

Cicerone® Certification Program

US Certified Cicerone® Syllabus

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This syllabus outlines the knowledge required of those preparing for the Certified Cicerone® exam in the United States (for syllabi pertaining to other regions, visit cicerone.org). While this list is comprehensive in its scope of content, further study beyond the syllabus is necessary to fully understand each topic. The content tested on the Certified Cicerone exam is a subset of the information presented within the Master Cicerone® syllabus, and individual syllabi for all four levels of the program may be found on the cicerone.org website.

Outline

(Full syllabus begins on next page.)

I. Keeping and Serving Beer

- A. Purchasing and accepting beer
- B. Serving alcohol
- C. Beer storage
- D. Draft principles
- E. Draft systems
- F. Beer glassware
- G. Serving bottled beer
- H. Serving draft beer
- I. Other draft service practices

II. Beer Styles

- A. Understanding beer styles
- B. Style parameters
- C. Beer style knowledge

III. Beer Flavor and Evaluation

- A. Taste and flavor
- B. Identify normal flavors of beer and their source
- C. Identify common beer off flavors by name and source
- D. Tasting exam format

IV. Beer Ingredients and Brewing Processes

- A. Ingredients
- B. Processes

V. Pairing Beer with Food

- A. Possible outcomes of successful beer and food pairings
- B. Beer and food vocabulary
- C. Pairing concepts
- D. Common beer and food interactions
- E. Creating a pairing
- F. Designing a meal
- G. Classic beer and food pairings
- H. Cooking with beer

Appendix A: Recommended Culinary Knowledge

Full Syllabus

I. Keeping and Serving Beer

A. Purchasing and accepting beer

1. The three-tier system in the United States and the reasons for its existence
 - a. By law, alcoholic beverages sold in the United States must move through the three-tier system. The three tiers are brewers/importers, wholesalers (also known as distributors), and retailers
 - i. Brewers and importers sell to wholesalers
 - ii. Wholesalers sell to both on- and off-premises retailers
 - iii. On- and off-premises retailers sell to consumers
 - b. Some states have granted exceptions to the three-tier system. Common exceptions include:
 - i. Brewpubs that both brew and retail to consumers
 - ii. Breweries that brew and sell directly to retailers or consumers
2. Taxes levied on beer
 - a. Specific taxes
 - i. Federal Excise Tax – paid by brewers
 - ii. State Excise Tax – generally processed and paid by wholesalers
 - iii. Sales taxes and other locally required fees – paid by retailers
 - iv. Income taxes are levied on brewers, distributors, and retailers
 3. Assessing age and physical condition of beer shipment
 - a. Check date code if available (See section I.C.2.a for information on how to interpret date codes)
 - b. Physical condition of container
 - i. Container should not be dented or broken
 - ii. Container should not show any signs of leakage or box weakness
 - c. Temperature
 - i. Ideally beer will still be cool when it reaches the retailer—if beer is warm or hot to the touch when it arrives, its flavor may have changed substantially during shipment

B. Serving alcohol

1. Alcohol's effects
 - a. Absorption and elimination
 - b. Physical and behavioral indicators
2. Responsible serving practices
 - a. Provide accurate ABV information to consumers
 - b. Adjust serving size based on ABV

C. Beer storage

1. Beer is best consumed fresh
 - a. When beer is released from the brewery, it is ready to drink
 - b. Certain types of beers may age in ways that make them interesting to drink months or years later if properly cellared, but the majority of beer should be consumed fresh
2. Rotate inventory
 - a. Check date codes regularly

- i. Meaning of code
 - Some date codes indicate the best-by date
 - Some date codes indicate the bottling/packaging date
 - ii. Types of codes (order and number of digits may vary)
 - Traditional consumer date codes (e.g., 061512 = June 15, 2012)
 - Julian/ordinal date codes (364-14 = December 30, 2014)
 - Some breweries have their own proprietary date code format
 - b. Ensure that beer is consumed in the order of dating
 - c. Remove out of date products from service inventory
 - d. General freshness guidelines
 - i. Draft beer
 - Non-pasteurized draft beer can remain fresh for about 45–60 days (refrigerated)
 - Pasteurized draft beer can remain fresh for about 90–120 days (refrigerated)
 - When not refrigerated or subjected to other stresses, shelf life decreases significantly
 - ii. Bottled/canned beer
 - If kept refrigerated, can remain fresh for up to 6 months
 - Hoppy styles like IPA are more susceptible to the effects of time, and may show flavor changes in as little as 3 months, even when refrigerated
 - When not refrigerated or if subjected to other stresses, may be noticeably off after 3 months
 - Taste aged product against fresh product to determine deterioration
 - e. Train staff to promote and sell all beers offered
3. Store beer properly
 - a. Refrigerated storage is best for all beers at all times
 - i. If beer is not refrigerated, keep inventories small and sell the beer quickly
 - b. Non-refrigerated storage accelerates aging and development of off flavors
 - i. With time, all beers will develop signs of oxidation (diminished hop flavor and aroma; malt shift towards honey, caramel, toffee, etc.; papery and wet cardboard flavors)
 - ii. Bottle-conditioned beer or unfiltered beer with yeast present may develop signs of autolysis (umami, meaty, soy sauce, and/or rubbery flavors)
 - iii. Microbial contamination sometimes occurs in packaged beer resulting in various off flavors, depending on the contaminant
 - c. Temperature changes within a reasonable range (e.g., moving beer from cold storage (38 °F/3 °C) to room temperature storage (68–77 °F/20–25 °C) or vice versa) are not inherently damaging to a beer's flavor, though the beer will remain fresh for longer if stored at cold temperatures at all times
 - d. Beer should not be allowed to reach temperatures in excess of 77 °F (25 °C) as these conditions lead to rapid flavor degradation
4. Protect beer from light
 - a. Skunky flavor (also known as lightstruck flavor) is caused by sunlight, fluorescent light, and most LED lights and is most noticeable in the aroma of the beer

