



CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE
Association for
Talent Development

2020

Associate Professional in
Talent Development (APTD)

CERTIFICATION HANDBOOK



**ASSOCIATE
PROFESSIONAL
IN TALENT
DEVELOPMENT**

ATD CERTIFICATION
INSTITUTE

ATD Certification Institute
1640 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314, USA
Phone: 703.683.8100 • 800.628.2783
Email: APTDcertification@td.org
Website: www.td.org/aptd

PREFACE

The APTD Certification Handbook is the primary source for the APTD program and provides individuals with everything they need to know to understand, participate in, and complete the APTD certification process. It is a must read for APTD applicants and candidates. Candidates must comply with all policies, procedures, and deadlines in this manual.

The ATD Certification Institute (ATD CI) reserves the right to change the standards, application, and requirements for the APTD certification and recertification processes as necessary. It is important that candidates refer to the Certification Handbook often to check for updates to ensure they have the most current information.

The APTD Certification Handbook is the property of ATD CI. Permission to reproduce its contents must be granted in writing from ATD CI.

Effective April 1, 2020

All policies and procedures in the APTD Certification Handbook are effective as of the date above and supersede all previous policies and procedures.

This Handbook identifies the application and registration processes, eligibility requirements, and fees as well as detailed information about the two examinations, testing requirements, and scoring methodology.

Each candidate must read the entire Handbook BEFORE beginning the application, registration, and payment processes for the APTD program.

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INTRODUCTION

The ATD Certification Institute

The ATD Certification Institute (ATD CI) is an independent not-for-profit organization created by the Association for Talent Development (ATD) to set industry standards for the talent development profession.

The Institute's **mission** is to elevate the talent development profession by:

- setting talent development industry standards
- providing an independent assessment of those standards through testing
- supporting career paths through a flexible stackable credentialing framework
- ensuring recognition for those who have earned the certification
- recognizing continued professional development through certification maintenance

Its **vision** is to provide world-class credentials for the talent development community.

The Talent Development Capability Model™

The Talent Development Capability Model defines the capabilities (knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors) for the talent development field. It answers the question, “What do talent development professionals need to know and do to be successful?” The model is the foundation for APTD certification, with the exam blueprint using a subset of the foundational knowledge deemed appropriate for a talent development professional at the three-year mark in their career. For more detailed information about the model, go to www.td.org/capability-model.



WHAT IS APTD®?

The Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) is a certification for talent development professionals offered by the ATD Certification Institute (ATD CI). The credential is grounded in the Talent Development Capability Model. The APTD covers a subset of knowledge from the Talent Development Capability Model, focusing on the foundational knowledge needed for successful performance by early career professionals with at least three (3) years of experience in talent development.

Individuals who wish to pursue the APTD certification must meet program eligibility requirements and pass a two-hour standardized exam. Those who pass the exam earn the right to display the APTD designation after their name. As it is a certification, professionals earning the credential need to recertify every three years with proven professional development activities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the APTD program, all candidates must meet all criteria of one of the following pathways.

- ☐ **Standard Pathway**
 - ☐ Have at least three (3) years (36 months) of paid, professional work experience* in talent development or related fields and
 - ☐ Completed 28 hours of professional development** within the most recent three years
- ☐ **ATD Master Pathway**
 - ☐ Have at least three (3) years (36 months) of paid, professional work experience* in talent development or related fields and
 - ☐ Have earned an ATD Masters designation (entire professional development requirement fulfilled by earning an ATD Masters) within the past three years

	Standard Pathway	ATD Master Pathway
Experience	Three years (36 months) of paid, professional work experience* with adults in the talent development field or related discipline. Related disciplines include human resources, higher education or similar	Three years (36 months) of paid, professional work experience* with adults in the talent development field or related discipline. Related disciplines include human resources, higher education or similar
	PLUS	PLUS
Education / Professional Development	Twenty-eight hours (28) of professional development over the past 36 months in talent development content. Talent Development content is considered topics related to the Developing Professional Capability and Impacting Organizational Capability of the ATD Capability Model	Successful completion of any ATD Master Series Certificate within the past three years (36 months)

*Paid, professional **work experience** is defined as on-the-job experience, working with adults, performing talent development activities as described in the Developing Professional Capability and/or Impacting Organizational Capability domains of the Talent Development Capability Model.

Candidates must have reached the required months of experience at the time of application.

The **Professional Development eligibility requirement is designed to assist in ensuring applicants for certification have a solid foundation of talent development knowledge on which to be assessed.

Professional Development for eligibility is defined as activities where the content covered falls into the Building Professional Capability and the Impacting Organizational Capability domains of the Talent Development Capability Model. Content from concepts found in the Developing Personal Capability domain are not applicable for eligibility. Courses designed to prepare you for the certification exam may be

applicable, if preapproved. ATD's preparation courses for the APTD can be reported for a total of 20 hours of professional development eligibility.

Examples of Eligible Continuing Education Activities:

- Attending commercially available talent development educational courses or talent development workshops.
- Attending educational sessions related to the talent development industry at local conferences such as ATD or SHRM chapter sponsored conferences.
- Attending talent development chapter events or other talent development industry meetings
 - Business meetings, committee meetings, and general information meetings are not eligible.
- Attending undergraduate or graduate-level talent development courses from an accredited institution are eligible for 15 hours per semester credit hour.

Other points to consider:

- Applicants should retain proof of completion in the event they are selected for audit
- One hour is awarded for each physical hour of a continuing education activity unless otherwise specified.
- Hours are accrued on an hourly basis for all educational time in talent development related continuing education events, including online training. Prorated hours (in 15- minute increments) are permissible after the first 30 minutes.
- All educational activities must be at least 30 minutes in length to qualify.
- Educational activities must directly contribute to the talent development professional's understanding of concepts that fall within the Building Professional Capability and Impacting Organizational Capability domains of the Talent Development Capability Model. Content from concepts found in the Developing Personal Capability domain are not applicable for eligibility.
- Courses designed to prepare you for APTD certification exams may be applicable, if preapproved. ATD's preparation courses for the APTD can be reported for a total of 20 hours of professional development eligibility
- Hours are not awarded for non-educational time incorporated in educational activities such as meals, breaks, networking, registration, preparation, and assignments.

2020 TESTING DATES

When you apply to take the APTD exam, you will be given the choice of several 90-day exam windows during which you may test that includes blackout dates when testing is not offered. The deadline to register is approximately 30 days before the start of each 90-day window.

2020 APTD Exam Schedule			
Registration Opens	Registration Deadline	Exam Window	Scores
April 8, 2020	June 6, 2020	July 6 – September 23, 2020 (with testing blackout period of July 31 – September 1, 2020)	Immediate at testing center
April 8, 2020	August 2, 2020	September 2 – November 25, 2020 (with testing blackout period of September 24 – November 3, 2020)	Immediate at testing center
April 8, 2020	October 4, 2020	November 4, 2020 – January 27, 2021 (with testing blackout period of November 26, 2020 – January 5, 2021)	Immediate at testing center

All applications that include a request for Special Accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act must be received 10 weeks before the selected testing window to arrange the necessary and available accommodations with the testing vendor.

Remote Proctoring

In July 2020, ATD will begin offering remote proctoring as an option for candidates taking the newly revised APTD exam. For more information about remote proctoring, please see this page on the ATD website:

<https://www.td.org/certification/remoteproctoring>.

Additional information will become available in late June 2020 about how to register for remote proctoring and what to expect during the testing experience.

2020 TESTING FEES

TYPE	AMOUNT	DETAILS
Exam Fee (nontransferable)	\$499.00 USD <i>ATD Member</i> \$699.00 USD <i>Nonmember</i>	<p>Fees include: testing seat for exam during 2 consecutive administrations (90 day window), exam score report, and APTD certificate and lapel pin once certification is achieved.</p> <p>Fees do not include: study materials, study group support or preparatory classes, traveling expenses to and from testing centers, or retest, transfer, and test administration fees.</p> <p>NOTE: Candidates must register for a specific window at the time of registration. The eligibility is for a two-administration span of time and If the candidate chooses to transfer to a later testing window set, a transfer fee will apply. If a candidate does not test during the 18-month eligibility period, all fees are forfeited.</p> <p>Candidates who decide to withdraw from the program can receive a refund if the request is made prior to the registration deadline for the window they selected. After that time, no refunds will be issued.</p> <p>Audit Refund: Pending an audit review, a review fee of \$250 will be withheld for anyone deemed ineligible for the program.</p>
Administration Late Rescheduling/Missed Appointment Fee	\$100.00 USD	An administrative fee of \$100 is required and paid directly to ATD CI when a candidate reschedules or cancels the exam appointment with less than 72 hours' notice and for all No-Show/Missed appointments. If rescheduling, the new test appointment must be within the same registered testing window or it will be considered a transfer and, if eligible, a \$300 transfer fee will apply. Rescheduling requests are subject to eligibility and availability.
Transfer Fee	\$225.00 USD	Fee applies to switch to a different testing window set. This fee is nontransferable and nonrefundable.
Retest Fee	\$225.00 USD	Fee applies to retake either exam after failing that exam. This fee is nontransferable and nonrefundable.
Special Accommodation	No Fee	No fee provided the ADA requirements outlined in the APTD Certification Handbook are followed. ATD CI makes final decisions regarding accommodations granted.
Recertification Application Fee	\$200.00 USD	Fee applies to participate in the recertification process. A completed recertification application must accompany the payment. Recertification is required every three (3) years.

Recertification Retest Fee	\$350.00 USD	Fee applies to credential holders electing to retest to satisfy the recertification professional development requirement. Note: this fee is in <i>addition</i> to the Recertification Application Fee and covers one testing seat for exam during 2 consecutive windows (90 day window) and exam score report.
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Preparatory resources are available through ATD for a fee and are not included in the cost of the exams.

APTD EXAM

To achieve the APTD credential, candidates must meet the eligibility criteria and pass a standardized exam of traditional, four-option multiple-choice questions focusing on the foundational knowledge required for successful performance after three years of experience. Scores will be given immediately at the end of the exam at the test center.

APTD Exam Format

The APTD Exam is designed to measure a candidate's foundational knowledge of the talent development profession that is based on a subset of content from the Talent Development Capability Model.

- The full exam contains 125 multiple choice questions that focus on the topics listed in the Detailed Content Outline of the exam found in this Handbook.
- Candidates will have two (2) hours to complete the exam.
- Examples of test questions can be found in the Appendix of this Candidate Handbook.

What is on the APTD Exam

The Detailed Content Outline provides the syllabus or blueprint of the content covered on the APTD exam. While the full exam focuses on a variety of knowledge, certain content areas are weighted more heavily than others. The table below outlines the content covered and the relative weighting of topics on the exam by domain of practice.

Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) Detailed Content Outline <i>Effective July 1, 2020</i>		
Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
1. Building Personal Capability		20%
1.1 Communication	1.1.A Skill in conceiving, developing, and delivering information in various formats and media, for example reports, briefings, memorandums, presentations, articles, and emails.	
1.2 Emotional Intelligence & Decision-Making	1.2.A Knowledge of theories of emotional intelligence.	
1.3 Collaboration & Leadership	1.3.A Knowledge of theories, methods, and techniques to build and manage professional relationships, for example group dynamics, teamwork, shared experience, and negotiation. 1.3.B Knowledge of methods and criteria for establishing and managing collaboration among various units, for example finance, operations, IT, and sales/marketing. 1.3.C Knowledge of principles and techniques for providing feedback. 1.3.D Knowledge of theories of leadership, for example transformational, inclusive, and situational.	
1.4 Cultural Awareness & Inclusion	1.4.A Knowledge of methods and techniques to foster cultural awareness, encourage cultural sensitivity, and broaden viewpoints.	
1.5 Project Management	1.5.A Knowledge of project management principles and processes, for example scheduling, planning, allocating resources, evaluating, and reporting.	
1.6 Compliance & Ethical Behavior	1.6.A Knowledge of laws, regulations, and ethical issues related to the development of instructional content, for example intellectual property and copyright laws and accessibility requirements.	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
2. Developing Professional Capability		50%
2.1 Learning Sciences	<p>2.1.A Knowledge of the principles and applications of cognitive science for learning, for example auditory and visual processing, information storage/retrieval, memory, and cognitive load</p> <p>2.1.B Knowledge of theories and models of adult learning, for example Knowles' Adult Learning Theory, Bloom's Taxonomy, Gagne's Nine Levels of Learning, Mager's Criterion-Referenced Instruction Approach, social and collaborative learning, and experiential learning.</p> <p>2.1.C Knowledge of the foundational learning theories of behaviorism, cognitivism, and constructivism.</p>	
2.2 Instructional Design	<p>2.2.A Knowledge of instructional modalities, for example classroom learning, blended learning, massive open online courses (MOOCs), gamification, multi-device/mobile learning, and virtual reality simulations.</p> <p>2.2.B Knowledge of types and applications of instructional methods and techniques, for example discussion, self-directed learning, role playing, lecture, action learning, demonstration, and/or exercise.</p> <p>2.2.C Knowledge of methods and techniques for planning, designing, and developing instructional content.</p> <p>2.2.D Knowledge of the criteria used to assess the quality and relevance of instructional content in relation to a desired learning or behavioral outcome.</p> <p>2.2.E Knowledge of methods and techniques for defining learning and behavioral outcome statements.</p> <p>2.2.F Knowledge of how design thinking and rapid prototyping can be applied to the development of learning and talent development solutions.</p> <p>2.2.G Knowledge instructional design models and processes, for example ADDIE and SAM.</p> <p>2.2.H Knowledge of how formal and informal learning experiences influence and/or support individual and group development.</p>	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	
2.3 Training Delivery & Facilitation	2.3.A Knowledge of facilitation methods and techniques.	
2.4 Technology Application	<p>2.4.A Knowledge of techniques and approaches to leverage social media platforms and tools to support knowledge sharing, idea exchange, and learning.</p> <p>2.4.B Knowledge of existing learning technologies and support systems, for example collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media.</p> <p>2.4.C Knowledge of communication technologies and their applications, for example video conferencing, web-conferencing, audience response systems, and presentation software.</p> <p>2.4.D Knowledge of functions, features, limitations, and practical applications of the technologies available to support learning and talent development solutions.</p>	
2.5 Knowledge Management	2.5.A Knowledge of methods and techniques for disseminating and/or sharing knowledge across individuals, groups, and organizations.	
2.6 Career & Leadership Development	<p>2.6.A Knowledge of leadership development practices and techniques, for example formal training programs, job rotation, and coaching and/or mentoring.</p> <p>2.6.B Knowledge of career development methods and techniques, for example job rotations and stretch assignments.</p>	
2.7 Coaching	2.7.A Skill in helping individuals or teams identify goals, develop realistic action plans, seek development opportunities, and monitor progress and accountability.	
2.8 Evaluating Impact	<p>2.8.A Knowledge of models and methods to evaluate the impact of learning and talent development solutions.</p> <p>2.8.B Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, techniques, and tools, for example observations, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and/or assessments.</p>	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
3. Impacting Organizational Capability		30%
3.1 Business Insight	3.1.A Knowledge of business strategies and factors that influence an organization's competitive position in the industry.	
3.2 Consulting & Business Partnering	3.2.A Knowledge of needs assessment approaches and techniques.	
3.3 Organization Development & Culture	3.3.A Knowledge of work roles, relationships, and reporting structures within an organization. 3.3.B Knowledge of strategies and techniques for building, supporting, and/or promoting an organizational culture that values talent and learning as drivers of competitive advantage.	
3.4 Talent Strategy & Management	3.4.A Knowledge of talent management functions, for example workforce planning, acquisition, employee development, performance management, and compensation and rewards. 3.4.B Knowledge of methods to identify critical requirements of tasks, jobs, and roles, for example job analysis, competency modeling, and leadership competency development. 3.4.C Knowledge of approaches for identifying and developing high potential talent.	
3.5 Performance Improvement	3.5.A Knowledge of performance analysis methods and techniques, for example business process analysis, performance gap assessment, and root-cause analysis. 3.5.B Knowledge of how human interactions with work environments, tools, equipment, and technology affect individual and organizational performance.	
3.6 Change Management	3.6.A Knowledge of how change impacts people and organizations.	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	
3.7 Data & Analytics	3.7.A Knowledge of data visualization, including principles, methods, types and applications, for example texture and color mapping, data representation, graphs, word clouds.	
3.8 Future Readiness	<p>3.8.A Knowledge of techniques to promote, support, and/or generate innovation and creativity, for example design thinking, brainstorming, and ideation.</p> <p>3.8.B Knowledge of emerging learning technologies and support systems, for example collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media.</p>	

PREPARING FOR THE APTD EXAM

There is no single, best way to prepare for the APTD examination. Preparation methods and duration all depend on a candidate's personal experiences and knowledge base. There is not a mandatory test preparation or study requirement for the APTD program, nor a preferred preparation method. ATD CI recommends that each candidate begin with a careful evaluation of the APTD Detailed Content Outline (above). This provides detailed information about the topics that are covered on the APTD exam and can be used as a general guide for the study process.

Step 1: Candidates should begin with an honest gap-assessment to determine areas of strength and weakness. This can help candidates focus their study plan. A Gap Assessment tool can be found in the Appendix of this Candidate Handbook.

Step 2: Once a candidate has identified those areas for focus, you can develop a personal study plan. It is important to set a personal schedule and to hold yourself accountable to that schedule. Enlist a colleague, friend, or family member with whom you can share your plan. They can help keep you on track. You can then create a personalized study plan.

Reading Reference List

Review the ATD CI list of books on its Resource Reference List. This list designed to assist candidates in finding publications to aid in filling knowledge gap areas. It is not designed to be exhaustive or intended to be a must-read list. Each candidate will have their own gaps and their own personal libraries from which to prepare.

These resources are more comprehensive in nature, covering multiple topics across several capabilities:

- [Talent Development Body of Knowledge](#) (2020), ATD Press
- [The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization](#) (2006) Senge, Peter. Doubleday
- [ATD Foundations of Talent Development](#) (2018) Biech, E. ATD Press
- [ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition](#) (2014) Biech, E., ed. ASTD Press
- [Talent Management Handbook](#) (2015) Bickham, T. ATD Press

1. Building Personal Capability	
1.1 Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer, Erik. Own Any Occasion: Mastering the Art of Speaking and Presenting. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Appleman, Jack. 10 Steps to Successful Business Writing, 2nd Edition. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Association for Talent Development, 10 Steps to Successful Presentations, 2nd Edition. 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Ito, Tim. K. O'Quinn. Focus on Them: Become the Manager Your People Need You to Be. 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Evergreen, S. Effective Data Visualization: The Right Chart for the Right Data, 2nd Edition. 2019, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
1.2 Emotional Intelligence and Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goleman, D. Emotional Intelligence. 2005, New York: Bantam Press.
1.3 Collaboration and Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biech, E., ed. ASTD Leadership Handbook. 2010, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. • Senge, P. The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization. 2006, New York: Doubleday. • Haneberg, L. 10 Steps to Be a Successful Manager. 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Ito, T., W. Jenkins, K. O'Quinn. Focus on Them: Become the Manager Your People Need You to Be. 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Johansen, B. The New Leadership Literacies: Thriving in a Future of Extreme Disruption and Distributed Everything. 2017, Oakland, CA: Berrett-Koehler Publishers. • Zenger, J. and J. Folkman. The New Extraordinary Leader: Turning Good Managers into Great Leaders. 2019, New York: McGraw-Hill Publishers.
1.4 Cultural Awareness and Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silveira, E and Walters, J. TD at Work, "Building Blocks of Workplace Inclusion". 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Rabotin, M. Culture Savvy: Working and Collaborating Across the Globe. 2011, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. • Livermore, D. Leading with Cultural Intelligence: The Real Secret to Success, 2nd Edition. 2015, New York: AMACOM.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steffey, D. Destination Facilitation: A Travel Guide to Training Around the World. Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
1.5 Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horine, G. Project Management: Absolute Beginner's Guide, 4th Edition. 2017, Indianapolis, IN: Que Publishing.
1.6 Compliance and Ethical Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd edition (Chapter 18). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Collins, D. Business Ethics: How to Design and Manage Ethical Organizations, 2nd Edition. 2019, Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

2. Developing Professional Capability

2.1 Learning Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapters 11, 13, 21 & 28). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Knowles, M. The Adult Learner, 8th Edition. 2015, New York: Routledge. Brown, P., H. Roediger, and M. McDaniel. Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning. 2014, Boston: Belknap Harvard. Biech, E. The Art and Science of Training. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
2.2 Instructional Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hodell, C. ISD From the Ground Up, 4th Ed. 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Dirksen, J. Design for How People Learn, 2nd Edition. 2015, San Francisco: New Riders Press. Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 9). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Toth, T. Technology for Trainers, 2nd Ed. 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
2.3 Training Delivery and Facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dirksen, J. Design for How People Learn, 2nd Ed. 2015, San Francisco: New Riders Press. Skolovitch, H. D., and E. J. Keeps. Telling Ain't Training, 2nd Edition. 2011, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E. The Art and Science of Training. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E., ed. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 20). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Association for Talent Development. 10 Steps to Successful Facilitation. 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
2.4 Technology Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Udall, C. and G. Woodill. Shock of the New. 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E. ATD Foundations of Talent Development (Chapter 13). 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Foreman, S. The LMS Guidebook. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
2.5 Knowledge Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E., ed. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 17 & 41). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Betts, B. and A. Anderson. Ready Set Curate. 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Atwood, C. Knowledge Management Basics. 2009, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. O'Dell, C & Grayson, C.J. If We Only Knew What We Know: The Transfer of Internal Knowledge. 2012, New York: Free Press.
2.6 Career and Leadership Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E, ed. ASTD Leadership Handbook. 2010, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Biech, E., ed. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 49). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bickham, T. Talent Management Handbook (Chapter 19). 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Zenger, J. and J. Folkman. The New Extraordinary Leader: Turning Good Managers into Great Leaders. 2019, New York: McGraw-Hill Publishers. Bruce, A. and S. Montanez. Leaders Start to Finish: A Road Map for Developing Top Performers. 2012, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
2.7 Coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haneberg, L. Coaching Basics, 2nd Edition. 2016, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Bianco-Mathis, V. & Nabors, L. EveryDay Coaching. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E. ATD Foundations of Talent Development (Chapter 16 & 26). 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 40). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press.
2.8 Evaluating Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kirkpatrick, J. and W. Kirkpatrick. Four Levels of Training Evaluation. 2016, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. McCain, D. Evaluation Basics. 2016, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapter 29 - 33). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Association for Talent Development. <i>TD at Work</i>, "A Strategic Approach to Talent Development." 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.

