



Continuing Education for ACBL Accredited Teachers

After successfully completing the TAP, teachers are encouraged to seek continuing education in order to perfect their skills. Here is what the ACBL both suggests and offers:

The ABTA The American Bridge Teachers' Association is a professional organization for bridge teachers. It offers a Master Teacher Program and a convention filled with continuing education opportunities. The annual convention is held in the summer prior to the ACBL's Summer NABC. Participation in this organization and its activities is strongly recommended for the professional teacher. Go to www.abtathome.com for more information.

Easybridge! The Easybridge! Presenter course offers new food for thought for the bridge teacher. Essentially this is a marketing program that brings new people into the game and gets them playing with a minimum of instruction. Supplemental lessons offered as needed and requested will help keep the students attracted by this program involved in bridge. The ACBL recognizes the Easybridge! Presenter course as an accreditation program. Go to www.easybridge.com for more information.

Better Bridge Audrey Grant offers the Better Bridge Teacher Training course. It demonstrates a new way to introduce the absolute beginner to duplicate and focuses on play. This course also shows the teacher how to prepare the student to be comfortable in Internet games. The ACBL recognizes the Better Bridge Teacher Training course as an accreditation program. Go to www.audreygrant.com for more information.

NABC Seminars At each NABC, selected courses are offered as continuing education for bridge teachers. You can review upcoming programs by clicking on the NABC "education" and "extra" information at www.acbl.org. Some of these are:

Education Workshops - Single session programs are offered on various topics such as "Teaching Young People" and "The ACBL's School Bridge Program."

ACBL Says "Thank You" – Teachers (and club officials) are invited to ACBL's "Thank You" party at each NABC where the ACBL shows its appreciation at an informal between-sessions get-together. This is an opportunity to network with other teachers and to hear information of interest to you.

MiniBridge – Teachers can learn how to start their classes more effectively using the English Bridge Union’s version of MiniBridge. This is a very effective method of presentation for both school programs and seniors. (This program is sometimes combined with the school bridge workshop.)

Get Online with BridgeBase.com – Fred Gitelman, the creator of Bridge Base Online, introduces the site and conducts a tour of its features and online teaching opportunities (www.BridgeBase.com).

Bridge Teachers and Bridge Cruises – This course addresses the basics of running an effective cruise ship program for both social and duplicate players, and offers information on how to get involved in this line of work.

TAP, TAP, TAP Again ACBL Accredited Teachers can retake the TAP at any time for no additional fee, provided they pre-register for the course. This is an opportunity to reinforce what has been learned and to find out what's new. The TAP is constantly evolving.

In Your Own Backyard There are many things teachers can do to ensure that they are up to date and doing a good job. Here are some suggestions...

- Use a tape recorder to tape a class. It's a good way for the teacher to self-evaluate.
- Sit in on a lesson taught by another bridge teacher and learn some new tricks.
- Evaluate a friend by sitting in on a lesson and then have the friend return the favor.