



Ewam Buddhist Institute Summer Shedra Program Description

The Ewam Shedra program is a rare opportunity for western students to receive comprehensive teachings that elucidate the complete Buddhist path, taught by renowned Tibetan Buddhism teachers:

KhenRinpoche Ngawang Namchak
Jetsunma Jamyang Dolma
Dorlop Choe-sang

Beginning with the very foundation of Buddhist philosophy, the Shedra program proceeds through the entire path of Buddhism, each course building on the previous, concluding with the pinnacle of Buddhist teachings, the great Dzogchen (atiyoga).

Students will learn the profound views of the three vehicles of Buddhism: the Hinayana (the Foundational Vehicle), the Mahayana (the Bodhisattva Vehicle), and the Vajrayana (the Vehicle of the Tantras).

"Without knowing anything, there can be no practice. Our study and practice will be like a lamp that illuminates the darkness, like the sun rising to light the morning."

-Tulku Sang-ngag Rinpoche



The Ewam Shedra Program is taught from the extraordinary text, "*Treasury of Precious Qualities*" by Jigme Lingpa. This seminal text, revered by all schools of Buddhism, offers comprehensive teachings on the views of the three vehicles of Buddhism: Hinayana (foundational vehicle), Mahayana (the Bodhisattva view) and Vajrayana (Tantra). Once students have gained a thorough understanding of the Sutrayana (consisting of the Hinayana and Mahayana vehicles taught in the Shedra courses SUT101, 102 & 103), they will be well-prepared to enter the Vajrayana vehicle and a deep dive into tantric Buddhism. The Vajrayana teachings guide students through the six classes of tantra, including Dzogchen.



The complete Shedra program consists of five parts, each one taught for 12 days annually in July. After receiving the course teachings, students are expected to practice what they have learned through contemplation and meditation for the next 11 months leading to the next course. During that 11 month period, students will continue to interact with the teachers through scheduled zoom meetings for Q&A and further teachings. Additionally, interviews with the lamas are available for those wishing to discuss their personal practice privately.

The first three courses of Shedra, which comprise the Sutrayana teachings, are offered online or in-person at the beautiful Garden of One Thousand Buddhas in western Montana. The last two courses of Tantra are in-person only, with prerequisite accomplishments as explained in the course details below.



Course information for the Ewam Buddhist Institute Shedra Program:

Sutrayana Courses

Course 1 (SUT101). The first course begins with the general Outer Preliminaries, which are the *Four Thoughts That Turn the Mind to Dharma*. These teachings are the on-ramp to the Buddhist path.

Course 2 (SUT102). The next step is the teachings on the Extraordinary Inner Preliminaries, which encompass the teachings on Refuge and Bodhicitta.

Course 3 (SUT103) is the final course of the Sutrayana, and explains the precepts and training in the aspiration and application of Bodhicitta practices in detail. This is the transition point to the Vajrayana (tantra) vehicle.

Notes: 1) If students of the Sutrayana wish, and their schedule allows, they may take two Sutrayana courses consecutively in one month (ex: SUT101 followed by SUT102).

2) Sessions are recorded, and are available to students for their review.

3) Each course consists of 10 days of teaching, one day exam prep, and the twelfth day is the exam.

4) Those students with scheduling conflicts may depend on the recordings to receive the teachings. If this is the case, students must keep up in order to take the exam at the scheduled time (2 hours are allowed for the exam). However all students taking the course online are encouraged to attend in real time whenever possible.

Ewam offers instruction on Ngondro Practices periodically. Students in the Sutrayana portion of the teachings should attend these teachings when they are offered in order to prepare for the Vajrayana courses. Attendance in the Vajryana portion of the cycle requires completion of part of the Ngondro

practices.

Vajrayana Courses - In-person only

Course 4 (TAN104) is the beginning exposition of Vajrayana, and includes teachings on the Four Empowerments, the Generation and Completion Stages, and the various categories of samaya. These higher level teachings are restricted to students who have completed the Sutrayana teachings, have completed one half of the ngondro practice accumulations, and received the Vajrayana Empowerment (the empowerment is scheduled to coincide with this course). All empowerments must be received in-person at the Garden of One Thousand Buddhas.

Course 5 (TAN105) This final year of Vajrayana teaches Atiyoga, the Great Dzogchen, which is the pinnacle of Tibetan Buddhist teachings. Prerequisites include empowerments, completion of TAN104 and completion of the full Ngondro requirement.

Don't miss this opportunity to receive these precious teachings, offered by traditional Tibetan Buddhist teachers.

Follow this link for the [current 2025 program schedule](#) and registration. (Not all courses are offered every year).

Contact admin@ewam.org with any questions.