3. Impacting Organizational Capability

3.1 Business Insight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd edition (Chapter 43). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Biech, E. ATD Foundations of Talent Development (Chapter 6 & 12). 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Oliver, L. <i>TD at Work</i>, "Preparing & Defending Your Training Budget." 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Cope, K. Seeing the Big Picture: Business Acumen to Build Your Credibility, Career, and Company. 2012, Austin, TX: Greenleaf Book Group Press. Oliver, L and Nin, E. 10 Steps to Successful Budgeting. 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
3.2 Consulting and Business Partnering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biech, E., editor. ASTD Handbook, 2nd Edition (Chapters 7, 36, 38, and 47). 2014, Alexandria, VA: ASTD Press. Association for Talent Development, <i>TD at Work Collection</i>, "A Strategic Approach to Talent Development." 2019, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Needs Assessment Basics, 2nd Edition. 2016, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Biech, E. ATD Foundations of Talent Development (Section I & II & Chapter 9). 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Scott, B. and Barnes, B.K. Consulting on the Inside, 2nd Edition. 2011, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
3.3 Organization Development and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burkett, H. Learning for the Long Run: 7 Practices for Sustaining a Resilient Learning Organization. 2017, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Stallard, M. Connection Culture: The Competitive Advantage of Shared Identity, Empathy, and Understanding at Work. 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Senge, P. The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization. 2006, New York: Doubleday.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rothwell, W. Organization Development Fundamentals. 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Johnson, S. Engaging the Workplace: Using Surveys to Spark Change. 2018, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press. Bickham, T. Talent Management Handbook (Chapter 7). 2015, Alexandria, VA: ATD Press.
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Additional Preparation Resources:

Additional preparatory resources are listed below.

- **APTD Candidate Preparation LinkedIn Group:** ATD facilitates a [LinkedIn group for APTD candidates](#). We post useful information in the group and it allows candidates to network or share information with one another
- **Active Candidates page:** ATD CI uses this page to store files and resources that may be useful to active candidates, including the most recent Certification Handbooks www.td.org/certification/active-candidates
- **Capability Model FAQ page:** Additional information about the ATD Capability model can be found here: <https://www.td.org/capability-model>
- **Capability Model Assessment Tool:** This online tool is available to compare your skills against the ATD capability model. www.tdcapability.org
- **Talent Development Body of Knowledge:** The [TD Body of Knowledge](#) provides additional detail on each of the capabilities. Keep in mind that not all capability statements are tested on the APTD exam.
- **Preparation Course:** The ATD Education department has developed a new preparation course to help candidates pursuing the APTD credential that is grounded in the new Capability Model. The information for that course can be found here: www.td.org/certification/new-aptd/prepare
- **Sample Questions:** There are 20 sample APTD questions available on the ATD website that can be accessed from this page: <https://www.td.org/certification/sample-questions>. The sample questions are not intended to be diagnostic or a predictor of performance on the exam.
- **Online Flashcards:** Online flashcard systems such as Quizlet and Brainscape have been helpful to candidates in the past. Please be aware that these flashcards are not prepared by ATD and are likely to not reflect the newer Talent Development Capability Model.
- **Chapter Study Groups:** Your local ATD Chapter may support a certification study group. For more information on your local chapter go to www.td.org/chapter-locator.
- **Professional Development Materials:** Refer back to materials from the professional development programs, courses, or workshops you participated in prior to applying for certification. Find resources on the Internet (study materials, workshops, study groups, and so on) or use third-party materials.

On average, our candidates report that they have spent an average of 40-60 hours preparing for the APTD Exam. When preparing keep the following suggestions in mind:

- Create a realistic study schedule.
- Pay attention to the specific subset of content found on the APTD exam and how they are weighted on the exam.
- Review your personal gap-assessment and concentrate on improving weak areas.
- Recognize that you cannot memorize all the material; use memory techniques to help you recall key points.
- Focus on the *understanding* of accepted principles and theories, not on memorizing names and dates.
- Take notes to help reinforce key concepts.

APPLYING FOR THE APTD EXAM

Before beginning your application, please do the following:

- Read this entire APTD Certification handbook. As part of the application you must sign a statement verifying that you have read the Handbook.
- During the online application process, you will also be required to sign important releases and agreements, including an applicant declaration and release, intent to participate and the ATD CI Code of Ethics. These agreements are included in this Handbook. You should familiarize yourself with this information prior to enrolling in the program.
- Make sure you have a current resume. During the application process, you will be asked to upload it.
- Add certification@td.org to your email “safe list” to ensure that you receive communications about the CPTD program.

If you will require special accommodations during the testing process, please review the special accommodations policy section on page 27 before applying.

Submitting Your Application for the APTD

To apply for the APTD certification program go to the [ATD Certification Portal](#) to APPLY. If you don't already have an ATD login and password, you will be asked to create one. If you have questions, please call ATD customer Care at 800.628.2783 for assistance. **If you already have a login on the ATD site, please use that login name and password when you sign in, as it will link your information from your td.org account.**

To begin the process, applicants will need to consider the following:

- **Legal Name:** You will be asked to supply your full legal name as it appears on your official, government-issued identifications. In order to be admitted to the testing center, your official identification MUST match the name on your exam registration. If they do not match, you will be denied entry to the testing center and will have to pay a Transfer Fee.
- **Certificate Name:** This is the name you wish to be known as in correspondence with ATD CI and the name you wish to have printed on the APTD Certificate.
- **Testing Windows:** During the application process, you will be asked to select a specific window. Please consider your schedule carefully when choosing your test window for the exam. Eligibility will be granted for a two-consecutive window timeframe (approximately 90 days, of which approximately 60 days are active testing days) and you may schedule your appointment during any part of this two-window set. Once your exam registration has been paid, you will be charged a transfer fee if you wish to change the test window. Please refer to page 8 for program fee information.
- **Employment Details and Resume:** During the application process, you will be asked to provide specifics about your employment in the talent development field, including position title, starting and ending dates, employer names, and employer addresses. You will need to upload a current copy of your resume.

- **Professional Development Details:** You will need to detail professional development activities that you have completed within the last five years, including dates and hours of participation.
- Be sure to include enough employment and professional development information to meet the minimum eligibility requirements. **If you have more than one talent development employment position to report, add more employers by clicking the ADD NEW button in the application. You will not be permitted to submit the application until you have met all the criteria.**
- Include names and contact information of references **from each listed employer** who can validate your talent development experience.

Audit of Applications

Roughly 10% of APTD applications are selected for audit. During the audit process, if there are questions about your eligibility, you will be contacted to provide more specific documentation. If deemed ineligible, you will be invited to reapply once the minimum eligibility requirement is met. To appeal an eligibility decision, refer to Appendix C, page 44, for the appeals process.

An applicant does not become an official candidate until the APTD application is complete, the registration fee is paid, and your application has been approved. Once approved, your APTD candidacy will officially begin. You will need to pass the APTD exam within 18 months from the date of registration in order to achieve the APTD credential. If you have not been successful within the 18-month period, you will need to reapply as a new candidate, meet all eligibility requirements in force at the time, and pay all fees in full.

Payment of Fees

To pay for your exam fees, choose one of the following options:

- **Credit Card payment:** Follow the process to make a credit card payment. A receipt will be created that you can print or save.
- **Check or wire payment:** Please contact ATD Customer Care at 1-800-628-2783 to be sent an invoice with payment instructions.

Once your application has been approved and payment has been processed, you will receive an email from ATD Certification Institute with instructions on how to schedule your exam appointment. You will also see a “Schedule Exam” message in your Candidate Portal. Please white-list the certification@td.org email address to be sure that you receive the appropriate notifications.

SCHEDULING YOUR TEST

The APTD certification process involves candidates taking and passing a standardized exam that focuses on skills through professional judgement and decision-making. The exam is a computer-based test which is administered at an ATD CI-authorized testing center or via the official ATD remote proctoring platform during exam windows. Scores are reported to candidates by the testing center's proctor via a printed score report at the end of the exam or can be downloaded later from the candidate portal.

Candidates who are unsuccessful with the exam may register to retake the exam in a later exam window if their APTD candidacy has not expired.

Testing Centers

- ATD CI partners with a PearsonVUE to deliver the exams. The test provider offers authorized testing centers in most major cities in the United States and Canada as well as in many global locations. The testing vendor cannot guarantee the availability of testing sessions at all global locations during all testing windows, and all testing center locations are subject to change. For the list of the testing centers, go [here](#).

ATD CI recommends that candidates schedule appointments at a Pearson Professional Center (PPC). PPCs are owned and managed entirely by Pearson VUE. All PPCs have the same layouts, policies, computer stations, etc. so consistency is guaranteed from one center to another.

Although Pearson VUE Authorized Testing Centers (PVTC) may have available appointments, all PVTCs are owned and independently operated by third-party providers. These centers will vary from location to location and schedules may vary at these locations, *including possible last-minute schedule changes that may affect your appointment, necessitating last-minute rescheduling.*

Remote Proctoring

In July 2020, ATD will begin offering remote proctoring as an option for candidates taking the newly revised APTD exam. For more information about remote proctoring, please see this page on the ATD website: <https://www.td.org/certification/remoteproctoring>. Additional information will become available in late June 2020 about how to register for remote proctoring and what to expect during the testing experience.

Appointment Scheduling

- After your application is approved and payment is made, you will receive an email from ATD CI, as well as a message in your candidate portal, to schedule your exam appointment. Click on the "Schedule Exam" button in the portal.
- Your eligibility is for two consecutive testing windows. You will incur a transfer fee if you need to schedule an appointment outside these two availabilities.
- Appointments must be scheduled within the testing window only. No tests can be taken outside the testing window.

- **Testing appointments are arranged on a first come, first served basis. We recommend** choosing a testing date early in the process so that you have an ample number of dates, times, and locations from which to choose.
- If you are unable to test in your selected testing window because a desired testing date or time is no longer available, a transfer fee will be charged if you are eligible to transfer.
- Think carefully about the timing of your appointment within the testing windows and schedule your appointment accordingly. Appointments made late in the windows allow more time to study and prepare, but if you are not able to test during your appointment, ATD CI cannot extend the window. You risk having to pay the transfer fee if you are caught too late in the window and are unable to test.
- All requests for Special Accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act must be submitted to ATD CI directly **as part of the application and registration**. Please see page 27 for more details on requesting accommodations and contact Certification@td.org to obtain the request for special accommodations form.
- The testing provider cannot guarantee availability of testing sessions at specific global locations

Appointment Confirmation

- After scheduling a testing appointment through the online scheduling system, you will receive a confirmation email from PearsonVue with details of your appointment.
- The confirmation email will include your name and candidate authorization number; the test center name and address; and the date, time, and location of the testing appointment.