- b. Skunking may be evident after just a couple minutes of light exposure
 - c. Bottled beers are subject to skunking
 - i. Brown glass blocks most of the wavelengths of light that cause skunking, and therefore offers superior protection to clear and green glass
 - ii. Green glass blocks very little of the light that causes skunking
 - iii. Clear glass offers no protection against skunking
 - d. Cans, ceramic bottles, and bottles in closed case boxes that completely shield beer from light give maximum protection from skunking
5. Serve beer properly
- a. Draft beer must be served using CO₂ or a CO₂-nitrogen mix at the proper pressure setting
 - b. Compressed air should never be used to pressurize traditional kegs in which the dispense gas comes into contact with the beer
 - i. Single-use kegs with an internal bag holding the beer can be served using compressed air since the gas does not come into contact with the beer
 - c. A party pump (a manually operated pump that attaches to the top of a keg to allow for temporary dispense of beer by pushing air into the keg) limits the flavor stability of the beer to **less than one day** because oxygen is put in contact with the beer
- D. Draft principles
- 1. CO₂ pressure is applied to maintain the carbonation level of beer during dispense
 - a. Each beer is carbonated to a specific level. The brewer or brand owner should provide this information to the retailer
 - b. The retailer must manage the temperature of the beer, the pressure applied to the keg, and the gas blend used in order to maintain this carbonation level
 - 2. As beer moves from the keg to the faucet, it encounters resistance to flow from the primary elements of the draft system
 - a. Friction in the draft lines
 - b. Changes in elevation
 - c. Variable resistance devices on faucet if present
 - 3. The relationship between applied gas pressure and resistance to flow determines the flow rate of beer at the faucet
 - a. Draft systems with high resistance values may use beer pumps to contribute to the force provided by the applied gas pressure
- E. Draft systems
- 1. Draft system components¹
 - a. Pressure side components
 - i. Gas cylinder and bulk tank
 - ii. Nitrogen generator
 - iii. Air compressor
 - **Never** use with traditional kegs
 - May be used with single-use kegs with an internal bag holding the beer
 - May be used to power beer pumps
 - iv. Gas blender

¹ Certified Cicerone® candidates should be familiar with the function of each draft system component, and additionally should be familiar with the anatomy of couplers and faucets.

- v. Beer pump
 - vi. Primary and secondary regulators
 - vii. Gas line
 - viii. Coupler
 - Coupler systems: A, D, G, M, S, U, and KeyKeg®
 - b. Beer side components
 - i. Keg
 - Stainless steel
 - Single-use
 - ii. Coupler
 - iii. Jumper line
 - iv. Foam on Beer detector (FOB)
 - v. Wall bracket
 - vi. Trunk line (an insulated bundle of beer line and glycol line)
 - vii. Beer line (vinyl, barrier, stainless, etc.)
 - viii. Draft tower
 - ix. Beer faucet
 - Standard (rear shutoff) faucet
 - Nitro faucet
 - Flow control faucet
 - c. Cooling system components
 - i. Glycol power pack/glycol chiller
 - ii. Trunk line
2. Types of cooling systems
- a. Direct draw
 - b. Glycol-cooled
 - c. Air-cooled
3. Draft system design
- a. System balance
 - i. Dynamic resistance
 - ii. Static resistance
4. Draft system operation
- a. Standard temperature of 38 °F (3 °C)
 - b. Troubleshooting
 - i. No beer at faucet
 - ii. Beer foaming
 - iii. Flat beer
 - iv. Cloudy beer
5. Draft system maintenance
- a. Cleaning of lines, faucets, couplers, and FOBs
 - i. Draft cleaning equipment
 - ii. Manual cleaning of draft system components
 - iii. Draft line cleaning process
 - b. Use proper personal protective equipment (rubber gloves and eye protection)

- c. Criteria for proper cleaning²
 - i. Frequency
 - ii. Cleaner type
 - iii. Concentration
 - iv. Temperature
 - v. Method and contact time
 - vi. Flow rate (for dynamic cleaning)
 - d. Safety issues for the operator and the consumer
- F. Beer glassware
1. Select appropriate glassware
 - a. Size
 - i. Higher alcohol beers should be served in smaller glasses
 - ii. Glass should provide room for an appropriately sized head
 - b. Shape
 - i. Cultural and historical traditions connect certain glasses to specific styles
 - ii. Glass shape impacts the aesthetics of presentation of a beer
 - iii. Shape can also impact the perceived flavor and aroma of a given beer
 - c. Brand
 - i. Branded glasses matched to beer
 2. Use “beer clean” glassware
 - a. Each glass must be cleaned before refilling. Do not refill a used glass
 - b. Glass cleaning procedure – three-sink method
 - i. Prepare the three sinks for glassware cleaning
 - The first sink should be filled with warm water and a non-petroleum based (sudsless) detergent
 - The second sink should contain cool, clean rinse water that is being continually refreshed through use of an overflow tube
 - The third sink should contain hot water and an appropriate sanitizer at the correct concentration as specified by the manufacturer
 - ii. Empty the glass into an open drain
 - iii. Wash glass in the first sink with soap and a brush
 - iv. Rinse glass in cold water in the second sink, heel in, heel out
 - v. Rinse glass in sanitizer in the third sink, heel in, heel out
 - vi. Dry glass inverted on a rack so air circulates inside
 - c. Glass cleaning procedure – glass washing machine
 - i. Empty the glass into an open drain
 - ii. Place glass upside down on the rack of the dishwasher
 - iii. Run the wash cycle according to the manufacturer’s instructions
 - iv. After washing, dry glass inverted on a rack so air circulates inside
 - v. Glass washing machine considerations
 - Use a machine dedicated to beer glassware ONLY. Do not use this machine to clean dishes or glassware with food or dairy residue (e.g., coffee mugs with cream or milk added, cocktails incorporating egg whites or cream, etc.)

