

**Permaculture Design Certification at Omega Institute
Pre-Course Self Assessment**

**Please fill in your responses prior to the course. Save and title this document as ‘Your
Name PDC at Omega,’ and email to ecologicalgardens@gmail.com.**

Name _____

Date _____

Rate yourself on the skills and information below using the following scale:

1 =Not at all **2** =A little **3** =Some/With Help **4** =Fairly Well

5 =Very Well/ Skillfully

Skills

- I can read maps, including topographic maps.
- I can use maps to express design ideas at proper scale.
- I can graphically present information in a clear manner.
- I can write succinct desired conditions (goals) and design intentions.
- I can observe without interpreting.
- I can interpret what I observe.
- I can access and honor my intuition, as well as my rationality.
- I can ask questions that elicit the information I need from someone.
- I can articulate goals and objectives for a design effectively.
- I can analyze and assess a landscape.
- In site analysis phase, I can separate analysis from assessment, assessment from solution directions, and solution directions from design solutions.
- I can use niche information to link needs and yields in a system.
- I can use zone and sector analysis to position elements in a landscape.
- I can brainstorm and evaluate design ideas that meet specific objectives.
- I know of 3 design methodologies for the design concept and schematic phase of the design process.
- I can express an idea’s essence simply in words and pictures.
- I have specific strategies to help me think creatively “outside the box.”
- I can identify plants with a book to help me.
- I can identify plants without a reference book.
- I can interpret plant architecture, dispersal patterns, context, etc., to help me understand a plant’s ecology.
- I can analyze a plant’s niche characteristics.
- I can distinguish between a guild and a polyculture.
- I am self-reflective and self-acknowledging.
- I take good care of myself.
- I support others in their process and in taking care of themselves.
- I can listen well, and say what I am hearing in my own words.
- I honor others’ reality and affirm my own.
- I make clear agreements and set clear, flexible boundaries.
- I take responsibility for my own actions and fulfill my commitments.

- I am considerate of others' needs and feelings, even when different than mine.
- I demonstrate self-regulation when in a group experience, allowing the space and time for others to participate.
- I fully engage in group activities with goodwill and enthusiasm.
- I take reasonable responsibility for group needs and obligations.
- I hold others accountable for their behavior when needed, with respect and care.

Information

I can say the problem that permaculture addresses in one sentence.
That sentence is:

I can define permaculture in two brief sentences.
Those sentences are... (give it a try):

- I can list the 3 main ethics of permaculture.
- I know at least 5 key permaculture principles (name and definitions).
- I can describe the natural ecosystem dynamics from which these principles are derived.
- I am able to quickly provide examples of each of these principles.
- I can find examples of these principles in a landscape.
- I am familiar enough with several other principles to be able to use them in a design project if I have them listed in front of me.
- I know the fundamental components of landscapes.
- I can list the Scale of Permanence from memory.
- I am aware of the limitations to the Scale of Permanence.
- I have practiced site analysis with overlays for the complete Scale of Permanence.
- I know the components of at least one model of design process.
- I know several specific design techniques that I can pull out of my toolbox.
- I feel connected to my own inner design process.
- I know at least 5 good strategies for home-scale waste management.
- I know several strategies for increasing storage of water in the ground.
- I know which layer to place the seedy material in a sheet mulch system.
- I know the differences between a swale and a ditch.
- I know what tools I will need to design a diversion ditch and rain garden.
- I understand how the keyline plow path is patterned in a landscape.
- I can tell you what the different concepts of embodied energy, ecological footprint, and emergy mean.
- I know whether or not cob construction involves corn cobs.
- I can share with you an accurate definition of appropriate technology.
- I know what a 'jar test' is and what information it gives me.
- I know how many Zones of Use there are and what specific kinds of food production, animal integration, mulching intensity, and water systems are suitable for each.
- I know how and when to use a solar path finder.

Questions for You

At this stage in your permaculture studies, where would you like to focus your learning?

Have you attended any permaculture events, projects, or installations? Tell us about them!

Do you have a clear sense, or an insight, regarding how your beliefs affect your current perceptions about reality? Can you offer an example?

When you look at a tree, what do you see?

When you see a waste site, landfill, or pollution, what do you see?

What is an ecological worldview to you? How do you experience and embody it?

Do you feel empowered to create a sustainable, or more sustainable, habitat for yourself right now? Why or why not? How might you go about doing that?