Exam Dates Affected by Severe Weather or Local/National Emergencies

If a test date is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or other types of local/national emergencies, PearsonVue will contact you to reschedule the appointment at no charge.

Cancellation, Rescheduling, and Transfer Fees

- You must cancel or reschedule testing appointments **directly** with PearsonVue through the online appointment scheduling system.
- All cancellations and reschedules must be made at least 72 hours before the scheduled test day.
- If the cancellation or rescheduling request is made less than 72 hours before the scheduled test day, you will be considered a no-show and are subject to a Missed Appointment Fee of \$100.
- Any missed appointment or late cancellation is considered a no-show. ATD CI requires a \$100 no-show fee to continue your eligibility. Please contact Certification@td.org to remit this fee.
- In specific situations, and with appropriate documentation, you may cancel your testing appointments with less than 72-hours' notice. Please contact Certification@td.org to cancel. Proper documentation includes a hospital intake or discharge paper, obituary, jury duty notice, etc. The following situations are acceptable reasons for late cancellation with documentation:
 - Sudden or serious illness (either candidate or an immediate family member)
 - Death in the immediate family
 - Disabling accident
 - Court appearance
 - Jury Duty
 - Unexpected military call-up

EXAM DAY

What to Bring to the Test Center

The APTD exam is administered in secure testing centers. Only approved candidates are admitted to the test center to take the exam. Upon arrival, you will be required to provide the test administrator with two forms of personal identification (see the information below regarding the specific personal identification requirements). **If your ID does not match the name on your registration, you will not be permitted to test and will owe fees for a missed appointment.**

Personal Identification Requirements

You are required to present two forms of original (no photo copies), valid IDs; one form as a primary ID (government issued with name, photo and signature) and one form as a secondary ID (with name and signature or name and recent recognizable photo). The first and last name that you used to register for the exam must exactly match the first and last name on the ID that is presented on test day. All IDs required must be issued by the country in which you are testing. If you do not have the qualifying ID issued from the country you are testing in, an International Travel Passport from your country of citizenship is required, along with a secondary ID.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ID you are required to bring with you to the testing center for admittance for your exam please contact Pearson VUE at www.pearsonvue.com/contact. To view the full ID policy please visit <http://www.pearsonvue.com/policies/1S.pdf>.

Examples of Primary forms of ID	Examples of Secondary Forms of ID
International Travel Passport · Driver's license · Military ID (including spouse & dependents) · Identification card (national/state/province identity card) · Alien registration card (green card, permanent resident, visa) · Local language ID (not in Roman characters) – accepted only if issued from the Country the Candidate is testing in	Any ID containing at least name and signature, or name and recent recognizable photo with exact-matching first and last name, original (no photocopies), unexpired

It is each individual's responsibility to ensure that the APTD database record shows the full, legal name, including middle name, and that the required identification contains the full, legal name. Candidates should contact ATD CI if the full legal name indicated on their application does not match the full legal name shown on their government-issued ID.

If your ID does not match the name on your registration, you will not be permitted to test and will owe fees for a missed appointment

What to Expect at the Testing Center

- The testing provider personnel will verify your identity prior to allowing you access to the testing center.
- You will be required to leave personal property, including phones, purses, hats, etc. in a locked location outside the testing room. Glasses will be inspected to ensure that they do not include smart technology. You may be asked to empty your pockets, or show that no materials are hidden in boots or sweatshirt pockets, etc. These policies are enforced to ensure that all candidates are following the same strict testing and security policies.
- You must provide required identification to be admitted to the testing center. See above. Individuals without the required identification will NOT be allowed to test.
- Trained test proctors will administer the APTD exams.
- You will be given three pieces of blank paper and two pencils OR white board by the proctor and these items will be collected at the end of the test.
- The examinations will be timed, with a timer displayed on the computer screen. You will be permitted a total timed testing period of 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete the APTD Exam.
- Upon completion of your APTD Exam, you will receive notification of results immediately. To ensure that all candidates earn their results under comparable conditions, a standardized testing environment is maintained. Except where permitted by special accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, none of the following are permitted in the testing room:
 - papers
 - books
 - food and drink
 - calculators
 - smoking materials
 - purses, wallets, briefcases, backpacks, bags (please keep your identification with you at all times)
 - cell phones, pagers, palm pilots, MP3 players
 - watches.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

ATD CI and its testing vendor comply with the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in accommodating candidates with disabilities who need special accommodations to take the exam. If you require special accommodations, you must notify ATD CI of your request **as part of your application**. Only ATD CI has the authority to approve these requests. If you do not make the request at the time of application, your accommodations may not be granted.

The process for notification is as follows:

1. The Request for Special Accommodations is made directly as part of your APTD application and can be found on the td.org website and as part of the APTD online application. You will need to download the document and complete it, prior to submitting your application. This document must be completed by you and signed by a licensed or certified professional qualified to diagnose or treat your condition. In addition, this professional must provide a Statement of Explanation describing the conditions and the special accommodation(s) needed.

2. Both the completed Request for Special Accommodations Form and the Statement of Explanation must be uploaded as part of your APTD application **at least 10 weeks before your selected testing window opens**. Once received, your request will be reviewed to determine if reasonable accommodations can be made. You will be notified within five (5) business days of the decision.
3. Please note that there are no extra fees charged by ATD CI for this accommodation as long as the procedures outlined in this section are followed. For additional information, please contact ATD CI at Certification@td.org.

GENERAL EXAM POLICIES

Exam Copyright

ATD CI holds all proprietary rights for the examination, including copyright and trade secret. In order to protect the integrity of the examination and to ensure the validity of the scores that are reported, candidates must adhere to strict guidelines regarding proper conduct in handling the copyrighted, proprietary information.

Any attempt to reproduce all or part of an examination is strictly prohibited by law. Such attempts include, but are not limited to, removing materials from the examination room, aiding others in reconstructing any portion of an examination by any means, or selling, distributing, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of an exam. Alleged copyright violations will be investigated and, if warranted, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It should also be noted that examination scores might be invalidated in the event of this type of suspected breach.

Confidentiality and Conduct

You must abide by the following confidentiality and conduct agreement. Failure to abide to the rules of conduct may result in your dismissal from the program without refund. The agreement is as follows:

"I understand that the contents of this test are copyrighted, proprietary, and confidential and that disclosure or reproduction of any portion of it to any individual or entity for any purpose whatsoever is prohibited. Such activity will result in the invalidation of test scores and may result in civil and/or criminal prosecution. I can be disqualified from taking or continuing to sit for an examination, or from receiving examination results, or my scores might be canceled if there is substantial reason to believe through proctor observation statistical analysis, and/or other evidence that my score may not be valid or that I was engaged in collaborative, disruptive, or other unacceptable behavior during the administration of this examination."

Grounds for Dismissal

Any candidate who does not have proper identification, who uses unauthorized aids, or who does not follow the testing procedures may be dismissed from the test center. ATD CI may choose to have the test scores of such candidates invalidated.

Candidates who engage in misconduct and do not heed the administrator's warning to discontinue the behavior will be dismissed from the test center. All of the following behaviors are considered to be misconduct:

- giving or receiving assistance of any kind, including accepting exam details from another individual, organization, or entity or providing exam details to another individual, organization, or entity. This includes asking or providing information about content on the exam as part of study groups.
- using any unauthorized aids
- attempting to take the examination for someone else
- failing to follow testing regulations or the instructions of the test administrator
- creating a disturbance of any kind
- removing or attempting to remove examination questions or responses (in any format) or notes about the examination from the testing room
- tampering with the operation of the computer or attempting to use it for any function other than taking the examination.

Before an exam is canceled for misconduct, the test administrator will notify the candidate of any concerns. The candidate is then given an opportunity to provide additional information. The test administrator then has the following options:

- Dismiss the candidate and file a report with ATD CI describing the action and the reasons for dismissal.
- Allow the candidate to continue and file an irregularity report with ATD CI describing any observations.
- In either event, ATD CI will review that candidate's test record and will make a determination as to the handling of the candidate and the score.

EXAM RESULTS

The final score is determined by the number of measurement opportunities answered correctly out of the total number of measurement opportunities on the exam. To pass each exam, a candidate must answer a minimum number of measurement opportunities correctly. This minimum number is called the cut score and any candidate who scores at or above the cut score will pass that exam. Your score does not depend on others who test during the same testing window.

Candidates who pass the APTD Exam are considered certified upon receipt of passing scores. Certification is for a three (3) year period that begins the day certification is achieved and ends three years later. For example, a candidate passing the exam on October 12, 2020 is considered certified from October 12, 2020 – October 11, 2023.

RETEST POLICY

A retest fee is required to register to retake the APTD Exam (see page 6 for fees). Candidates may retest, if their APTD candidacy has not expired. Candidacy is for eighteen (18) months, beginning the day the candidate is approved to take the exam. Candidates wishing to retest must wait until the next exam window. Candidates cannot retest in the same testing window. If a candidate wishes to retest after their eligibility expires, the candidate must reapply and meet all current eligibility requirements and pay all current fees in full.

How the Cut Score Is Determined

The ATD Certification Institute takes great care in determining the cut score for each exam form. The cut score is established through a process called standard setting, during which a selected panel of current APTDs conducts a systematic evaluation of the test content. The panel discusses the qualifications for certification and makes a judgment on the level of knowledge an individual needs to be successful on the job. Their expert judgment is translated to a specific cut score on the exam using the statistical Angoff method.

The Angoff method is commonly used to set passing standards in the credentialing industry. Using this method, the panel of experts reviews and evaluates a representative sample of exam items that map to the test content outline. For each item, the group estimates the percentage of qualified candidates who are expected to answer it correctly. For example, an item rated as 75 percent indicates that three-fourths of the candidates are expected to answer the item correctly. Ratings for each item are then used to compute an overall minimum passing score for the exam.

ATD CI has more than one form of an exam being administered at any given time. A form is the set of 115 test questions given to a candidate during a testing appointment. Multiple forms are in use at the same time for security of the item bank.

ATD CI reports scores as a scaled score on a scale from 200 – 800, with 500 being required to pass. ATD CI does not provide the number of measurement opportunities that must be answered correctly in order to score a 500. This is due to the multiple forms in use at any given time. Each form has its own cut score, which may differ from form to form. An “easer” form, simply due to the make-up of test questions on that form may require candidates to answer more measurement opportunities correctly. Likewise, a “harder” form may require candidates to answer fewer measurement opportunities correctly. This is called equating and ensures a level playing field for all candidates.

Candidates are randomly assigned to a form at the time of application. If a candidate must retake the exam, the candidate is assigned an alternate form of the exam.

APTD ACHIEVEMENT

In order to achieve APTD certification, candidates must pass the APTD Exam. Once this has been accomplished, candidates are permitted to display the APTD letters after their name. New APTDs will also receive an APTD digital badge, lapel pin, and certificate as further recognition of their accomplishment.