² The Cicerone® Certification Program uses the Draught Beer Quality Manual as the reference source for proper draft system cleaning criteria. You can access the manual online at draughtquality.org.

- Fats from food or dairy will coat other glassware in the washer resulting in dirty glasses and poor head retention
 - Use correct detergent and sanitizer—check concentrations daily or follow detergent and sanitizer supplier recommendations
 - Water temperature should range between 130 and 140 °F (54–60 °C). High temperature machines designed to operate at 180 °F (82 °C) may be used in place of chemical sanitizers (though local health departments may have additional requirements)
 - Maintain washer to assure proper water flow through each nozzle and washer arm
 - Regularly service machine following manufacturer’s guidelines to ensure proper operation
 - Periodically check the interior of the dish washer to be sure that it is free of mold and debris
 - d. How to check that glass is beer clean
 - i. Without beer
 - Sheeting (wet glass interior and then empty glass; water should sheet off of glass evenly; formation of droplets or webbing indicates that the glass is not beer clean)
 - Salt test (wet glass interior, empty glass and then sprinkle salt throughout; places where salt does **not** adhere are not beer clean)
 - ii. With beer
 - Head size, shape, retention—good head formation and retention are signs of a beer clean glass
 - Bubbles clinging to the sides of the glass (in liquid beer) indicate that the glass is **not** beer clean
 - During consumption, lace will cling to the side of a beer clean glass following each sip
3. Preparation to serve
 - a. Glass temperature
 - i. Glasses should not be warm to the touch when filled
 - ii. Room temperature and chilled glasses are acceptable
 - iii. Frozen/frosted glasses are not recommended—they cause foaming, they make beer too cold, and frozen water or sanitizer may be present
 - b. Cold water rinse of glass before filling
 - i. Removes residual sanitizer
 - ii. Cools glasses that may be warm from washing
 - iii. Aids ideal head formation and retention
 - iv. Do NOT rinse used glasses with a glass rinser—glass rinsers should only be used with clean glassware
- G. Serving bottled beer
 - 1. Prepare for service
 - a. Bottle-conditioned beer should be stored upright prior to service
 - i. Bottle-conditioned beer is carbonated by yeast in the package, and consequently contains some amount of sediment

- b. If possible, store beer at ideal serving temperature as dictated by style. Otherwise store all beer under refrigeration (43 °F/6 °C or less)
2. Examine bottle
 - a. Look for white flakes (snow-like) which can indicate old, unstable beer. Do not serve beer in this condition
 - b. Look for a thin ring of residue at liquid level in the neck of the bottle, which is generally indicative of a bad bottle if present. Do not serve beer in this condition
 - c. Check for yeast on the bottom of the bottle
 - i. Retain yeast in bottle unless:
 - Consumer requests yeast to be poured
 - Style (e.g., Weissbier) is traditionally poured with yeast
 - ii. To pour yeast, rouse by swirling, rolling, or inverting
3. Open bottle
 - a. Twist-off crown
 - i. Twist off by hand
 - ii. Napkin may be used to aid grip and protect hand
 - b. Pry-off crown
 - i. Prefer openers with a bar or other lift area at least 0.25 in (0.5 cm) wide to prevent the possibility of breaking the bottle during opening
 - ii. Lift in one motion
 - c. Mushroom cork
 - i. Practice cork safety—keep bottle pointed away from consumer at all times
 - ii. Remove wire cage by untwisting the tab
 - iii. Hold thumb over cork at all times once cage has been removed
 - iv. Grip the cork in one hand (a napkin may be used to aid your grip) and the bottle in the other. Remove cork by twisting the bottle to loosen the cork
 - v. When removing the cork, do so slowly and gently so as not to disturb sediment and make the beer volatile
 - d. Crown plus cork
 - i. Practice cork safety—keep bottle pointed away from consumer at all times
 - ii. Lift crown as described in I.F.3.b
 - iii. Corkscrew will be required after removing crown
 - iv. Place the tip of the corkscrew on the center of the cork and turn clockwise to drive the corkscrew into the cork
 - v. When removing the cork, do so slowly and gently so as not to disturb sediment and make the beer volatile
 - e. Wax-dipped crown
 - i. Use a paring knife or the blade of a wine key to cut out a small notch of wax directly below the crown to allow a bar key to reach under the crown
 - ii. Use a bar key to pry the crown off of the bottle, being careful to ensure that no flakes of wax fall in to the bottle
 - iii. Use a clean bar towel to wipe any wax debris from the lip of the bottle
4. Final bottle check
 - a. Check bottle lip—do not serve beer from bottles with broken or damaged lips
 - b. Also examine bottle lip for rust, dried beer, or yeast that could affect flavor or appearance of the beer

