. Introductory FOAT® Training

Introduction to Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)

This course provides an introduction to Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) including its history and development, foundational principles, and main theoretical and practice approaches. Based on Eugene Gendlin's evidence-based Focusing, this training workshop includes learning the main concepts of Focusing Attitude, felt sense, symbol/handle, and felt shift.

The course demonstrates user-friendly expressive arts methods for expressing a felt sense and defines the following main approaches— FOAT Check-in, Theme-Directed FOAT, Clearing a Space with Arts, and Working on an Issue. Didactic presentations, experiential practice exercises and examples provide a rich, varied format for learning.

The following courses may be substituted for the Introduction to Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) course, with permission of the Training Director ([click here](#) to email).

- Workshops and courses presented at educational institutions or conferences
- FOAT® Tools I and II (Live Zoom participation)

*Note: **Introduction to FOAT®** provides more theoretical material and case examples than the FOAT® Tools Series. If you are interested in Certification, we recommend taking the Introduction to FOAT® course for these additional components.*

II. Foundational FOAT® Training

Level 1: Foundations and Approaches of Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)

Prerequisite: Completion of Introduction to FOAT® or permission of Training Director

Level 1 provides an overview of the history, foundational principles, main FOAT approaches, and essential concepts and practices of Gendlin's Focusing. Training includes didactic material, video, readings, demonstrations, experiential practice, and group supervision to learn the foundations of FOAT including: Focusing Attitude, Self-Focusing, Theme-Directed FOAT, Clearing a Space with Arts, FOAT Check-in, Working on an Issue, along with arts and verbal reflections. Level 1 emphasizes learning the foundational practices for oneself, along with beginning partnership skills of presence, witnessing and listening reflections.

Level 2: FOAT Facilitation and Partnership Skills

Prerequisite: Completion of Level 1 or permission of Training Director

Level 2 teaches the foundational skills for facilitating others in the main FOAT approaches learned in Level 1. Skills and methods include: FOAT Partnership, Compassionate Listening (Intermediate), Theme-Directed FOAT, FOAT Check-in, Clearing a Space with Arts, Inner Critic, FOAT with Steps, and Working on an Issue.

A core practice within Focusing and FOAT training programs is the Partnership. Trainees will rotate partners to practice facilitating the fundamental FOAT exercises learned in Level 1. Challenges and blocks to FOAT/Focusing will be addressed. The training includes didactic material, videos, readings, demonstrations, experiential practice, FOAT coaching and supervision.

After successfully completing the competencies and requirements for Level 2, trainees will be eligible for the “Proficiency in Focusing Partnership Award” (granted by The International Focusing Institute– requires additional TIFI membership and processing fees). [Click here](#) for full award information.

III. Intermediate FOAT® Training

Level 3: Advanced FOAT Practice Skills and Applications

Prerequisite: Completion of Level 2 and Competence Evaluation

Level 3 emphasizes:

1. Deepening skillfulness in both individual and group facilitation
2. Learning to apply FOAT to working with different populations and needs
3. Exploring the trainee’s personal interests in applying FOAT (psychotherapy, community, coaching, wellness, creativity, self-growth, spirituality, etc.)

The training includes a variety of learning structures. To deepen FOAT facilitation skills, FOAT Trios (Focuser, Facilitator, Witness), FOAT Partnerships, and expressive arts methods are integrated into the training. FOAT as a trauma-informed approach is presented, along with applications to children, adolescents, adults, and groups. During Level 3, trainees explore their own interests in applying FOAT– creating a Learning Plan and designing a FOAT Project that can be applied in Level 4 as a Final Project for certification. The training includes didactic material, video, readings, demonstrations, experiential practice, peer support groups, FOAT coaching, and individual supervision.

IV. Advanced FOAT® Training and Certification

Level 4: Integration and Application of FOAT into Practice

Prerequisite: Completion of Level 3 and Competence Evaluation

Level 4 provides advanced training and supervision in FOAT. Trainees continue their FOAT Application Project with a goal towards completion, and create a practicum for practicing FOAT with others. Individual and group supervision are provided. FOAT Partnerships and/or Trios with coaching are integrated to further refine skills, increase competence, and support self-awareness and self-care through FOAT. Readings, videos, and other resources are integrated into the training, along with an individualized Learning Plan to support each trainee's unique interests.

