

Student/Apprentice Judge Program



**United
Federation of
Doll Clubs
ReAL Services**

10900 North Pomona Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64153

816-891-7040

Web: www.ufdc.org
Email: info@ufdc.org

Revised 2025

Contents

Objectives of the Student/Apprentice Judge Program	3
Overview of the Student/Apprentice Judge Program.....	3
Program Content and Design	3
Application Requirements and Process.....	4
Program Application Requirements.....	5
Application from Previous Programs/Program Continuations	5
Termination from the Program	5
Subject Area Expert Judges	5
Application for Student/Apprentice Judge Program.....	6
Student/Apprentice Judge Program Description	7
Guidelines for Preparing Research Projects.....	8
Requirements for Certification as a UFDC Judge	9
Student Judge Feedback Form... ..	10
Apprentice Judge Assessment & Evaluation Form.....	11
Registration and Judge Certification Form.....	12

Objectives of the Student/Apprentice Judge Program

- To continue to provide for the upholding of the highest standards for judging dolls in all UFDC sanctioned Competitive Exhibits
- To develop qualified individuals available to Judge at both regional and national levels
- To offer qualified applicants the opportunity to participate in an advanced program on the judging of dolls using UFDC's criteria for Judges and judging
- To encourage participants in their efforts to become qualified Judges in their chosen areas of doll study, and in keeping with the goals of UFDC, to advance the understanding of dolls worldwide

Overview of the Student/Apprentice Program

The UFDC Student/Apprentice Judge Program originated in 1993. It operates under the supervision of the Director of ReAL Services who oversees the program's continual development, design, and implementation, and works with the Chair of Student/Apprentice Judges (hereby referred to as the Chair) and the Chair of Judges who work jointly to certify graduates of the program.

The Student/Apprentice Judge Program is approximately a two-year course, not to exceed a total of four years. It involves training sessions presented via videoconference, (for example Zoom), assignments at National Conventions, as well as individual research assignments. If student participants successfully meet the requirements outlined in this document, they are registered as UFDC Judges upon satisfactory completion of this course. Their names are listed in the official list of Judges as available to Judge in their specified area of expertise at Regional Conferences and National Conventions. Participants in this Program need to have a longstanding dedication and commitment to their own individual doll study and have developed specific areas of concentration.

UFDC cannot guarantee that Judges or Apprentice Judges certified by this program will be selected to Judge or apprentice Judge at Regional Conferences and National Conventions. Judges are selected by UFDC Chair of Judges for these Competitive Exhibits. Individuals having a recognized academic track record through publications, presentations, etc., thereby demonstrating knowledge, are most likely to be selected to Judge.

Candidates may apply to enter the Student/Apprentice Program by following the instructions at: <https://www.ufdc.org/education/apprentice-judge-program/>.

Program Content and Design

UFDC Judges work in their area of expertise. No single Judge is expected to be knowledgeable about or able to Judge an entire Competitive Exhibit. As future Judges, each program participant will select two doll categories as listed in the Competitive Exhibit list. These will become particular areas for study and research. Potential program participants should choose categories of dolls that they collect or to which they have easy hands-on access. It is essential that Student/Apprentice Judges have first-hand exposure to

as many examples of dolls as possible to round out their basic knowledge. The nuances of judging may not be learned from written or spoken words alone.

The content of the Student/Apprentice Judge Program is designed to address the following three areas:

DOLL EXPERTISE: Two research projects will be suggested by the participant and approved by the Chair on the doll categories selected for study. One additional area and research project will be assigned by the Chair. This will include oral and/or written material with a goal of enabling participants to advance their knowledge and potentially write articles for publication in DOLL NEWS, presenting programs, seminars, lectures or workshops.

JUDGING EXPERTISE: Videoconference and Convention sessions will take participants through various exercises leading up to judging dolls. The level of challenge will increase as the exercises proceed.

JUDGING PROCEDURE, PROTOCOL AND ETIQUETTE: Participants are expected to enter the program with basic doll knowledge and awareness of UFDC procedures after having participated in the Competitive Exhibits by entering dolls, clerking for Judges, monitoring competitive exhibits, taking Highlight Tours and clerking the entry and removal of exhibition dolls. It is important to be familiar with these procedures so participants may devote their attention to the judging process. Team captains will be encouraged to bring student Judges into some discussions and apprentices into all discussions leading up to the final ribbon decision. Student/apprentices are encouraged to be circumspect about remarks made during judging process, to listen carefully and take note of comments and decisions. All discussions in the judging team are to be treated as confidential. Valuable experience in procedure and protocol is gained by continuing to volunteer as monitors or clerks, entering dolls in competition and signing up for Highlight Tours. Participants must be aggressive in their research and study. Each is expected to take the initiative to gain experience.