APTDs are encouraged to do the following to maximize the impact of their achievement:

- Share your digital badge on social media and include it in your email signature or digital resume. The digital badge communicates your achievement to colleagues and employers.
- Join the APTD community on LinkedIn and Facebook.
- Maintain the credential through recertification.

Policy on Use of the Certification Mark

This policy is applicable to all individuals certified by the ATD Certification Institute

The ATD Certification Institute (ATD CI) offers the Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) and Certified Professional in Talent Development (CPTD) designations.

ATD and ATD CI grant limited permission to individuals who have met all of the certification program eligibility criteria, passed the applicable exam, or maintained their certification per ATD CI's recertification requirements, and received notification of certification from ATD CI to use the APTD or CPTD designation that has been granted to them.

The APTD and CPTD designations are registered trademarks in the United States and its use is protected by applicable trademark law.

This limited permission allows only individuals who are currently in good standing with ATD CI to use the designation as part of one's professional title. Proper uses of the designations include:

- Signature lines

- Business cards
- Letterhead
- Name badges/IDs
- Directory listings
- Marketing materials when linked to an individual (e.g. press releases, ads, etc.)

Acceptable examples:

Jane J. Torres, CPTD

Jacque R. Smith, APTD

Jane D. Jones, Ed.D, APTD

Jordan Doe, Ph.D., CPTD

Use of the APTD and CPTD designations by individuals who are not currently in good standing with ATD CI (e.g. have not been granted certification, have failed to properly maintain certification), is prohibited. Improper use of the designations or certification trademarks may result in disciplinary or legal action.

An APTD or CPTD credential holder has the responsibility to report the unauthorized use, misuse, or other violation of this Policy to the ATD CI in a timely manner.

This reporting responsibility includes any circumstance where the use of an ATD CI granted certification mark is related to an individual or organization that is not a APTD or CPTD credential holder, or where a certification mark is used improperly by an APTD or CPTD credential holder. Suspected improper use of ATD CI designations should be reported in writing via e-mail to ATD CI at: certification@td.org.

A report of improper use must include a copy of the materials showing the misuse (i.e., copy of a CV, email signature line, business card, online profile, etc.). The complainant must include his or her name and contact details when lodging a complaint. However, such information will be held as confidential.

Within seven (7) business days upon receipt of a report of suspected misuse, ATD CI staff will verify the status of the individual reported to have been misusing the designation. If the individual is currently in good standing with ATD CI, the complainant will be notified as such.

If the individual purportedly misusing the designation is not currently certified in good standing, the ATD CI staff shall contact the individual through a written letter, via a traceable method. The letter shall inquire regarding the use of credential and a request made that the respondent forward any evidence of current certification (copy of certificate or award of certification letter) to ATD CI within 15 days of receipt of the notification. The respondent may also reply acknowledging the improper use with evidence that corrective action has been taken (i.e., removal of the designation from business cards, website, CV, etc.), or with an application to take the appropriate examination to achieve the designation.

If no response is received within the stipulated time frame, the ATD CI shall then request legal counsel to send a cease and desist letter to the individual, demanding a response and applicable mandatory corrective action.

RECERTIFICATION GUIDELINES

The APTD credential is valid for three (3) years. APTD credential holders must recertify during each three-year recertification period to maintain the credential. The recertification cycle begins the first day of the month after notification of APTD success. Recertification points must tie directly to one or more areas of expertise within The ATD Competency Model. Credential holders must accrue a minimum of 40 points during each three-year recertification cycle. The categories for recertification points are listed in the table below.

Categories	Minimum Required APTD Points Per Three-Year Period	Maximum Allowable APTD Points Per Three-Year Period
1. Continuing Education	15	30
2. Speaking and Instructing	0	15
3. On-the-Job Experience	0	15
4. Research and Publishing	0	15
5. Leadership and Recognition	0	15
6. Professional Membership	0	10
Total Points Required	15	40

Credential holders must accrue at least 40 recertification points during their certification cycle in order to renew their credential. **Certificants must report at least fifteen (15) points from the Continuing Education Category.** Points do not need to be earned in all categories, but each category does have a maximum allowable number of points, so be sure to review these requirements once you achieve the credential.

As an alternative option, credential holders may elect to retake the certification exam to satisfy the recertification requirements. Fees would apply to retest; see the schedule of fees for more information.

If the APTD certification was earned prior to June 30, 2020, candidates should refer to the Recertification Handbook for Recertification guidelines.

For additional details visit <https://www.td.org/ci-recertification>.

CODE OF ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

All applicants for certification with the ATD Certification Institute must agree to uphold the ATD Certification Institute Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics itself, and the associated disciplinary process, can be found [here](#).

This Code of Ethics and accompanying Procedures for Review of Conduct were adopted by the ATD Certification Institute Board of Directors on October 23, 2013.

Summary

The ATD Certification Institute (“ATD CI”) is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization created by the American Society for Talent Development (“ATD”) to set professional industry standards for the talent development profession. The ATD CI Code of Ethics (the “Code”) serves as a code of professional conduct and describes the behavior expected of a talent development professional. The Candidate Agreements—referenced in Part 1 of the CPTD Handbook (Appendix A)—provide further detail on policies and rules to which candidates must adhere. Individuals who have earned the Certified Professional in Talent Development (“CPTD”) credential and those who have applied to the program must affirm their endorsement of the Code and acknowledge their commitment to uphold its principles, and agree to the policies and rules set forth in the CPTD Handbook. Violations of provisions 14 of the Code or Candidate Agreements may result in sanctions imposed under the Procedures for Review of Conduct (the “Procedures”). These Procedures were adopted to provide due process to individuals who have earned the CPTD credential and other Covered Individuals to protect the integrity and ensure the efficacy of the Code and policies of the CPTD Program.

ATD CI Code of Ethics

I will:

1. Comply with all copyright laws and the laws and regulations governing my position.
2. Maintain integrity in the practice of my profession.
3. Conduct myself in an ethical and honest manner.
4. Fairly and accurately represent my credentials, qualifications, experience, and ability.

I strive to:

1. Provide my employer, clients, and learners with the highest-level quality education, training, and development.
2. Keep informed of pertinent knowledge and competence in this field.
3. Support my peers and avoid conduct that impedes their practicing their profession.
4. Improve the public understanding of talent development.

Procedures for Review of Conduct

I. Introduction

The following Procedures for Review of Conduct (the “Procedures”) are the only rules and procedures for processing and reviewing possible violations of provisions 1-4 of the ATD CI Code of Ethics, CPTD program rules and policies, or any provision of applicable law. These Procedures are applicable to: (1) all individuals who hold the CPTD credential; and (2) individuals who apply to commence the CPTD certification process (throughout these Procedures, the individuals to whom these Procedures apply may be referred to collectively as “Covered Individuals”). Covered Individuals acknowledge and agree that the Procedures establish a fair process for resolving all potential misconduct violations; and Covered Individuals further acknowledge and agree that they will be bound by decisions made, and sanctions issued, pursuant to the Procedures.

These Procedures shall apply to all complaints, allegations, or inquiries received about a Covered Individual, whether initiated by another individual holding the CPTD credential, ATD CI or its agents, or other third party. Actions taken under these Procedures do not constitute enforcement of the law, although referral to appropriate federal, state, or local government agencies may be made in connection with a Covered Individual’s conduct in appropriate situations. Individuals bringing complaints are not entitled to any relief or damages by virtue of these Procedures, although they will receive notice of the actions taken. Complaints essentially of a commercial nature, primarily involving claims of libel or slander, or primarily requesting judicial-type relief, may not be considered under these Procedures unless they also involve potential violations of provisions 1-4 of the Code of Ethics, CPTD program rules and policies, or otherwise are included in the grounds for disciplinary action set forth herein.

Notices provided under these Procedures shall be delivered to the delivery address on file with ATD CI using either registered mail or reliable delivery service with signature required by the recipient. Parties are responsible for maintaining up-to-date delivery addresses with ATD CI.

II. Grounds for Disciplinary Action

The grounds for disciplinary action are as follows:

- A. Gross negligence or willful misconduct in the performance of services, or other unethical or unprofessional conduct based upon demonstrable or serious violations of provisions 1-4 of the ATD CI Code of Ethics, or applicable rules or policies.
- B. Conviction of a Covered Individual of a felony or other crime of moral turpitude under federal or state law, which impacts their ability to effectively practice in the talent development profession.
- C. Fraud or misrepresentation in the application, testing process, or maintenance of ATD CI certification, industry certification, or other professional recognition or credential, including cheating or plagiarism during any aspect of the certification and maintenance process.

III. Development and Administration of Procedures

- A. The ATD CI Board of Directors (the “CI Board”) is responsible for the development and administration of these Procedures; however, the Professional Conduct Review Committee (the “Review Committee”) is delegated to administer these Procedures on behalf of the CI Board.
- B. The Chair of the Professional Conduct Review Committee (the “Review Committee Chair”) is specifically responsible for ensuring that these Procedures are implemented and followed.
- C. All members of the CI Board, ATD staff, members of the Review Committee, and other individuals engaged in investigations or decisions on behalf of ATD CI with respect to any complaint, allegation, or inquiry under these Procedures are indemnified and shall be defended by ATD CI against any liability arising from related activities to the extent permitted by law, provided such individuals act in good faith and with reasonable care, without gross negligence or willful misconduct, and do not breach any fiduciary duty owed to ATD CI. No one who has any personal involvement in the alleged misconduct or any conflict of interest shall be permitted to participate in the matter to be reviewed.

IV. Complaints

- A. Complaints may be transmitted to ATD CI by any individual or entity, but must be set forth in writing on the Complaint Form of the ATD CI Code of Ethics. A copy of the Complaint form is available through ATD CI upon request. In addition, the CI Board Chair may self-initiate an inquiry if circumstances warrant. Inquiries or submissions other than properly submitted complaints may be handled by ATD CI at its discretion. All such complaints, allegations, inquiries, or submissions relating to the Code are directed to the Review Committee Chair. Upon receipt and preliminary review of any such submission, the Review Committee Chair may conclude, in his or her sole discretion, that the submission: (1) contains facially unreliable or insufficient information; or (2) is patently frivolous or trivial. In such cases, the Review Committee Chair may determine that the submission does not constitute a potentially actionable complaint that would justify bringing it before the Review Committee, as defined in Section V, for determination of whether there has been a violation of provisions 1-4 the Code. If so, such submission shall be disposed of by the Review Committee Chair, and notice to its submitter shall be provided by the Review Committee Chair, if the submitter is identified. All such preliminary dispositions by the Review Committee Chair shall be reported to the CI Board Chair and the President of ATD CI.
- B. If a submission is deemed by the Review Committee Chair to be a potentially actionable complaint, the Review Committee Chair shall see that written notice is provided to the Covered Individual whose conduct has been called into question, advising the Covered Individual that an investigation is being initiated, providing the Covered Individual with a copy of the complaint documentation, and advising the Covered Individual that the Covered Individual shall submit a written response within thirty (30) days of the date of the notice. The Review Committee Chair also shall provide notice to the individual submitting the complaint that the complaint is being reviewed by ATD CI.

