



2023 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

Ohio Principles Proficiency Overview

For many years, the prevailing wisdom has been that the two biggest obstacles to membership are time and memorization, which has led many jurisdictions to consider different ways of mitigating these perceived obstacles.

The Principles Proficiency was created by Right Worshipful Brother Steven Hessler as an alternate form of proficiency that accomplishes the three main goals of Ritual proficiencies: ensuring that the Candidate understands the practical aspects of the Ritual Experience, understands the more symbolic or esoteric aspects of the Ritual Experience, and provides a means for a Lodge to establish meaningful connections with new Brethren.

The Principles Proficiency asks the Candidate to work with a Mentor to accomplish three sections:

1. **Ritual and Educational Readings:** Answer multi-faceted questions based on the Ritual and educational materials. These questions are designed to demonstrate comprehension and some basic interpretation of aspects of the Ritual.
2. **Reading the Masonic Cipher and Understanding Your Obligation:** With the help of their Mentor, the Candidate will demonstrate that they can read the ciphered obligation from the Ritual and can demonstrate the modes of recognition: due guards, signs, steps, grips, words, etc.
3. **Principles Proficiency Exam Questions:** These are a set of 10-12 open-ended questions that are more to do with interpretation, assimilation, and application of the lessons, values, tenets, and symbols contained in our degrees. The Candidate will answer as many of these questions in open Lodge as the Lodge requires to determine that the Brother is proficient in the degrees. Some Lodges will pick and choose a few, some will ask that the Candidate answer all of them or ask some others.

In this folder, you will see the different exams as well as guidelines for the Master Craftsman (Mentor)