- c. If the bottle has a cork, retain and present it to the consumer
 - i. In the case of a rare, unusual, or new beer, the crown should be retained to present to the consumer
- 5. Pouring bottled beer
 - a. Filtered beer
 - i. Beers bottled without yeast or other sediment—the entire contents of the bottle can be poured into the glass
 - ii. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle and pour down the side of the glass until the glass is half full
 - iii. Gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create approximately 1 inch (2.5 cm) of foam head on the beer as the pour finishes. German wheat beers and Belgian ales traditionally should have 2–3 in (5–8 cm) of head
 - b. Unfiltered beers
 - i. Some beers are packaged unfiltered or with yeast in the bottle. In most cases, yeast and sediment should be retained in the bottle
 - ii. Throughout the pour, be careful not to disturb the sediment
 - iii. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle and pour down the side of the glass until the glass is half full
 - iv. Gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of foam for the style being served
 - v. While finishing the pour, watch the neck of the bottle and be prepared to stop pouring when the yeast moves toward the top of the bottle
 - vi. When in doubt about whether to include the yeast, ask the consumer their preference
- H. Serving draft beer
 - 1. Pouring a beer
 - a. **Never** put the faucet in contact with the glass or allow it to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - b. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle, 1 inch (2.5 cm) below the tap faucet
 - c. Grip the faucet handle near the base and pull forward to the fully open position to start the flow of beer
 - i. When a faucet is only open partially, beer will pour foamy
 - d. Pour down the side of the glass until the glass is half full
 - e. While continuing to pour, gently tilt the glass upright and pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes
 - f. Close the faucet as the foam cap reaches the top of the glass to prevent beer waste
 - 2. Pouring nitro beer
 - a. **Never** put the faucet in contact with the glass or allow it to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - b. Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle, 1 inch (2.5 cm) below the faucet
 - c. Pull the tap handle forward to the fully open position to start the flow of beer
 - d. Pour down the side of the glass until the glass is three-quarters full
 - e. Allow the beer to settle for 1–2 minutes, and then pour down the middle to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes
 - 3. Changing a keg (same product)

- a. Kegs must be chilled to draft system operating temperature (generally 38 °F/3 °C) before tapping and serving—the general guideline is to place kegs in the cooler at least 24 hours before serving
 - b. For D-, G-, S-, and U-system couplers:
 - i. Grip keg coupler handle, then pull out and raise the handle to the “up” or “off” position to disengage. Turn the coupler a quarter turn (90 degrees) counterclockwise to unseat. Lift off of the keg
 - ii. Seat the coupler on a new keg. Turn clockwise a quarter turn (90 degrees) to lock the coupler in place, then lower the coupler handle to the “down” or “on” position to engage
 - c. For A- and M-system couplers:
 - i. Grip keg coupler handle, then depress the button on the underside of the handle (if a button is present) and raise the handle to the “up” or “off” position to disengage. Slide the coupler off of the keg valve
 - ii. Slide the coupler on to the keg valve of a new keg. Lower the coupler handle to the “down” or “on” position to engage
 - d. In systems that use them, the foam on beer detector (FOB) for the keg needs to be reset after a keg change. This is done by venting the FOB mechanism to release foam and gas from the chamber
4. Changing products on a line
 - a. Ensure that the proper coupler for the new product is correctly installed
 - b. If necessary based on contrast between products:
 - i. Rinse or clean lines
 - ii. Replace jumper hose (in extreme cases)
 - c. Ensure that the gas blend and pressure are properly set for the new product
- I. Other draft service practices
1. Growlers, crowlers, and draft beer to go
 - a. Filling techniques and shelf life
 - b. Closures (open container laws)
 - c. Cleaning and reusing growlers
 - d. Safety considerations
 2. Temporary draft systems
 - a. Party pump/picnic pump
 - b. Jockey box
 - i. Coil style
 - ii. Cold plate
 3. Cask-conditioned ale
 - a. Definition of real ale (CAMRA)
 - b. Conditions required to achieve carbonation
 - c. Cask service components
 - i. Cask
 - ii. Tap
 - iii. Soft and hard spiles/pegs
 - d. Cellaring cask ale
 - i. Stillaging
 - ii. Spiling

- iii. Tapping
- iv. Assessing readiness for service
 - Clarity
 - Condition (carbonation level)
 - Flavor
 - Temperature
- e. Cask ale service
 - i. Gravity dispense
 - ii. Beer engine
 - Short spout
 - **Never** put the faucet in contact with the glass or allow it to become immersed in the beer or foam in the glass
 - Hold the glass at a 45-degree angle, 1 inch (2.5 cm) below the faucet
 - Pull the handle smoothly and steadily. Straighten the glass gradually as it fills to create an appropriate amount of head on the beer as the pour finishes
 - In the UK, traditionally the head on a cask ale should be no more than 0.4 in (1 cm). In the US, a more generous head—up to 1 inch (2.5 cm)—is typical
 - Swan neck with sparkler
 - Hold clean glass vertically with sparkler positioned against the bottom of the glass
 - Pull the handle smoothly and steadily. Gradually lower the glass as it fills, but always keep the sparkler below the foam, immersed in the liquid beer
 - Allow to settle and serve
 - In the UK, traditionally the head on a cask ale should be no more than 0.4 in (1 cm). In the US, a more generous head—up to 1 inch (2.5 cm)—is typical
 - Since the swan neck is immersed in the beer during the pour, regularly wipe down the swan neck with a clean, micro-fiber, lint-free cloth
 - iii. Impact of sparkler use

II. Beer Styles

A. Understanding beer styles

1. Historical development of beer styles
 - a. First driven by available ingredients, equipment, and water
 - b. Shaped by technology, taxes and regulations, culture, consumer appeal, etc.
2. Style guidelines are cataloged principally by:
 - a. Beer Judge Certification Program³
 - b. Brewers Association⁴

³ The Cicerone® Certification Program uses the 2015 BJCP Style Guidelines as the reference source for all quantitative style parameters in its exams. You can access the guidelines online at bjcp.org and through their mobile device apps.

⁴ Certified Cicerone® and Advanced Cicerone® candidates should be aware of the Brewers Association guidelines. Master Cicerone® candidates should have familiarity with the general differences between the BA and BJCP guidelines and should have knowledge of BA categories that do not exist in the BJCP guidelines.