Participants in the Student/Apprentice Judge Program need to keep the Chair up to date on their activities so that credit is given for their work.

Application Requirements and Process

Those wishing to participate in the UFDC Student/Apprentice Judge Program need to consider:

- You must be a member of UFDC, and you should plan to attend the two consecutive National Conventions that will occur during your time in the program. In addition, it is recommended that you participate in Competitive Exhibits at Regional Conferences.
- You must dedicate the time and effort demanded to complete the research and onsite assignments required each year.
- You must meet the certification requirements to become certified in your areas of expertise as a UFDC Judge.
- The Student/Apprentice Judge Program may not be for everyone. For those looking for a challenging course of doll study that includes information on how judging is done we recommend UFDC seminars, programs or YouTube programs on topics about the competitive exhibit and judging process.

Program Application Requirements

To apply for acceptance into the Student/Apprentice Judge Program each applicant must complete the application form and requested material and submit as specified and within the timelines at <https://www.ufdc.org/education/apprentice-judge-program/>.

The decision on acceptance is made jointly by the UFDC Director of ReAL Services and the Chair and comply with UFDC's non-discriminatory policy. Applicants whose chosen field of study is where there is a shortage of Judges will be given priority for acceptance into the program if there is a waiting list. Applicants to the program are screened based on experience, knowledge of dolls in their chosen field, and the quality of their research.

Applicants from Previous Programs/Program Continuations

It is expected that program participants will participate in the program in contiguous years. However, sometimes circumstances warrant a participant suspending their course of study. Participants granted a suspension by the Chair will be allowed to continue in the future. If a participant has demonstrated their ability to Judge by being a guest Judge for two or more years during their program suspension, the Chair in concert with the Chair of Judges may certify the guest Judge to be a Judge.

Termination from the Program

A student will be given three opportunities for their written evaluations, described below, to move from student to apprentice. Apprentices will be given three opportunities, described below, for recommendation for certification to become a Judge. Program participants who do not perform within three attempts to move from student to apprentice and three attempts to be recommended for certification will be terminated from the program and are not eligible to reapply. Participants will be required to perform additional research and training projects when they need additional experience.

Subject Area Expert Judges

In some cases, subject area experts are asked to be a guest Judge. These are well respected for their expertise, have demonstrated their subject area knowledge, and have knowledge in an area where few Judges exist. Guest Judges will be encouraged to participate in a videoconference session on judging criteria and principles. If the guest Judge demonstrates their knowledge of the criteria and principles, the Chair in concert with the Chair of Judges can certify the guest Judge to be a full Judge.

Application for Student/Apprentice Judge Program

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel (____) _____ Email _____

Club Affiliation _____ Region _____

Specify area of interest: _____

Specify two categories (i.e., Wood Dolls, German Bisque, Celluloid, Hard Plastic, Celebrity, etc.) from the National Competitive Exhibition category list that you wish to gain experience judging:

Primary _____ Secondary _____

Please Answer the Following Questions:

1. How many years have you been collecting and studying dolls? _____
2. What types of dolls do you collect? _____
3. What UFDC National Conventions have you attended? _____
4. What, if any, experience have you had in the last five years at the National Conventions?

Conference	Date	Event	Type of Participation

5. List any research projects, publications, presentations, exhibits or museum work that you have completed in the past five years. Continue, if needed, on a second page.

Date Type Title & Publication (if applicable)

6. Why do you want to become a Judge?

7. What qualities do you have that you think will make you a good Judge?

8. Are you able to attend online classes on a videoconference platform (ex. Zoom)? Yes No

9. If you have an example(s) of your doll related academic work (i.e., article, media presentation, etc.) please include a copy making sure your resources are referenced in either bibliographic or list form.

Submit this completed form and your material to the Chair listed at <https://www.ufdc.org/education/apprentice-judge-program/>.

