

Chess and Critical Thinking Certificate Course



How do you use chess to teach academic and 21st century skills?
How do you integrate chess and critical thinking activities?
How do you engage students with chess to combat learning loss?
How do you communicate the benefits of chess to parents and educators?



Duration: Two Days

Target Audience: Teachers and/or Chess Coaches with both chess and teaching/coaching experience who will be teaching chess during school or in an after-school setting where the focus is on chess as the vehicle to introduce academic and 21st century skills.

Course Description: Learn teaching methods that develop chess skills as well as academic and 21st century skills. Discover activities to differentiate for differing skill levels, keep students motivated, and build student participation. Learn how to integrate critical thinking, literacy, and math into chess-related activities. Learn how to communicate with stakeholders about the benefits students are gaining from chess.

Participants will:

- Discover new training exercises, mini-games, and social chess formats to add variety to the chess club experience and differentiate for skill levels – all designed to improve chess skills, planning, decision-making, and other 21st century skills.
- Learn how to integrate critical thinking exercises into chess lessons.
- Learn how to integrate literacy and math exercises into chess lessons.
- Learn Part of the SMART Teaching Methodology
- Plan opportunities to explain the benefits of chess to parents and the community.
- Plan a chess camp with enrichment activities (critical thinking “plus”)

Prerequisites: Basic knowledge of chess.

Lead Instructor: Jerry Nash

Jerry Nash serves as a National Chess in Education Consultant. A former classroom teacher at both the high school and university levels, Nash understands the challenges of the classroom and offers a fun and engaging path for educators to learn the game of chess and link it to academic and life skills. He consults nationally and internationally and leads teacher training events across the nation. He is a frequent presenter at education conferences where he links chess skills to education standards. He was recognized by the University of Texas at Dallas as its 2015 Chess Educator of the Year. In 2022 he was appointed Chairman of the Chess in Education Commission for FIDE, the International Chess Federation.



Nash holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and French from The University of Tennessee at Martin. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master of Arts in English from Tennessee Technological University.

Cost: \$450*

See our [course registration](#) page for dates and locations offered.

* Prices are subject to change.

Legend



Focus: Developing student proficiency in chess


Educational Premise: Student develops important thinking skills (executive functions) by simply learning and playing chess.



Focus: Teach Chess and Chess Variants taught using a SMART methodology that is based on educational research and proven best practices. Priority is given to aspects of chess that develop executive functions and promote far transfer learning.

Educational Premise: The selective use of chess training by teachers or outside chess coaches focused on developing executive functions and critical thinking, engages more students and yields greater educational benefits (than standard chess training).



Focus: Same as  plus connections to classroom curriculum. Teachers draw connections to curriculum while teaching chess. Teachers utilize chess examples while teaching to curriculum.

Educational Premise: Connecting chess to the classroom yields the greatest benefit.