B. Style parameters

1. Quantitative parameters of beer character
 - a. Alcohol content
 - i. By volume (ABV)
 - ii. By weight (ABW)
 - b. International Bitterness Units (IBUs)
 - c. Color
 - i. SRM
 - d. Carbonation (Volumes of CO₂)
 - e. Original Gravity (OG)
 - f. Apparent attenuation
2. Qualitative parameters of beer character
 - a. Appearance
 - b. Aroma
 - c. Flavor
 - d. Finish/Aftertaste
 - e. Mouthfeel
 - f. Perceived bitterness

C. Beer style knowledge

1. Knowledge requirements of the styles listed in this section
 - a. Quantitative knowledge of the upper and lower limits for ABV, IBUs, and SRM
 - b. Qualitative knowledge of the flavor profile
 - c. Qualitative knowledge of carbonation level, body, and other mouthfeel characteristics
 - d. Basic knowledge of the style's historical development
 - e. Knowledge of three commercial examples covering classic producers, American producers, and other notable producers of the style globally
2. Beer styles by region
 - a. Belgium and France
 - i. Lambic beers
 - Lambic
 - Gueuze
 - Fruit Lambic (Kriek, Framboise, etc.)
 - ii. Flanders ales
 - Flanders Red Ale
 - Oud Bruin
 - iii. Trappist and abbey ales
 - Belgian Dubbel
 - Belgian Tripel
 - Belgian Dark Strong Ale
 - iv. Pale Belgian beers
 - Belgian Blond Ale
 - Belgian Pale Ale
 - Belgian Golden Strong Ale
 - v. Unique beers
 - Saison

- Bière de Garde
- Witbier
- b. Britain and Ireland
 - i. England
 - Pale ales
 - Ordinary Bitter
 - Best Bitter
 - Strong Bitter
 - English IPA
 - Dark ales
 - Dark Mild
 - British Brown Ale
 - English Porter
 - Sweet Stout
 - Oatmeal Stout
 - Foreign Extra Stout
 - Strong ales
 - Old Ale
 - English Barleywine
 - ii. Scotland
 - Scottish Light
 - Scottish Heavy
 - Scottish Export
 - Wee Heavy
 - iii. Ireland
 - Irish Red Ale
 - Irish Stout
- c. Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria
 - i. Lagers
 - Pale
 - German Pils
 - Munich Helles
 - Czech Premium Pale Lager
 - Amber or dark
 - Vienna Lager
 - Festbier
 - Märzen
 - Munich Dunkel
 - Schwarzbier
 - Rauchbier
 - Bocks
 - Helles Bock
 - Dunkles Bock
 - Doppelbock
 - Eisbock
 - ii. Ales

- Wheat beers
 - Weissbier
 - Dunkles Weissbier
 - Weizenbock
 - Berliner Weisse
 - Gose
- Rhine Valley ales
 - Altbier
 - Kölsch
- d. United States
 - i. Pale lagers
 - American Light Lager
 - American Lager
 - ii. Pale ales
 - American Wheat Beer
 - American Blonde Ale
 - American Pale Ale
 - American Amber Ale
 - iii. IPAs
 - American IPA
 - New England IPA
 - Double IPA
 - iv. Dark ales
 - American Brown Ale
 - American Porter
 - American Stout
 - Imperial Stout
 - v. Strong ales
 - American Barleywine
 - vi. Historic styles
 - Cream Ale
 - California Common
 - vii. Specialty beers (beers made with novel ingredients and/or processes)
 - Novel ingredients
 - Alternate grains and malts (e.g., rye, spelt, etc.)
 - Smoked malts
 - Sugars and other non-malt fermentables (e.g., honey, molasses, etc.)
 - Fruits and vegetables
 - Herbs, spices, and natural flavorings (e.g., coffee, chocolate, etc.)
 - Novel processes
 - Fermentation with non-*Saccharomyces* organisms (e.g., *Brettanomyces*, *Lactobacillus*, etc.)
 - Fermentation or aging with barrels/wood of various types
- e. Other regions
 - i. International
 - International Pale Lager

- ii. Scandinavia
 - Baltic Porter

III. Beer Flavor and Evaluation

A. Taste and flavor

1. How we perceive flavor
 - a. Aroma
 - i. Orthonasal
 - ii. Retronasal
 - b. Taste
 - i. Established
 - Sweet
 - Salty
 - Sour
 - Bitter
 - Umami
 - ii. Emerging
 - Fat
 - iii. Tongue map myth
 - The different tastes are not mapped to distinct regions of the tongue
 - All of the tastes can be perceived on all parts of the tongue
 - c. Mouthfeel
 - i. Body
 - ii. Carbonation
 - iii. Astringency
 - iv. Creaminess
 - v. Alcoholic warming
2. Variations in taste perception
 - a. Genetic and biological differences
 - b. Personal/behavioral factors
 - i. Smoking, coffee, food preferences
 - c. Mental and psychological factors
3. Beer evaluation
 - a. Temperature
 - i. Beer reveals more flavor as its temperature increases and should be served between 38 and 55 °F (3–13 °C) depending upon its style
 - b. Components of evaluation
 - i. Appearance
 - ii. Aroma
 - iii. Taste
 - iv. Mouthfeel
 - v. Finish/Aftertaste
 - c. Key evaluation techniques
 - i. Aroma techniques
 - Distant Sniff: Swirl beer while holding glass 6–8 in (15–20 cm) away from nose and take one to two short sniffs