After successfully completing the competencies and requirements for Level 4, trainees are eligible for the following dual certification:

1. **Certified FOAT® Practitioner or FOAT® Facilitator** (granted by the Focusing and Expressive Arts Institute). Prior to Certification as a FOAT® Practitioner or FOAT® Facilitator, you need to document 25 hours of Expressive Arts learning. This can be attained through in-person/online courses or workshops, and may be prior to or during the FOAT® Training Program.
2. **Certified Focusing Professional or Focusing-Oriented Therapist (FOT): Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)** (granted by The International Focusing Institute; [click here](#) for additional information).
 - For those interested in becoming a *Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)* (granted by TIFI), an additional training module on how to train others in Focusing and FOAT® is required. Training module information will be announced at a later date.

FOAT® Training Program: Faculty

All faculty listed below are Certified FOAT® Practitioners (FOAT Institute) and Certified Focusing Trainers: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) (TIFI). *Please note, the faculty for each program may be different. To find the faculty for specific programs, please visit that course's registration page.*



Laury Rappaport, Ph.D., LMFT, ATR-BC, REAT, pioneered the development of Focusing-Oriented Art Therapy (FOAT®) and Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®). She is the Founder/Director of the FOAT Institute, and a Certifying Coordinator, Focusing-Oriented Therapist, and Trainer with The International Focusing Institute. In addition, Laury is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (CA), Board Certified Art Therapist with the American Art Therapy Association, and Registered Expressive Arts Therapist with the International Expressive Arts Therapy Association. She is the author of *Focusing-Oriented Art Therapy: Accessing the Body's Wisdom and Creative Intelligence*, editor/author of *Mindfulness and the Arts Therapies: Theory and Practice*, and has published numerous other works. Through the Focusing and Expressive Arts Institute, Laury has brought training programs nationally and internationally throughout the world, including at the University of Hong Kong, University of Guatemala, and in Japan.



Grace Brillantes-Evangelista, Ph.D., RPsy, CSCLP, is a Clinical Psychologist, Professor, Expressive Arts-Based Practitioner, Clinical Supervisor, Consultant, Trainer, and Workshop Facilitator in the Philippines. Grace is a Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in FOAT® (TIFI) and Certified Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) Practitioner (FOAT Institute). Grace has been practicing in the field for over 20 years. She is also the Executive Director of the Integrative Lifestyle And Well-being (ILAW) Center and has served as the Chair of the Department of Psychology at Miriam College. Her work and research include arts-based psychosocial interventions for different communities, mindfulness and FOAT interventions, family and human development, mental health and wellbeing, psychological assessment, child abuse, disaster psychology and resilience, internal displacement, street families, and cyberpsychology. Grace is appreciated for cultivating attunement, inner composure, and resilience among her clients.



Doreen Meister, MA, LMFT, is a Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in FOAT® (TIFI), Certified FOAT® Practitioner (FOAT Institute), and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist - specializing in creative arts expression, existential contemplative psychotherapy, mindfulness, and developmental trauma. For over 15 years, she has been helping adults connect with their own natural, authentic resources to develop resilience, regulation, self-compassion and authenticity. She has a private practice in Oakland, California working virtually with individuals and groups. Her specialty areas of training include: FOAT®, guided imagery, somatic touch for resilience and regulation, self-inquiry, and existential humanistic contemplative psychotherapy. In addition, Doreen has over 20 years mediation experience in non-dual traditions and expresses her creativity through jewelry design.



Lynn Pollock, MA, LMHC, REAT, is an Expressive Arts Therapist in private practice in Massachusetts. Her clinical work includes over 14 years of experience working in community-based services with children and their families, and in her private practice she specializes in working with adults who struggle with mood, anxiety, trauma, and adjustment issues. Lynn received her Master's degree from Lesley University in Cambridge, MA, and is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in Massachusetts. She is a Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in FOAT® (TIFI) and Certified FOAT® Practitioner (FOAT Institute). She is trained in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy (EMDR) and is fascinated by the intersection between EMDR and focusing. She has also recently co-produced a series of training videos, *Creative Inspirations from the Field: Staying Engaged with the Arts*.



