

# HOW TO EARN YOUR GIA CREDENTIAL

eLearning Courses and Lab Classes Required for Distance Education Diploma Programs



What's it like to take a GIA eLearning course? Experience it for yourself and try a complementary lesson from each course at [GIA.edu/try-elearning](http://GIA.edu/try-elearning)

## Graduate Gemologist® (GG®) Diploma

Earned when a student has completed all required courses for both the Graduate Diamonds Diploma and Graduate Colored Stones Diploma.

It is recommended to complete Graduate Diamonds coursework first.

**Diploma Program**  
Offered through GIA Distance Education.

**eLearning Course**  
Take from the convenience of your home or office; requires Internet access. Self-paced but complete within the maximum completion time indicated below.

**Lab Class**  
Take at any GIA campus or education location. 1 to 5 day duration depending upon the lab. Some locations may offer night or weekend options. View locations at [GIA.edu/gem-education/campuses](http://GIA.edu/gem-education/campuses)

**On Campus Option**  
Also offered as a full-time program at a GIA campus.

→ Required course sequence  
... Recommended course sequence

### REQUIRED COURSES

GEMOLOGY PROGRAMS

#### Graduate Diamonds Diploma

**Diamond Essentials**

Vital knowledge about the gem and jewelry market's most important gemstone.

3 months | no prerequisites | online exam

**Diamond & Diamond Grading**

An in-depth look at diamonds, the diamond industry and the skills needed to grade diamonds.

15 months | prerequisites | proctored online exam | payment plan available

**Diamond Grading Lab**

Learn how to grade diamonds consistently and accurately using a modern gem microscope and a loupe.

5 days

#### Graduate Colored Stones Diploma

**Colored Stone Essentials**

Indispensable colored stones knowledge with a focus on ruby, sapphire and emerald.

3 months | no prerequisites | online exam

**Colored Stones**

Acquire in-depth knowledge about the most valuable and popular colored stones in the market.

18 months | prerequisites | proctored online exam | payment plan available

**Colored Stone Grading Lab**

Explore grading the color, clarity and cut quality of a wide range of colored stones.

3 days

**Gem Identification Lab**

Practice time-tested procedures and identification skills used by GIA's own laboratory experts.

5 days

**Gem Identification**

Practice identifying more than 60 species of gemstones, including natural gems, laboratory grown and treated.

24 months | prerequisites | proctored in-person exam | payment plan available | requires access to gemological equipment

Completion of Colored Stones eLearning course and Gem Identification Lab are required before beginning this course

#### Applied Jewelry Professional Diploma™ (AJP®)

**Jewelry Essentials**

Learn the language of jewelry, including how features are combined to give a piece its unique value.

3 months | no prerequisites | online exam

**Colored Stone Essentials**

Indispensable colored stones knowledge with a focus on ruby, sapphire and emerald

3 months | no prerequisites | online exam

**Diamond Essentials**

Vital knowledge about the gem and jewelry market's most important gemstone.

3 months | no prerequisites | online exam

NOTE: Applied Jewelry Professional does not have a required class sequence.

#### Graduate Pearls Diploma

**Pearls**

Learn the factors that determine the quality of akoya, South Sea, Tahitian and freshwater pearls.

6 months | online exam | payment plan available

**Pearl Grading Lab**

Use GIA's 7 Pearl Value Factors™ to evaluate the quality of akoya, South Sea, Tahitian and freshwater pearls.

1 day



Violet tanzanite rough and polished gem  
Courtesy: Isle of Gems Co Ltd/Peter Pereira

Learn more at [GIA.edu/gem-education/distance](http://GIA.edu/gem-education/distance)