- Drive-by Sniff: Swirl beer; slowly pass glass across your face, underneath your nose; take a few short sniffs as the glass passes by
 - Short Sniff: Swirl beer; bring glass to nose and take one to two short sniffs
 - Long Sniff: Swirl beer; bring glass to nose and take one long sniff
 - Covered Sniff: Cover glass with hand; swirl beer for 3 to 5 seconds; bring glass to nose, remove hand, and sniff
 - ii. Use a consistent background to assess the color and clarity of the beer
 - iii. Beer should reach all parts of the tongue during tasting
 - iv. Flavor perception continues after swallowing
- B. Identify normal flavors of beer and their source
1. Malt and grain flavors
 - a. Pale beer: Uncooked flour, bread dough
 - b. Golden beer: White bread, wheat bread, water cracker
 - c. Light amber beer: Bread crust, biscuit, graham cracker
 - d. Amber beer: Toast, caramel, pie crust
 - e. Brown beer: Nutty, toffee, chocolate, dark/dried fruit
 - f. Black beer: Roast, burnt, coffee
 2. Hops
 - a. Bitterness, flavor, and aroma effects
 - b. Traditional regional hop traits
 - i. American: Piney, citrus, resinous, tropical fruit, catty, onion/garlic
 - ii. Australian/New Zealander: Passionfruit, melon, pear, stone fruit, tropical fruit
 - iii. English: Earthy, herbal, woody
 - iv. German/Czech: Floral, perfumy, peppery, minty
 3. Fermentation flavors
 - a. *Saccharomyces* fermentation
 - i. Lager yeast
 - ii. Ale yeast
 - American ale yeast
 - English ale yeast
 - Belgian ale yeast
 - Weizen yeast
 - b. Acidic fermentation
 - i. Lactic acid bacteria
 - ii. Acetic acid bacteria
 - c. *Brettanomyces* fermentation
- C. Identify specific beer flavor compounds by name and source
1. From *Saccharomyces*
 - a. Diacetyl
 - b. Sulfur flavors
 - i. H₂S (hydrogen sulfide)
 - c. Acetaldehyde
 - d. Phenols
 - i. 4-vinylguaiacol (4VG)
 - ii. Know range of flavors associated with other phenols
 - e. Esters

- i. Isoamyl acetate
 - ii. Know range of flavors associated with other esters
 2. From other organisms
 - a. Diacetyl
 - b. Sulfur flavors (see III.C.1.b above)
 - c. Phenols (see III.C.1.d above)
 - d. Acetic acid
 - e. Lactic acid
 3. Packaging and storage
 - a. Oxidation/aging flavors
 - i. Diminished hop flavor and aroma
 - ii. Decreased bitterness
 - iii. Malt shift—increased honey/caramel/toffee/dark fruit
 - iv. Papery/wet cardboard (trans-2-nonenal)
 - v. Waxy/lipstick
 - vi. Sherrylike
 - b. Lightstruck/skunky
 - c. Autolysis
 4. Process and ingredients
 - a. Isovaleric acid
 - b. Metallic
 - c. DMS (dimethyl sulfide)
 - d. Astringent/tannic
- D. Tasting exam format
 1. On the Certified Cicerone® tasting exam, you must perform the following exercises⁵:
 - a. Off-Flavor Identification—By taste, detect and identify off flavors by comparing spiked samples to a control beer
 - i. The possible flavors present in this panel are acetaldehyde, acetic acid, diacetyl, DMS, lightstruck, and trans-2-nonenal
 - b. Style Discrimination—By taste, correctly categorize a sample as one of two beer styles
 - c. Quality Assessment—Based on your analysis of an example of a given beer style, identify whether the sample exhibits flaws caused by improper handling. If the sample has a flaw associated with improper handling, name the flavor and briefly explain what may have caused it to occur

IV. Beer Ingredients and Brewing Processes

A. Ingredients

1. Grains

- a. Malted barley
 - i. Unique properties of barley related to brewing
 - ii. Species of barley
 - iii. Stages of the malting process
 - iv. Process variations that lead to different malt types

⁵ To view a sample Certified Cicerone® tasting exam, visit [cicerone.org](https://www.cicerone.org).

- Kilned base malts: Pils, Pale Ale, Vienna, Munich
- Kilned specialty malts: Victory®, Biscuit®
- Stewed: Crystal/caramel
- Roasted: Chocolate, black
- b. Wheat, oats, rye, and other specialty grains
 - i. Sensory contributions to the finished product
- c. The use of corn and rice in beer
 - i. Contributions to wort and beer
 - ii. Requirements for processing
 - iii. Styles that use corn and/or rice
- 2. Hops
 - a. Anatomy of the hop plant and cone
 - b. Cultivation and processing
 - i. Structure and layout of hop field
 - ii. Harvesting, drying, and baling
 - iii. Storage, processing, and delivery to breweries
 - c. Growing regions
 - i. Continental Europe
 - Germany
 - Czech Republic
 - Belgium
 - Slovenia
 - Poland
 - France
 - ii. Britain
 - iii. United States
 - Yakima Valley, Washington
 - Oregon
 - Idaho
 - iv. Australia and New Zealand
 - d. Categories of hops
 - i. Bittering hops (high alpha acid content)
 - ii. Aroma hops (desirable flavor and aroma properties)
 - Noble hops (Hallertau Mittelfrüh, Spalt, Tettnang, Saaz)
 - iii. Dual-use hops (possessing properties of both bittering and aroma hops)
 - e. Chemistry
 - i. Alpha acid isomerization
 - ii. Flavor and aroma impact of hop oils
 - f. Hop forms and products used in brewing
 - i. Whole hops
 - ii. Pellet hops
 - iii. Extracts
 - Alpha acid
 - Hydro-isomerized alpha acid (lightstrike/skunk resistant)
 - g. Uses and effects during brewing
 - i. Bittering contribution of hops added at different times during the boil