Student/Apprentice Judge Program Description

Prerequisites:

- Ability to participate in videoconference sessions
- Ability to present research projects in videoconferences
- Minimum of two years previous participation in National Competitive Exhibits (entering your dolls into competition, clerk, monitor, attended Highlight Tours, etc.)
- Minimum of one-year previous experience as a National Conventions clerk or ability to clerk as a minimum entry or removal and preferably both the first year
- Research background submitted with application

Syllabus:

Work from Home. Attend a series of instructional and informative videoconferences. Videoconference meetings will be arranged at times which work best for the majority of participants. Participants are expected to attend Videoconference meetings live. If a participant cannot attend a live session, sessions will be taped and with permission of the Chair can be viewed at a later date as needed. All participants must participate in or view all Videoconference sessions.

The videoconferences will comprise of:

- 1) Programs developed by the Chair to teach and reinforce the skills of a Judge
 - 2) Guest speakers discussing topics related to the judging process
 - 3) Three research presentations by each participant, two within the areas of interest and one additional area assigned by the Chair. The presentations will cover topics mutually agreed to and may be oral only with photos shown, PowerPoint (or equivalent) and or written. In all cases, references will be provided in either bibliographic or list form. See research guidelines below.
 - 4) Quizzes to reinforce research and judging
 - 5) Other potential learning exercises with class participation
- B) Work at the National Conventions. Placement on judging teams will be made in coordination with the Chair of Judges as applicable. **NOTE: Participants are restricted from entering dolls in categories they will be on a judging team with.**
- 1) First year students:
 - a. If a student has never clerked, they will perform the duties of a clerk to enter and/or remove attendees dolls their first year. Student Judges will be restricted from clerking in dolls which are in the categories of dolls that they will assist a judging team with. The Chair of Clerks will be notified of this restriction and work with the student Judge to assure this restriction.
 - b. Students will be student Judges on a team within one of their areas of interest. Their team and categories will be specified before Convention. The judging team captain will be made aware and will be encouraged to allow student input. At the discretion of the team captain, students might not participate in the final ribbon placement. There will be verbal input from the team captain to determine if the student will progress to an apprentice the second year or if additional experience is suggested.

2) Second year students:

- a. A student whose written feedback from the first year indicated additional experience is suggested will repeat the student Judge process described above for the first year. If the student is still recommended for additional experience, they will be assigned an additional research project before performing student Judge duties the next year. Students will be given three opportunities to progress to apprentice before being terminated from the program.
- b. Apprentices (students who received input from the previous year's team captain that indicates the student is ready to progress) will become a third person on a judging team. There will be written input from the team captain to suggest whether the apprentice should progress to nomination for certification as a Judge. Apprentices not recommended for certification will receive two additional opportunities with additional research project(s) and training. Apprentices who do not receive recommendations for certification in three attempts will be terminated from the program.

3) All students and apprentices:

- a. Will participate in mock judging exercises
- b. Will attend all Highlight Tours and assist with moving groups between Judges as needed
- c. Participate in one or two one-hour sessions outside the competitive exhibit

Guidelines for Preparing Research Projects

Student Judge Program participants are required to provide three research projects during the course of the program. These projects should be approximately 20 – 30 minutes when presented to the group which will include a subject area expert on the topic. The process of researching, preparing and submitting these assignments helps develop and demonstrate the most essential attribute of a UFDC Judge – expertise.

Projects should supply:

- Accurate and complete information about the dolls in chosen categories or classifications
- Visuals supporting your research
- Documentation of and reliable sources for research
- Provide a brief description covering the political, economic, technological, materials, etc. that impacted/influenced the production of the dolls. For example:
 - How did the world events, like the Great Depression or industrialization or new material production for example, affect the production of dolls world-wide?
 - How do celebrities, like the Dionne Quintuplets or screen stars, impact doll production?
 - Is there a reason why the material of particular doll heads is superseded by others?

- Demonstration that if you become a Judge, you will have the continuing motivation and techniques to expand your knowledge for any new category you may be called upon to Judge and to remain up to date in current literature in your selected fields. The best Judges have a natural desire to constantly learn more about all dolls; it is devotion, not a chore.