V. Review Panel

- A. For each complaint involving an alleged violation the Review Committee Chair believes is potentially actionable, the Review Committee Chair shall convene a Review Panel made up of three persons.
- B. The Review Committee Chair shall select members of the Review Panel from among a group of individuals selected in advance by the CI Board to be potential Review Committee members. The CI Board Chair shall be notified when members are selected to a Review Panel to address a complaint. Each member of the Review Committee may hold the Certified Professional in Talent Development (“CPTD”) credential from ATD CI, may be a CPTD Fellow, and/or have other expertise in the field.
- C. The Review Committee Chair will authorize, and members of the Review Panel will be tasked with investigating the specific facts and circumstances to whatever extent necessary to clarify, expand, or corroborate the information provided by the submitter, and deciding as to whether charges, and what charges, against the Covered Individual should be brought, pursuant to these Procedures.

VI. Review of Complaint

- A. For each submission involving an alleged violation of the Code that the Review Committee Chair believes is a potentially actionable complaint, the Review Committee Chair shall authorize a three (3) person Review Panel (from among members of the Review Committee) to investigate its specific facts or circumstances to whatever extent is necessary to clarify, expand, or corroborate the information provided by the submitter. The Review Panel may be assisted in the conduct of its investigation by ATD staff and/or legal counsel.
- B. The Review Panel may determine that it would be appropriate to discontinue consideration of the matter due to: (1) the existence of another proceeding before another professional body, a court, or a government agency; or (2) a determination that the nature of the allegations dictate that the matter should be referred to another entity engaged in the administration of law.
- C. The Review Panel may contact the individual submitting the complaint and the Covered Individual for information in addition to the initial complaint and response. The time for providing such additional information shall be established by the Review Panel, and the individuals shall be given not less than 15 days to respond. The Review Panel may, at its discretion, contact such other individuals who may have knowledge of the facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint.
- D. If, after an initial review, the Review Panel concludes that formal charges may be warranted, the Review Panel shall provide the Review Committee Chair, CI Board Chair, and President of ATD CI with notice of such conclusion and a copy of the Review Panel’s initial report. The President of ATD CI shall notify the Covered Individual to be charged and send the Covered Individual a copy of the charges and the Review Panel’s report. The Covered Individual shall be advised that he or she may request the opportunity to submit information or arguments contesting the charge in writing, by submitting such request within 30 days of receipt of the notice. The Covered Individual shall also be sent a copy of these Procedures.
- E. No member of the Review Panel should have an anticompetitive or commercial reason for applying sanctions against the Covered Individual, or otherwise have any conflict of interest with respect to the Covered Individual or the conduct resulting in the investigation.

Members of the Review Panel have a responsibility to identify any potential or actual conflicts they may have and bring such conflicts to the attention of the CI Board Chair. With the agreement of the CI Board Chair, members of the Review Panel may recuse themselves due to a conflict of interest. The vacant seat will be filled by a different member of the Review Committee. The Covered Individual who is the subject of the investigation shall be provided with a list of the individuals making up the Review Committee.

- F. All investigations and deliberations of the Review Panel are to be conducted in confidence to the extent practical, except that the Review Panel shall be permitted to disclose any relevant information when compelled by a validly issued subpoena or other government order or request, when otherwise required by law, or to parties essential to the review and investigation of the alleged aggrieved conduct, including, without limitation, potential witnesses. All written communications relating to the investigations and deliberations of the Review Panel should be sealed and marked "Personal and Confidential." All investigations and deliberations of the Review Panel shall be conducted objectively, without prejudgment of any kind. An investigation may be directed toward any aspect of a complaint that is relevant or potentially relevant.
- G. The Review Panel meetings may be held in person or virtually as determined by the Review Committee Chair. The Review Committee Chair shall preside and make evidentiary and other procedural rulings with the advice of ATD CI legal counsel. Written statements may be submitted in advance of Review Panel meetings and accepted as evidence within reasonable deadlines established by the Review Committee Chair and communicated to the Covered Individual.

VII. Determination of Violation

- A. Upon completion of its investigation and the hearing, the Review Panel shall determine by majority vote, upon a preponderance of the evidence, whether there has been a violation of the Code, and whether sanctions should be imposed. When the Review Panel finds that there has been a violation, it shall also determine the appropriate sanction. If the Review Panel so recommends, a written determination with the applicable sanction shall be prepared under the supervision of the Review Committee Chair, a copy of which shall be provided to the CI Board Chair and President of ATD CI, along with the record of the Review Panel's investigation and deliberation. Written notice of the Review Panel's determination and the proposed sanctions shall be provided to the charged Covered Individual within 15 days of the Review Panel's determination. If the Review Panel determines that a violation has not occurred, the complaint shall be dismissed with notice to the Covered Individual, as well as to the individual or entity who submitted the complaint; a summary report shall also be provided to the CI Board Chair.
- B. In certain circumstances, the Review Panel may determine that the Covered Individual in violation of the Code should be offered the opportunity to submit a written assurance that the conduct in question has been terminated and will not recur, with the expectation that such written assurance would be taken into consideration by the Review Panel when deciding whether to pursue charges and, if applicable, what sanction to impose. If such an offer is extended, the Covered Individual at issue must submit the required written assurance within 30 days of receipt of the offer, and the assurance must be submitted in terms that are acceptable to the Review Panel.

VIII. Sanctions

- A. Any of the following sanctions may be imposed by the Review Panel upon a Covered Individual whom the Review Panel has determined to have violated the Code, specifically, whose conduct the Review Panel has determined constitutes one or more of the grounds for disciplinary action. The sanction applied must reasonably relate to the nature and severity of the violation, focusing on reformation of the conduct of the Covered Individual and deterrence of the same or similar conduct by others. The sanctions include:
1. Private written reprimand to the Covered Individual;
 2. Suspension of the Covered Individual's CPTD credential or candidacy for a designated period; or
 3. Permanent removal of the Covered Individual's CPTD credential or candidacy.

For each of these three sanctions, a summary of the determination and the sanction, along with the Covered Individual's name, may be published more broadly at the discretion of the Review Panel. No publication shall occur until either an appeal has been concluded in the applicable case or the deadline to file an appeal has passed without such appeal being filed.

IX. Appeal

- A. Within 30 days of the date of notice of a determination by the Review Panel that a Covered Individual has violated the Code, the affected Covered Individual may submit to the CI Board in writing on the Code of Ethics Review of Conduct Appeals form a request for an appeal. The form will be sent to the individual as part of the summary of determination and sanction correspondence mentioned in the preceding sections. CI Board members shall follow the terms of the CI Board Conflicts of Interest policy in connection with any filed appeal.
- B. The CI Board may only review the record to review whether the determination by the Review Panel of a violation of the Code was inappropriate because of: (1) material errors of fact, or (2) failure of the Review Panel to conform to published criteria, policies, or procedures. The standard of review by the CI Board in making this determination in each instance shall be whether the Review Panel's actions were clearly erroneous. Only facts and conditions up to and including the time of the Review Panel's determination, as represented by facts known to the Review Panel, may be considered during an appeal. The appeal shall not include a hearing or any similar trial-type proceeding and shall be considered and decided based solely on written submissions.
- C. The CI Board shall conduct and complete the appeal within 90 days of receipt of the request for an appeal. Written appellate submissions and any reply submissions may be made by authorized representatives of the Covered Individual and of the Review Panel. Submissions shall be made according to whatever schedule is reasonably established by the CI Board. The decision of the CI Board shall either affirm or overturn the determination by the Review Panel that a violation of the Code has occurred, but the CI Board shall not address any sanction(s) imposed by the Review Panel. If significant deficiencies are found, the CI Board may refer the matter back to the Review Panel for further and final action. The decision of the CI Board, including a statement of the reason(s) for the decision, shall be reported to the Review Panel. The decision of the CI Board shall be binding upon ATD CI and the Covered Individual.

X. Resignation

- A. If a Covered Individual who is the subject of a complaint voluntarily surrenders his or her CPTD credential at any time during the pendency of a complaint under these Procedures, the complaint shall be dismissed without any further action by the Review Panel or the CI Board. In such instance, the entire record shall be sealed and the Covered Individual may not apply for the CPTD credential for five (5) years. The CI Board may authorize the President of ATD CI to communicate the fact and date of resignation, and the fact and general nature of the complaint which was pending at the time of resignation, to or at the request of a government entity engaged in the administration of law or a potential employer who requires reasonable knowledge of whether the Covered Individual holds the CPTD credential. Similarly, in the event of such resignation, the person or entity who submitted the complaint shall be notified of the fact and date of the resignation and that the Board has dismissed the complaint as a consequence.

APPENDIX A: RELEASES AND AGREEMENTS

Applicant Declaration and Release

Candidate Intent to Participate

CPTD Program Applicant Declaration & Release

I hereby submit this application to the ATD Certification Institute (or “ATD CI”) to be an Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) in accordance with and subject to ATD CI's standards, rules, policies, and procedures. I understand that ATD CI and/or ATD may use the information gathered in the certification process for statistical purposes for the evaluation of the certification program, or for other research or study. I further understand that ATD CI will use reasonable efforts to keep the information in its possession confidential.

I understand that ATD CI reserves the right to verify any or all the information associated with or required by this application, and that providing false or misleading information, omitting required information, or otherwise violating the rules of certification, may result in appropriate disciplinary action. I further understand that I must immediately inform ATD CI of any changed circumstances that may affect this application and the information that has been provided, or that may affect my continuing certification eligibility.

I understand that I can be disqualified from taking or completing the examination, or from receiving examination scores if ATD CI determines through either proctor observation or statistical analysis that I have engaged in collaborative, disruptive, or other inappropriate behavior during administration of the examinations. I agree that I will not list my passing status on any professional stationary or business cards, nor will I use it in any advertising until I have passed both exams (the Knowledge Exam and the Skills Application Exam) of ATD CI APTD program.

I, the undersigned, recognize that ATD CI is the sole and only judge of my qualification to receive and maintain certification. I further recognize that ATD CI reserves the right to modify or alter at any time the certification standards, the requirements for certification and/or recertification, and any rules, policies, or procedures in connection therewith.

I authorize ATD CI to include my name and contact information in any publicly available lists or directories in which the names of Associate Professionals in Talent Development (APTDs) are published, and hereby waive any rights of objections to such listings.

I understand and agree that ATD CI owns all right, title, and interest in and to all names, trademarks, logos, copyrights, applications, and other material related to ATD CI and ATD CI's APTD program, and I agree that I shall only use such intellectual property in accordance with policies promulgated by ATD CI and agree to cease using such intellectual property upon the expiration, suspension, or termination of my certification.

I understand and agree that neither ATD CI nor ATD makes any claims, warranties, guarantees, or promises regarding the content or performance of any Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD); and I agree not to misrepresent my certification status and its meaning.

I, the undersigned, do hereby attest to the accuracy and validity of, and assume full responsibility for, the content of my application and all materials and information submitted to ATD CI.