Marise Lariviere, LMFT, ATR, TCF, received her Master's degree in Art Therapy and Marriage and Family Therapy from Notre Dame de Namur University in California. She is a Certified Focusing Trainer: Specialization in FOAT® (TIFI), a Certified FOAT® Practitioner (FOAT Institute), and a Registered Art Therapist with the American Art Therapy Association. Marise's passion for the visual arts inspired her to acquire artistic skills in a variety of media and to experience the profound value of art for self-expression. She now uses the expressive arts to help others access their own inner knowing for positive growth and healing through a wide range of mindful creative experiences. Marise is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in California and Quebec, Canada.

FOAT® Training Program: Group Meeting Dates

Group 1: Began September 18, 2023

3:00pm - 6:30pm PT / [Time Zone Converter](#)

Level 1: September 18 - December 18, 2023

- September 18
- October 2, 16, 30
- November 13, 20
- December 4, 18

Level 2: January 29 - June 3, 2024

- January 29
- February 12, 26
- March 11, 25
- April 8, 22
- May 6, 20
- June 3

Level 3: September 23, 2024 - February 24, 2025

- 2024
 - September 23
 - October 7, 21
 - November 4, 18
 - December 9
- 2025
 - January 13, 27
 - February 10, 24

Level 4: April 7 - October 27, 2025

- April 7, 21
- May 5, 19
- June 2, 16
- August 25
- September 15
- October 6, 27

Group 2: Began March 16, 2025

10:30am - 1:30pm PT / [Time Zone Converter](#)

Level 1: March 16 - June 25, 2025

- March 19
- April 2, 16, 30
- May 14, 28
- June 11, 25

Level 2 - 4: TBA

- Future training dates will be announced.

Please Note: Each level of the FOAT® Training Program (Levels 1 - 4) consists of scheduled group meetings that include didactic, experiential practice exercises, group mentoring, and supervision. **For this training series, participants must attend 90% of the group meetings per**

level (exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances with approval from the Training Director).

We are aware that it may be difficult to attend this training series based on time zone differences and work schedules. It is our goal to offer FOAT® Levels 1 - 4 Trainings at different times in the future. It may be possible to arrange individualized FOAT Training if you are interested. Please email us at office@focusingarts.com if you would like to explore individualized FOAT Training or if you would like a FOAT Training in your time zone.

FOAT® Training Program: Costs

All costs and fees are shown in USD - US Dollar.

Partial scholarships and work-study available for each level based on financial need.

Contact office@focusingarts.com for application.

FOAT® Training Program: Levels 1 - 4 through Certification

FOAT Course	Early Bird Cost	Regular Cost
FOAT Level 1: 8 meetings + ½ hour individual supervision	\$900	\$1000
FOAT Level 2: 10 meetings + 1 hour individual supervision	\$1100	\$1200
FOAT Level 3: 10 meetings + 2 hours individual supervision	\$1200	\$1300
FOAT Level 4: 10 meetings + 2 hours individual supervision	\$1200	\$1300
Total (Levels 1 - 4) <i>FOAT Institute: Certification as FOAT® Practitioner or Facilitator</i> <i>TIFI: Certification as Focusing Professional or FOT: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®)</i>	\$4400	\$4800

FOAT Trainer Module Costs: *To be announced*

See Additional Fees on next page →

Costs (Continued)

All costs and fees are shown in USD - US Dollar.

Additional Fees

\$125. * Outside Supervision with Focusing and/or expressive arts supervisors from our provided list of professionals who agreed to this fee per session (2 sessions required). * *If you choose an independent supervisor, this fee may vary.*

Certification Review Fees:

\$150. Level 4: Review for Dual Certification as a FOAT® Practitioner/Facilitator (granted by the Focusing and Expressive Arts Institute) *and* Certification as Focusing Professional/FOT: Specialization in Focusing-Oriented Expressive Arts (FOAT®) (granted by The International Focusing Institute; [click here](#) for additional TIFI membership and Certification fees).