



American Herbalists Guild (AHG) Policy on Credential Representation

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all AHG members, speakers, teachers, and authors represent their credentials accurately and transparently, in alignment with the AHG Code of Conduct. This policy addresses the use of credentials from unaccredited post-secondary institutions and clarifies expectations for participation in AHG educational events, publications, and programs.

Scope:

This policy applies to:

- All AHG members who claim credentials in professional contexts, including clients, students, and the public.
- All individuals presenting at AHG Symposia, webinars, workshops, or submitting materials to the *Journal of the American Herbalists Guild* (JAHG).

Policy:

1. Accurate and Non-Misleading Credentials

- All members, speakers, teachers, and authors must provide truthful information regarding their professional credentials.
- The use of degrees or certifications from unaccredited post-secondary institutions (e.g., unaccredited PhDs) is considered misleading and is prohibited in all AHG contexts.
- Members may list unaccredited credentials in contexts where they are clearly identified as unaccredited, but these cannot be presented as equivalent to accredited degrees or used in a way that may mislead students, clients, or the public.

2. Speaker, Teacher, and Author Agreement Requirements

All individuals submitting educational materials or presenting on behalf of AHG must sign an agreement acknowledging:

- Declaration of all claimed credentials.
- Prohibition against representing unaccredited degrees as accredited.
- AHG's right to remove materials, presentations, or published content if this policy is violated.
- Compliance with AHG's Code of Conduct and ethics policies.

3. Verification and Enforcement

- AHG may request verification of claimed credentials, including transcripts, diplomas, licenses, or certificates from accredited institutions or recognized licensing authorities.
- Materials or presentations found in violation of this policy may be removed, and the member, speaker, teacher, or author may be subject to ethics review and further action per AHG procedures.

Implementation:

- **Effective Date:** This policy goes into effect **immediately upon Board approval.**
- **Forward-Looking Application**
 - This policy applies **moving forward** and will be applied to new submissions, presentations, member profiles, and public-facing materials from the effective date onward.
- **Past Materials and Records:**
 - AHG will not retroactively audit or amend historical publications or archived symposium materials unless:
 - There is an active ethics complaint, or
 - The material is currently in circulation and has the potential to mislead the public.
 - This approach acknowledges the organization's long history and avoids attempting to retroactively correct every past instance.

Rationale

This policy supports transparency in professional representation, protects the integrity of AHG educational programs and publications, and provides clear and consistent expectations for members and contributors.

Approval and Review

This policy is submitted for Board approval. It will be reviewed annually by the Ethics Committee and Governance Committee to ensure ongoing alignment with best practices and AHG values.

Approved By: Board Unanimous Vote- One abstention(Susan Kramer)

Date: 11-04-2025

Approved- November 2025