In consideration of my application to and participation in ATD CI's APTD program, I, the undersigned, do hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless individually and collectively ATD CI, ATD, and their officers, directors, employees, committee and commission members, members, subsidiaries, agents, successors, and assigns, from any and all liability that may arise, directly or indirectly now or in the future, by reason of or in connection with any decision, action, or omission relating to this application, the failure of ATD CI to grant certification or recertification to me, the revocation of my certification, or ATD CI's certification standards. This release and waiver of liability shall be binding on my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns.

I also understand and agree that in considering this application, ATD CI may make inquiry of such persons or entities, inspect such records, and make and retain copies of such materials as ATD CI deems appropriate. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I hereby authorize ATD CI to make such inquiries regarding my fitness for certification and authorize any persons or entities contacted by ATD CI to respond to such inquiries and provide copies of any relevant and non-confidential information to ATD CI. I further authorize ATD CI to provide a copy of this statement to those entities contacted by ATD CI about this application.

APTD Program Candidate Intent to Participate

I intend to participate in ATD CI's APTD program and I agree to the following:

- My data can be released for research purposes and published as part of the program analysis.
- I will follow ATD CI's Code of Ethics and Intellectual Property policy as may be amended from time to time by ATD CI.
- I will provide a professional demographic profile to be used for research purposes and collected at the time of examination.
- I will pay a nonrefundable exam fee in the amount specified in the program materials.
- I meet the eligibility requirements.
- I give my permission for ATD CI to release my name publicly if I obtain the APTD credential.
- I have read and understand all the APTD program materials and the APTD requirements in the APTD Certification Handbook, including but not limited to the refund, transfer, deadlines, and appeals policies.

In return, all participating professionals will be provided:

- a seat and score report for the APTD Exam

I agree to the following:

- The exam fee is nonrefundable unless ATD CI does not fulfill the aforementioned terms. All candidates are expected to participate in all aspects of the program for which they are eligible.
- To ensure the privacy and protection of all candidates, ATD CI and ATD representatives can only respond to candidates directly and cannot speak or correspond with anyone calling or writing on a candidate's behalf.

APPENDIX B: GAP ASSESSMENT

ATD Certification Institute's gap assessment will help you determine your readiness for the APTD certification exam. It can also help you identify personal strengths and areas for growth to support your professional development objectives and help you acquire or strengthen skills and competencies required for success as a talent development professional.

The certification exam and this gap assessment is built on the detailed content outline for the APTD, which details the KSAs needed to be a successful and effective talent development professional in today's rapidly changing environment.

The APTD detailed content outline is a subset of knowledge and skills from the three domains of practice found in the Talent Development Capability Model that have been determined to be necessary for successful and effective practice in talent development for someone with three years of experience.

- I. Building Personal Capability: 20 percent
- II. Developing Professional Capability: 50 percent
- III. Impacting Organizational Capability: 30 percent

Under each of these essential capability areas are specific knowledge and skill statements identified in the detailed content outline. This gap assessment is constructed from those statements.

In each section of the gap assessment, you should review the knowledge and skill required. Using the keys provided, consider your current level of understanding and experience in each task area. This is your personal assessment of your competence, honesty with yourself is important. Then, determine the gap, if any, that exists and whether any additional development on your part is needed. This exercise will help you assess your current readiness for the APTD certification exam and identify areas where additional experience, study, or mentoring would be beneficial.

Completing this gap assessment does not ensure mastery of the competencies required for the APTD certification exam but helps you assess your readiness, identify your current strengths, and chart a plan for gaining knowledge and skills in areas of desired growth.

Proficiency

- 1 - Little or None: Little knowledge and little to no skill in this area.
- 2 - Limited Proficiency: Limited ability to perform this skill. General, conceptual knowledge or awareness only.
- 3 - Consistent Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply knowledge of the skill area.
- 4 - Advanced Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply in-depth knowledge of the skill area. Lead or direct others in performing this skill.
- 5 - Exceptional Proficiency: Provide expert advice, lead others, and make sound judgments. Provide consultation and leadership to others in the form of this skill. Apply comprehensive knowledge.

Development Gap

- 3 – Little or no development needed.
- 2 – Some development needed.
- 1 – Considerable development needed.

Certified Associate in Talent Development (APTD)		
Building Personal Capability (20 Percent)		
Knowledge and Skill Statements	Proficiency	Gap
1.1 Communication		
1.1.C Skill in conceiving, developing, and delivering information in various formats and media.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.2 Emotional Intelligence and Decision-Making		
1.2.A Knowledge of theories of emotional intelligence.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.3 Collaboration and Leadership		
1.3.A Knowledge of theories, methods, and techniques to build and manage professional relationships (for example, group dynamics, teamwork, shared experience, and negotiation).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.3.B Knowledge of methods and criteria for establishing and managing collaboration among various units (for example, finance, operations, IT, and sales/marketing).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.3.C Knowledge of principles and techniques for providing feedback.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.3.C Knowledge of theories of leadership (for example, transformational, inclusive, and situational).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.4 Cultural Awareness and Inclusion		
1.4.A Knowledge of methods and techniques to foster cultural awareness, encourage cultural sensitivity, and broaden viewpoints.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.5 Project Management		
1.5.A Knowledge of project management principles and processes (for example, scheduling, planning, allocating resources, evaluating, and reporting).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
1.6 Compliance and Ethical Behavior		
1.6.A Knowledge of laws, regulations, and ethical issues related to the development of instructional content (for example, intellectual property and copyright laws and accessibility requirements).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3

Proficiency

- 1 - Little or None: Little knowledge and little to no skill in this area.
- 2 - Limited Proficiency: Limited ability to perform this skill. General, conceptual knowledge or awareness only.
- 3 - Consistent Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply knowledge of the skill area.
- 4 - Advanced Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply in-depth knowledge of the skill area. Lead or direct others in performing this skill.
- 5 - Exceptional Proficiency: Provide expert advice, lead others, and make sound judgments. Provide consultation and leadership to others in the form of this skill. Apply comprehensive knowledge.

Development Gap

- 3 - Little or no development needed.
- 2 - Some development needed.
- 1 - Considerable development needed.

Developing Professional Capability (50 Percent)		
Knowledge and Skill Statements	Proficiency	Gap
2.1 Learning Sciences		
2.1.A Knowledge of the principles and applications of cognitive science for learning (for example, auditory and visual processing, information storage/retrieval, memory, and cognitive load).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.1.B Knowledge of theories and models of adult learning (for example, Knowles' Adult Learning Theory, Bloom's Taxonomy, Gagne's Nine Levels of Learning, Mager's Criterion-Referenced Instruction) approach; social and collaborative learning; and experiential learning.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.1.B Knowledge of the foundational learning theories of behaviorism, cognitivism, and constructivism.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2 Instructional Design		
2.2.A Knowledge of instructional modalities (for example, classroom learning, blended learning, massive open online courses [MOOCs], gamification, multidevice/mobile learning, and virtual reality simulations.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.B Knowledge of types and applications of instructional methods and techniques (for example discussion, self-directed learning, role playing, lecture, action learning, demonstration, and exercise).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.C Knowledge of methods and techniques for planning, designing, and developing instructional content.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.D Knowledge of the criteria used to assess the quality and relevance of instructional content in relation to a desired learning or behavioral outcome.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.E Knowledge of methods and techniques for defining learning and behavioral outcome statements.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.F Knowledge of how design thinking and rapid prototyping can be applied to the development of learning and talent development solutions.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.G Knowledge instructional design models and processes (for example ADDIE and SAM).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.2.H Knowledge of how formal and informal learning experiences influence and support individual and group development.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.3 Training Delivery and Facilitation		
2.3.A Knowledge of facilitation methods and techniques.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3

Knowledge and Skill Statements	Proficiency	Gap
2.4 Technology Application		
2.4.A Knowledge of techniques and approaches to leverage social media platforms and tools to support knowledge sharing, idea exchange, and learning.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.4.B Knowledge of existing learning technologies and support systems (for example, collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.4.C Knowledge of communication technologies and their applications (for example, video conferencing, web conferencing, audience response systems, and presentation software).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.4.D Knowledge of functions, features, limitations, and practical applications of the technologies available to support learning and talent development solutions.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.5 Knowledge Management		
2.5.A Knowledge of methods and techniques for disseminating and sharing knowledge across individuals, groups, and organizations.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.6 Career and Leadership Development		
2.6.A Knowledge of leadership development practices and techniques (for example, formal training programs, job rotation, and coaching and/or mentoring).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.6.B Knowledge of career development methods and techniques (for example, job rotations and stretch assignments).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.7 Coaching		
2.7.A Skill in helping individuals or teams identify goals, develop realistic action plans, seek development opportunities, and monitor progress and accountability.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.8 Evaluating Impact		
2.8.A Knowledge of models and methods to evaluate the impact of learning and talent development solutions.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
2.8.B Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, techniques, and tools (for example, observations, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and assessments).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3

Proficiency

1 - Little or None: Little knowledge and little to no skill in this area.

2 - Limited Proficiency: Limited ability to perform this skill. General, conceptual knowledge or awareness only.

3 - Consistent Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply knowledge of the skill area.

4 - Advanced Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply in-depth knowledge of the skill area. Lead or direct others in performing this skill.

5 - Exceptional Proficiency: Provide expert advice, lead others, and make sound judgments. Provide consultation and leadership to others in the form of this skill. Apply comprehensive knowledge.

Development Gap

3 – Little or no development needed

2 – Some development needed

1 – Considerable development needed

Impacting Organizational Capability (30 Percent)		
Knowledge and Skill Statements	Proficiency	Gap
3.1 Business Insight		
3.1.A Knowledge of business strategies and factors that influence an organization's competitive position in the industry.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.2 Consulting and Business Partnering		
3.2.A Knowledge of needs assessment approaches and techniques.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.3 Organization Development and Culture		
3.3.A Knowledge of work roles, relationships, and reporting structures within an organization.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.3.B Knowledge of strategies and techniques for building, supporting, and promoting an organizational culture that values talent and learning as drivers of competitive advantage.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.4 Talent Strategy and Management		
3.4.A Knowledge of talent management functions (for example, workforce planning, acquisition, employee development, performance management, and compensation and rewards).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.4.B Knowledge of methods to identify critical requirements of tasks, jobs, and roles (for example, job analysis, competency modeling, and leadership competency development).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.4.C Knowledge of approaches for identifying and developing high potential talent.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.5 Performance Improvement		
3.5.A Knowledge of performance analysis methods and techniques (for example, business process analysis, performance gap assessment, and root-cause analysis).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.5.B Knowledge of how human interactions with work environments, tools, equipment, and technology affect individual and organizational performance.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.6 Change Management		
3.6.A Knowledge of how change impacts people and organizations.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3

Proficiency

1 - Little or None: Little knowledge and little to no skill in this area.

2 - Limited Proficiency: Limited ability to perform this skill. General, conceptual knowledge or awareness only.

3 - Consistent Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply knowledge of the skill area.

4 - Advanced Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply in-depth knowledge of the skill area. Lead or direct others in performing this skill.

5 - Exceptional Proficiency: Provide expert advice, lead others, and make sound judgments. Provide consultation and leadership to others in the form of this skill. Apply comprehensive knowledge.

Development Gap

3 - Little or no development needed.

2 - Some development needed.

