

PSIA-AASI-Intermountain Guide to the Alpine Level 3 Certification Process

Certification Standards

Candidates will be assessed on professional knowledge, skiing, and teaching performance standards for Level 3 as described in the PSIA-AASI National Alpine Certification Standards. These standards should be reviewed! They can be found on the “Alpine Certification” page or at [PSIA Alpine National Standards](#)

Certified Level 3 instructors must be able to ski all green and blue terrain and black terrain (double black where available) in most conditions.

Alpine Certified Level 3 instructors are expected to teach adults and children through the Advanced Zone. According to the PSIA Alpine Technical Manual, “Skiers in this zone range from those who can handle the easiest groomed black runs to experts who can apply a variety of turn shapes to control speed on any type of terrain, in any snow condition.”

Certification Prerequisites

- PSIA Level 2 Certification
- Review and understand the PSIA National Alpine Certification Standards for Level 3
- Consult the “Event Calendar” found at www.psia-i.org
- Attain a minimum 6 hours of designated assessment prep clinics
- Choose the date for an assessment that meets your needs. Individual assessment days do not need to be done all at once.
- Register and pay for the events at least two weeks before the event date. Events fill up early and will require planning.

*Most successful candidates have completed a minimum of 500 hours of actual on-snow teaching, training, or coaching prior to the assessment. These hours can be achieved through employment at one of our [member schools](#).

Requirements

To achieve this Alpine Level 3 Certification, you will need to complete these modules:

- **Online test**
 - The Online test must be passed **prior to** registering and attending the on-snow assessments.
 - [PSIA E-Learning L3 Knowledge Test](#)
- **Skiing assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - L3 Alpine Skiing Assessment Form
- **Teaching assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - L3 Teaching Assessment Form
- **Technical & Movement Analysis assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - L3 Tech / MA Assessment Form

Resources

Here are some links to **RESOURCES** that will help you prepare for your Alpine Level 3 and will continue to be valuable as you progress as an instructor.

- 2015 - Alpine Technical Manual
- 2018 - Teaching Snowsports Manual
 - You received access to a digital copy of these with your membership. Both can be purchased in hard copy through the webshop on <https://thesnowpros.org/>
- [National Website Resources](#)
 - [National Certification Standards](#)
 - Performance Guide
 - [Alpine Technical Skills](#)
 - [Teaching Skills](#)
 - [People Skills](#)
- Intermountain specific resources
 - Activity Guide (Activities can be taken from Levels 1,2 and 3)
 - [Level 3 Activity Guide](#)
 - [Level 2 Activity Guide](#)
 - [Level 1 Activity Guide](#)
 - All can be found on our website - [PSIA Intermountain](#)

General Professionalism Expectations for a Ski or Snowboard Instructor

1. Commitment to students and their learning
2. Receive and act upon professional feedback
 - a. seek to continually improve teaching performance, and demonstrate flexibility and adaptability
 - b. Reflect upon their own practices
3. Demonstrate professional practices and demeanor
 - a. demonstrate a professional appearance; convey a positive message about their discipline and the teaching profession; engage in professional, legal, and ethical conduct; are dependable, punctual, and well-prepared; ensure the safety of their students; and are aware of their digital footprint on social media and take action to ensure that their electronic presence does not lead to questions of their integrity, professionalism, and character.
4. Communicate effectively and professionally
 - a. use professional language in all situations ensuring that communications are free from bias and meet the needs of diverse learners. Professionals also effectively and accurately communicate their ideas (oral and written) and engage in active listening.
5. Collaborate with others in a positive and professional manner
 - a. demonstrate a positive rapport with others, contribute to group efforts, and demonstrate respect for others and their ideas.
6. Demonstrate cultural competence in interactions and communications

Ski Assessment (1-Day On-Snow)

Daily Schedule and Process

Times are approximate! Weather, resort policies etc. may change these. ***Please come with a flexible mindset.***

- **8:30 am Check-in** - Arrive at the designated indoor meeting location to sign in and prepare for the day.
- **8:45 am Introduction group assignments** - Assessment leaders will outline the day and divide you into assessment groups. Lift passes will be provided to all professional members who work for a member school.
- **9:00 am Preview the day and start the on-snow ski assessment -**
 - The day will begin with activities from the 'Integrated' and 'Versatility' categories of the activity guide.
 - 1 to 3 activities from the 'Individual Category' will be chosen and performed as needed.
 - Activities may be varied or performed multiple times based on the needs of the group and the examiner's discretion. Generally, candidates will not perform a task or variation more than three different times.
- **3:00 pm On-snow assessment complete -**
 - Results will be delivered by email.
 - Group leaders will be present to briefly review the results or answer questions.
 - Group leaders may also be contacted later for discussion.
 - Resort space availability and policy may alter this procedure.