Requirements for Certification as a UFDC Judge

Prerequisites:

- Attendance of all Videoconference sessions
- Satisfactory completion of three research projects which demonstrate an advanced knowledge of dolls in at least two categories of the UFDC Competitive Exhibit
- Satisfactory quiz evaluations
- Program requirements of two years of National Conventions as described above
- Satisfactory evaluations of judging team captains
- Mutual concurrence of both the Chair and the Chair of Judges

Though the period of apprenticeship may vary from one individual to another, fulfilling these requirements will in all probability lead to certification as a UFDC Judge and a listing in the official list of Judges. *Selection of Judges for any event is the prerogative of the UFDC Chair of Judges. The mandate of the Chair of Judges is to provide the best and fairest possible judging for participants in the competitive exhibit. From time to time the National Chair of Judges may invite a specialist or guest Judge to serve on a judging team. It is understood that these people have unique qualifications in the area they are requested to Judge.*

UFDC STUDENT JUDGE FEEDBACK FORM

The candidate listed below is a student in the Student/Apprentice Judge Program. In most cases, the student will be in the first year of the program. Please ask their input as dolls are evaluated. Observe their knowledge both of the dolls being judged and the judging criteria. At the discretion of the team Captain, students do not have to participate in the final ribbon decision. When judging is complete, if you have any concerns, please take a few moments to verbally discuss your review with the Chair of Student/Apprentice Judges and Chairman of Judges. Your observations will help determine if the student will progress to being an Apprentice Judge. Thank you.

Student Judge Candidate Name _____

Event _____ Date _____

Classes Judged (or #s) _____

Comments (to be filled in by Judging Team Captain) _____

Judging Team Captain (print, sign & date) _____

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND EITHER PROVIDE THIS FORM TO THE CHAIR OF STUDENT/APPRENTICE JUDGES, THE CHAIR OF JUDGES OR LEAVE IN YOUR COMPLETED FOLDER AT THE COMPLETION OF YOUR TEAM'S JUDGING ASSIGNMENT. IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT THE CANDIDATE, PLEASE SPEAK TO THE CHAIR OF JUDGES AND/OR THE CHAIR OF STUDENT/APPRENTICE JUDGES FOR A BRIEF DISCUSSION. THANK YOU

UFDC APPRENTICE JUDGE FORM

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF JUDGING PARTICIPATION

This form is to be used by registered UFDC Apprentice Judges fulfilling requirements for certification as a UFDC Judge and may be copied as needed. Through the Student/Apprentice Judge Program, UFDC is striving to standardize and maintain a high quality of judging standards throughout organizational judging opportunities. When judging is complete, please take a few moments to review classifications Judged by the Apprentice Judge before completing the form. Your assistance and careful consideration of the Judge candidate is greatly appreciated.

Apprentice Judge candidate name _____

Event _____ Date _____

Classes Judged (or #s) _____

In your evaluation, please judge the below characteristics remembering that an apprentice would potentially be certified as a Judge for next year.

The above-named Apprentice Judge demonstrated the following:

YES NO

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | A proficient knowledge of the classification (s) |
| ☐ | ☐ | An understanding of judging criteria |
| ☐ | ☐ | An understanding of how judging decisions are made |
| ☐ | ☐ | An ability to work in cooperation with members of the judging team (consensus, discussions, etc.) |
| ☐ | ☐ | An understanding of judging procedures and ethics |
| ☐ | ☐ | Observance of judging protocol |
| ☐ | ☐ | An ability to abide by the team consensus and/or the decision reached by a second team assigned by the Chair of Judges |

The undersigned recommends / doesn't recommend (circle one) the apprentice Judge for certification as a Judge.

If **NOT** recommended, please fill in the following:

- 1) More study is need for (circle all that apply): criteria, procedures, protocol, team dynamics, other (specify) _____
- 2) More study is needed in the following categories which were Judged _____

Comments: _____

Judging Team Captain (print, sign & date) _____

Please return this form to the Chair of Student/Apprentice Judges _____ or the Chair of Judges _____ or leave in your completed team folder.

UFDC JUDGE CERTIFICATION

Name: _____ UFDC Membership# _____

Categories of proficiency:

Primary: _____

Secondary: _____

UFDC CERTIFICATION TO JUDGE

This is to certify that _____ has successfully completed the requirements to become a UFDC Judge in their designated field(s) of doll proficiency at UFDC National Conventions and Regional Conferences.

With these recommendations, _____ will be listed in the Official Registry of Judges as a fully qualified Judge.

Name	Position	Date
_____	Chair of Student/Apprentice Judges	_____
_____	Chair of Judges	_____