1 - Considerable development needed.

Knowledge and Skill Statements	Proficiency	Gap
3.7 Data and Analytics		
3.7.A Knowledge of data visualization, including principles, methods, types and applications (for example, texture and color mapping, data representation, graphs, word clouds).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.8 Future Readiness		
3.8.A Knowledge of techniques to promote, support, and generate innovation and creativity (for example, design thinking, brainstorming, and ideation).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3
3.8.B Knowledge of emerging learning technologies and support systems (for example, collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media).	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3

Proficiency

1 - Little or None: Little knowledge and little to no skill in this area.

2 - Limited Proficiency: Limited ability to perform this skill. General, conceptual knowledge or awareness only.

3 - Consistent Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply knowledge of the skill area.

4 - Advanced Proficiency: Perform skill consistently. Apply in-depth knowledge of the skill area. Lead or direct others in performing this skill.

5 - Exceptional Proficiency: Provide expert advice, lead others, and make sound judgments. Provide consultation and leadership to others in the form of this skill. Apply comprehensive knowledge.

Development Gap

3 – Little or no development needed.

2 – Some development needed.

1 – Considerable development needed.

APPENDIX C: APPEAL PROCEDURES

Appeal Procedures

Appeals Procedure

Appeals Process

The ATD Certification Institute (ATD CI) makes every attempt to make fair and accurate decisions based on the information provided by the applicants and certificants. An appeal procedure is available to those who wish to contest any adverse decision affecting his or her application or certification status. Any individual who does not file a request for an appeal within the required time limit shall waive the right to appeal.

ATD CI will review appeals of adverse certification decisions from applicants for APTD or CPTD certification (“applicants”) or APTD or CPTD certified individuals (“certificants”).

Candidates are permitted to appeal an adverse certification decision on the grounds that ATD CI did not properly apply specified certification eligibility criteria or the decision was based on a factual error that affected the outcome. Adverse certification decisions include: denial of eligibility for initial certification, denial of recertification, suspension of certification or revocation of certification.

No appeal may be taken from an adverse decision based on an individual’s receipt of a failing score on an ATD CI certification examination, absent extraordinary circumstances, as determined solely by ATD CI.

Individuals cannot appeal (1) the passing score or actions taken in setting a passing score; (2) establishment of eligibility criteria; (3) individual test items; and (4) test content validity.

Privileged Information, including the nature, format, content and results of examinations administered by ATD CI are considered privileged information. Due to the importance of exam security and item banking, neither exam forms nor answer keys will be disclosed or made available for review by candidates or any other unauthorized third party.

Upon receipt of the notice of an adverse decision, the applicant or certificant has the option to submit a written notice of appeal to ATD CI no more than ten (10) calendar days following notice of the adverse decision.

In the written appeal, the applicant or certificants shall detail the nature of the request for appeal and the specific facts and circumstances supporting the request, and, all reasons why the action or decision should be changed or modified. The applicant or certificant must provide additional written, factual documentation support his/her appeal. The applicant shall bear the burden of proving the adverse decision was based on erroneous factual determination. There is no appeal on the basis of an incomplete application.

Applicants or certificants submitting a request for review to ATD CI shall receive notification of the results within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the request. Should the candidate not be satisfied with the decision rendered, the candidate may submit a written appeal to ATD CI within ten (10) days.

ATD CI will review the appeal submission and accompanying documents and make a determination.

Candidates will be notified of ATD CI's decision within forty five days (45) of receipt of the request. The decision of ATD CI is final.

Send your appeal to:

ATD CI - Appeals

ATD Certification Institute

1640 King Street, Suite 300

Alexandria, VA 22314

Or email your appeal to: certification@td.org

ATD CI will notify you in writing with the final decision.

APTD Program Appeal Form

Instructions: The APTD Appeals Form must be completed and submitted per the appeal guidelines.

1. Background (Required)

Candidate Name: _____

Candidate ID Number: _____

Today's Date: _____

Type of Appeal (must choose one): ☐ Denial of eligibility to take exam

☐ Denial of recertification

☐ Suspension of certification

☐ Revocation of certification

2. Statement of Appeal (Required)

C. What is the reason for your appeal?

Check one of the reasons below (these are the only reasons that an appeal will be considered):

☐

Improperly Applied Eligibility Criteria

ATD CI did not follow its policies in the review of my eligibility for the exam or for recertification against its stated criteria

☐

Factual Error

ATD CI made a factual error in the review of my application for certification, review of my application for recertification, or administration of my exam

D. Explain the reason for your appeal.

On a separate sheet of paper provide an explanation of the reason for your appeal in 500 words or fewer. Include the following in your write-up:

1. The reasons for filing appeal
2. Explain on what grounds you believe the appeal should be granted.
3. Details and documents to support your grounds for appeal

3. Submission Instructions (Required)

Send your information to ATD CI by email to the Director at mhirt@td.org. Information must be received by the deadline set forth in the appeal guidelines (No more than ten (10) calendar days following the decision) to be accepted for review. Information received after this period will not be considered.

Appeal notifications will be made within 15 days of receipt of an appeal.

APPENDIX D: EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

APTD Exam Content Outline

Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) Detailed Content Outline <i>Effective July 1, 2020</i>		
Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
1. Building Personal Capability		20%
1.1 Communication	1.1.A Skill in conceiving, developing, and delivering information in various formats and media, for example reports, briefings, memorandums, presentations, articles, and emails.	
1.2 Emotional Intelligence & Decision-Making	1.2.A Knowledge of theories of emotional intelligence.	
1.3 Collaboration & Leadership	<p>1.3.A Knowledge of theories, methods, and techniques to build and manage professional relationships, for example group dynamics, teamwork, shared experience, and negotiation.</p> <p>1.3.B Knowledge of methods and criteria for establishing and managing collaboration among various units, for example finance, operations, IT, and sales/marketing.</p> <p>1.3.C Knowledge of principles and techniques for providing feedback.</p> <p>1.3.D Knowledge of theories of leadership, for example transformational, inclusive, and situational.</p>	
1.4 Cultural Awareness & Inclusion	1.4.A Knowledge of methods and techniques to foster cultural awareness, encourage cultural sensitivity, and broaden viewpoints.	
1.5 Project Management	1.5.A Knowledge of project management principles and processes, for example scheduling, planning, allocating resources, evaluating, and reporting.	
1.6 Compliance & Ethical Behavior	1.6.A Knowledge of laws, regulations, and ethical issues related to the development of instructional content, for example intellectual property and copyright laws and accessibility requirements.	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
2. Developing Professional Capability		50%
2.1 Learning Sciences	2.1.A Knowledge of the principles and applications of cognitive science for learning, for example auditory and visual processing, information storage/retrieval, memory, and cognitive load	
	2.1.B Knowledge of theories and models of adult learning, for example Knowles' Adult Learning Theory, Bloom's Taxonomy, Gagne's Nine Levels of Learning, Mager's Criterion-Referenced Instruction Approach, social and collaborative learning, and experiential learning.	
	2.1.C Knowledge of the foundational learning theories of behaviorism, cognitivism, and constructivism.	
2.2 Instructional Design	2.2.A Knowledge of instructional modalities, for example classroom learning, blended learning, massive open online courses (MOOCs), gamification, multi-device/mobile learning, and virtual reality simulations.	
	2.2.B Knowledge of types and applications of instructional methods and techniques, for example discussion, self-directed learning, role playing, lecture, action learning, demonstration, and/or exercise.	
	2.2.C Knowledge of methods and techniques for planning, designing, and developing instructional content.	
	2.2.D Knowledge of the criteria used to assess the quality and relevance of instructional content in relation to a desired learning or behavioral outcome.	
	2.2.E Knowledge of methods and techniques for defining learning and behavioral outcome statements.	
	2.2.F Knowledge of how design thinking and rapid prototyping can be applied to the development of learning and talent development solutions.	
	2.2.G Knowledge instructional design models and processes, for example ADDIE and SAM.	
	2.2.H Knowledge of how formal and informal learning experiences influence and/or support individual and group development.	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	
2.3 Training Delivery & Facilitation	2.3.A Knowledge of facilitation methods and techniques.	
2.4 Technology Application	<p>2.4.A Knowledge of techniques and approaches to leverage social media platforms and tools to support knowledge sharing, idea exchange, and learning.</p> <p>2.4.B Knowledge of existing learning technologies and support systems, for example collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media.</p> <p>2.4.C Knowledge of communication technologies and their applications, for example video conferencing, web-conferencing, audience response systems, and presentation software.</p> <p>2.4.D Knowledge of functions, features, limitations, and practical applications of the technologies available to support learning and talent development solutions.</p>	
2.5 Knowledge Management	2.5.A Knowledge of methods and techniques for disseminating and/or sharing knowledge across individuals, groups, and organizations.	
2.6 Career & Leadership Development	<p>2.6.A Knowledge of leadership development practices and techniques, for example formal training programs, job rotation, and coaching and/or mentoring.</p> <p>2.6.B Knowledge of career development methods and techniques, for example job rotations and stretch assignments.</p>	
2.7 Coaching	2.7.A Skill in helping individuals or teams identify goals, develop realistic action plans, seek development opportunities, and monitor progress and accountability.	
2.8 Evaluating Impact	<p>2.8.A Knowledge of models and methods to evaluate the impact of learning and talent development solutions.</p> <p>2.8.B Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, techniques, and tools, for example observations, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and/or assessments.</p>	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	Percentage of Exam
3. Impacting Organizational Capability		30%
3.1 Business Insight	3.1.A Knowledge of business strategies and factors that influence an organization's competitive position in the industry.	
3.2 Consulting & Business Partnering	3.2.A Knowledge of needs assessment approaches and techniques.	
3.3 Organization Development & Culture	3.3.A Knowledge of work roles, relationships, and reporting structures within an organization. 3.3.B Knowledge of strategies and techniques for building, supporting, and/or promoting an organizational culture that values talent and learning as drivers of competitive advantage.	
3.4 Talent Strategy & Management	3.4.A Knowledge of talent management functions, for example workforce planning, acquisition, employee development, performance management, and compensation and rewards. 3.4.B Knowledge of methods to identify critical requirements of tasks, jobs, and roles, for example job analysis, competency modeling, and leadership competency development. 3.4.C Knowledge of approaches for identifying and developing high potential talent.	
3.5 Performance Improvement	3.5.A Knowledge of performance analysis methods and techniques, for example business process analysis, performance gap assessment, and root-cause analysis. 3.5.B Knowledge of how human interactions with work environments, tools, equipment, and technology affect individual and organizational performance.	
3.6 Change Management	3.6.A Knowledge of how change impacts people and organizations.	

Capability	Knowledge / Skill Statement	
3.7 Data & Analytics	3.7.A Knowledge of data visualization, including principles, methods, types and applications, for example texture and color mapping, data representation, graphs, word clouds.	
3.8 Future Readiness	3.8.A Knowledge of techniques to promote, support, and/or generate innovation and creativity, for example design thinking, brainstorming, and ideation. 3.8.B Knowledge of emerging learning technologies and support systems, for example collaborative learning software, learning management systems, authoring tools, and social media.	



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