- ii. Flavor and aroma hop additions and effects
 - Boil
 - Hot wort steep/whirlpool
 - Dry hopping
- 3. Yeast
 - a. Taxonomy
 - i. Ale yeast
 - *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
 - Generally produce esters in levels which give fruity flavors to finished beers
 - Some possess a certain gene (known as the POF+ or PAD+ gene) which results in production of phenolic flavors such as clove, nutmeg, and/or white pepper
 - ii. Lager yeast
 - *Saccharomyces pastorianus* also known as *Saccharomyces carlsbergensis*
 - Generally do not produce esters or phenols in appreciable quantities, resulting in a focus on malt and hop character
 - iii. Wild yeast
 - Non-brewing strains of *Saccharomyces* can cause off flavors or excessive attenuation
 - b. Non-*Saccharomyces* organisms
 - i. Important organisms
 - *Brettanomyces* species
 - *Acetobacter* species
 - *Lactobacillus* species
 - *Pediococcus* species
 - ii. Intentional use
 - iii. Unintentional appearance
- 4. Water
 - a. Water makes up 90+% of the weight of beer
 - b. Chemistry of water
 - i. Chlorine
 - Off flavors associated with chlorine
 - Common techniques for removal
 - ii. Water cycle and sources of salts
 - c. Water traits of classic brewing cities—Munich, Pilsen, and Burton-on-Trent
- 5. Other ingredients
 - a. Specialty ingredients
 - i. Sugars
 - Fermentable
 - Corn sugar/dextrose/glucose
 - Candi sugar
 - Honey, molasses, agave, etc.
 - Non-fermentable
 - Lactose
 - ii. Fruits and vegetables

- iii. Herbs and spices
 - Common cooking herbs/spices
 - Chili peppers
 - Coffee, cocoa, chocolate, teas, etc.
 - b. Historical precedent for addition of non-traditional ingredients
- B. Processes
1. Milling
 - a. Possible flavor impact of milling on finished beer
 2. Mashing
 - a. Objectives of mashing
 - b. Awareness of different mashing methods
 - i. Infusion mash
 - ii. Cereal mash
 - iii. Step mash
 - iv. Decoction mash
 3. Lautering
 - a. Objectives of lautering
 - b. General process of lautering
 - i. Initiate wort run-off
 - ii. Vorlauf (recirculation)
 - iii. Begin collection of wort for boiling
 - iv. Sparge
 4. Boiling
 - a. Process and objectives of boiling
 - i. Inputs and outputs
 - ii. Significant physical and chemical changes
 - b. Flavor impacts of boil
 5. Whirlpool
 - a. Objectives of whirlpool
 - b. General operation of whirlpool, including wort removal
 6. Chilling
 - a. Methods of wort chilling
 - i. Heat exchanger
 - ii. Coolship
 - b. Flavor issues associated with wort chilling
 7. Aeration and pitching
 - a. Timing of aeration within the brewing process
 - b. Reasons for wort aeration
 8. Fermentation (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or *Saccharomyces pastorianus*)
 - a. General description of fermentation
 - i. Ale fermentation
 - ii. Lager fermentation
 - b. Major biochemical inputs and outputs
 - c. Fermentation flavor compounds (see section III.C.1)
 - d. Equipment used for fermentation
 - e. Variations in fermentation parameters and their flavor impacts

- i. Fermentation temperature
9. Lagering
 - a. Objectives of lagering
 - b. Lagering temperature and duration
 - c. Impact on finished beer characteristics
10. Aging
 - a. Vessel materials
 - i. Stainless steel
 - ii. New wood
 - iii. Previously used wood
 - b. Factors influencing flavors produced during wood aging
 - i. Prior use of vessel
 - Residual flavors from other liquids
 - Microflora
11. Clarification
 - a. Common methods used for beer clarification
 - i. Filtration
 - ii. Finings
 - iii. Settling/lagering/aging
12. Carbonation
 - a. Methods of achieving carbonation in beer
 - i. Capture during fermentation
 - ii. Forced carbonation
 - iii. Secondary fermentation in serving vessel (e.g., bottle conditioned, cask conditioned, etc.)
 - b. Sensory impact of carbonation on finished beer
13. Packaging and pasteurization
 - a. Package types
 - i. Draft
 - ii. Bottles
 - iii. Cans
 - b. Quality control
 - i. Cleaning/sanitizing of containers
 - ii. Importance of air exclusion during packaging
 - iii. Cap-on-foam
 - c. Pasteurization and its impact on beer
 - i. Impact on stability and flavor

V. Pairing Beer with Food

No single model perfectly explains all the dynamics of beer and food pairing. This syllabus draws from various sources to present common concepts and accepted principles. Certified Cicerone® candidates can expect exam questions on the following guidelines. They will also be asked to demonstrate an understanding of these concepts by naming beers or beer styles to pair with various foods and dishes.

- A. Possible outcomes of successful beer and food pairings
 1. Desirable flavors are highlighted in both the beer and the dish

2. Combination of the two invokes memory, emotion, and/or deeper thought
 3. Pairing creates new flavors not originally present in either the beer or the dish
- B. Beer and food vocabulary
1. Beer vocabulary
 - a. For common beer flavor descriptors, see section III.B
 2. Food vocabulary
 - a. Describe specific food tastes beyond basic identification of key ingredients and preparation (e.g., instead of “seared scallop”, use “scallop has a caramelized, crispy sear with rich toasted and toffee flavors, while the dense interior has a buttery sweetness”)
 - b. Understand basic cooking techniques and their effects on flavor (e.g., poaching, roasting, frying, etc.)
 - c. Familiarity with a range of commonly encountered foods and ingredients (e.g., vegetables, fruits, herbs, spices, etc.)
- C. Pairing concepts
1. Intensity (sometimes referred to as impact or weight)
 - a. A beer’s intensity is determined by the levels of several characteristics
 - i. Malt flavor
 - ii. Hop bitterness
 - iii. Sweetness/body (note that these are related)
 - iv. Alcohol content
 - v. Carbonation
 - vi. Tartness/sourness
 - vii. Fermentation-derived flavors (esters, phenols, etc.)
 - viii. Hop flavor/aroma
 - ix. Special ingredients/processes (e.g., fruit, coffee, barrel aging, etc.)
 - b. A dish’s intensity is determined by the interplay of several characteristics
 - i. Flavor impact of individual ingredients
 - ii. Preparation/cooking method
 - iii. Spices used
 - iv. Sauces served alongside
 - v. Levels of fat, umami, sweetness, bitterness, saltiness, sourness, etc.
 2. Flavor interactions
 - a. Complement/resonate/harmonize—Similar or compatible flavors present in both the beer and the food complement one another (e.g., an Indian curry with cloves resonates with the clove flavors found in a Dunkles Weissbier)
 - b. Contrast—By offering an opposing flavor, the beer highlights a flavor in the dish or vice versa. (e.g., mussels served with gueuze seem richer and sweeter due to the acidity of the beer)
 - c. Cut—Some beer traits help refresh the palate by lifting, cleansing, or removing rich or fatty flavors from the palate. Common “cutting” beer traits include carbonation, sourness, and bitterness, and to a lesser extent, alcohol and roastiness
- D. Common beer and food interactions
1. Malt flavors
 - a. Complement toasted and caramelized flavors in a variety of foods
 - b. Soothe/soften capsaicin heat (spiciness)

2. Hop flavors
 - a. Depending on hop variety, can complement fruit, citrus, herb, and spice flavors
3. Fermentation-derived flavors
 - a. Esters
 - i. Complement fruit flavors
 - b. Phenols (clove and peppercorn flavors)
 - i. Complement spices
 - ii. Contrast fat and umami
4. Carbonation
 - a. Cuts fat, umami, and sweetness
 - b. Accentuates capsaicin heat
5. Bitterness
 - a. Cuts fat, umami, and sweetness
 - b. Accentuates capsaicin heat
 - c. Can create harsh or metallic effects with certain foods (e.g., oily fish)
 - d. Can complement bitter foods (e.g., bitter salad greens)
6. Roastiness
 - a. Complements chocolate, caramelized, and burnt flavors
 - b. Cuts fat
 - c. Contrasts sweetness
7. Alcohol
 - a. Can cut fat
 - b. Generally complements sweetness
 - c. Can accentuate capsaicin heat
8. Tartness/sourness
 - a. Can brighten some food flavors
 - b. Can complement or accentuate sour flavors
 - c. May favorably contrast fat, umami, or salt
9. Sweetness
 - a. Soothes capsaicin heat and other spices
 - b. Accentuated by saltiness
- E. Creating a pairing
 1. Match intensities of both beer and dish so that neither overpowers the other
 2. Consider the flavor interactions listed in sections V.C.2 and V.D to hone the pairing
- F. Designing a meal
 1. Intensity of dishes and pairings generally increases as the meal progresses
- G. Classic beer and food pairings
 1. European traditions
- H. Cooking with beer
 1. Common uses
 - a. Used in place of water or other liquid as an ingredient or cooking medium
 2. Flavor effects
 - a. Concentrating beer through cooking intensifies non-volatile flavors
 - i. Bitterness can intensify exponentially and may become unpleasant
 - ii. Malt flavors and sweetness increase, sugars caramelize
 - iii. Volatile hop and ester flavors decrease and may disappear entirely

- iv. Astringent/burnt flavors of roasted malt can increase and may become unpleasant
- b. Delicate hop and fermentation flavors in beer can be brought to a dish by not cooking the beer (e.g., using an IPA in a salad dressing)

Appendix A: Recommended Culinary Knowledge

At the Certified Cicerone level, candidates should be familiar with a wide range of common culinary terms from around the globe, specifically ingredients and methods of preparation. The beer & food section of the exam includes questions in which a dish's name, ingredients, or methods of preparation are given.

Ingredients

Candidates should be familiar with these ingredients, the cuisines in which they are frequently employed, and how they impact the overall flavor profile of a given dish. While the ingredients that may appear on the exam are not limited to this list, candidates with a grasp of the items below should find themselves well prepared for the beer & food section.

Cheese

Burrata
Camembert
Cheddar
Chevre
Gruyère
Mozzarella
Paneer
Ricotta

Herbs & spices

Basil
Caraway
Cardamom
Chicory
Harissa
Herbes de Provence
Lemongrass
Marjoram
Saffron
Tarragon

Pantry items

Capers
Fish sauce
Ghee
Miso
Soy sauce
Tahini
Vegemite

Pasta & grains

Basmati
Bulgur
Couscous
Linguine
Orzo
Quinoa

Peppers

Ancho
Poblano
Serrano

Produce

Arugula
Bok choy
Chard
Edamame
Fennel
Leek
Lychee
Kalamata olives
Plantain
Pomegranate
Tomatillo

Proteins

Bacon
Chorizo
Prosciutto
Tilapia
Tofu
Tempeh

Methods of preparation

Candidates should understand these methods of preparation and how each impacts the flavor of the items prepared, e.g., how braising vegetables differs from deep frying.

Baste

Blanch

Boil

Braise

Brine

Cure

Deep fry

Deglaze

Grill

Julienne

Marinate

Poach

Purée

Reduce

Roast

Sauté

Sear

Simmer

Sous vide

Stir fry

Zest