*Maximum 8 Candidates.

*Activities used in the assessment will come from the PSIA-I Activity Guides.

*Any breaks will be determined by the group's needs in accordance with resort policies.

Teaching Assessment (1-Day On-Snow)

Daily Schedule

Times are approximate! Weather, resort policies, etc. may change these. ***Please come with a flexible mindset.***

- **8:30 am Check-in** -Arrive at the designated indoor meeting location to sign in and prepare for the day.
- **8:45 Introduction group assignments** - Assessment leaders will outline the day and divide you into assessment groups. Passes will be provided to all professional members who work for a member school.
- **9:00 am Preview and Setup**
 - At the start of the day, all Candidates are assigned 2 peers who they will teach.
 - The candidate preparing should not be part of the previous teaching segment, so they can prepare and choose terrain.
- **9:15 am Peer Skiing Observation Segment initial collaboration**
 - The candidates will observe their skier perform two different assigned tasks during 1-3 runs.
 - One task will be on-trail and one task will be off-trail when possible. The activities will come from any of the Level 1 -3 Activity Guides.
 - Tasks may be varied based on conditions, group needs, or examiner discretion.
 - Candidates should get to know and collaborate with the people they will be teaching
 - Examiners may ride with candidate groups to observe their interactions.
- **9:45 am Teaching segments**
 - Candidates will teach their assigned peers using information gained from the Peer Skiing Observation Segment and initial collaboration.
 - The candidate should plan to use advanced-zone (black) terrain, primarily. Some of the teaching can occur on blue terrain, but the learning experience should return to advanced terrain.
 - Candidates will collaborate with their assigned peers to define the learning outcome and lesson goals.
 - Candidates have 25 minutes to deliver the lesson to their assigned peers.
 - All other candidates will not actively be involved but may observe from a distance.
 - There will be an interview of up to 5 minutes after the candidate has finished their teaching segment. Clarifying questions will be asked at this time.
- **3:00 pm On-snow assessment complete**
 - Results will be delivered by email.
 - Group leaders will be present to briefly review the results or answer questions.
 - Group leaders may also be contacted later for discussion.
 - Resort space availability and policy may alter this procedure.

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*Maximum 6 Candidates.

*Any breaks will be determined by the group's needs in accordance with resort policies.

Technical & Movement Analysis Day (1-Day On-Snow)

Daily Schedule - Times are approximate! Weather, resort policies etc. may change these.

Please come with a flexible mindset.

- **8:30 am Check-in** - Arrive at the designated indoor meeting location to sign in and prepare for the day.
- **8:45 am Introduction group assignments** - Assessment leaders will outline the day and divide you into assessment groups. Lift passes will be provided to all professional members who work for a member school.
- **9:00 am Preview the day and warmup**
 - Candidates are assigned 3 peers who they will watch in later segments (specific segments are not assigned)
 - Examiners will choose 1-3 skiing activities from the PSIA-Intermountain Activity Guides.
 - This will be done using one to two runs, depending on number of candidates, terrain, traffic, and hill size considerations.
 - Level 3 Teaching Terrain Guidelines
 - The terrain used will be primarily advanced-zone (black) terrain, with some intermediate-zone (blue) terrain when appropriate.
 - The goal is to give everyone a chance to perform, observe, and analyze their own and each other's performance.
- **9:45 am Start the on-snow technical & movement analysis assessment**
 - **Segment 1 - Peer Movement Analysis & Observation**
 - Candidates will observe one of their assigned peers performing an assigned task.
 - This will be in a call down format with MA delivered to the group leaders.
 - Group leaders may ask clarifying or follow-up questions.
 - **Segment 2 - Personal and Peer Performance Comparison**
 - The examiners will determine the terrain and activity with a specific performance focus and possible variation from all activity guides.
 - The candidate will demonstrate the task for their two remaining assigned peers.
 - The candidate will describe their personal performance of the task in relation to the ideal.
 - The candidate will watch the other two assigned peers individually perform the task.
 - The candidates will describe their performance:
 - Individual Performance:
 - Compare each skier's results to the specific performance Focus and idea.
 - Consider factors such as speed, technique, and overall execution.
 - Comparative Performance:
 - Analyze each skier's performance relative to other participants.
 - Evaluate factors such as ski performance, body type and biomechanics, and equipment differences.
 - Group leaders may ask clarifying or follow-up questions.

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- **3:00pm On-snow assessment complete**

- Results will be delivered by email.
- Group leaders will be present to briefly review the results or answer questions.
- Group leaders may also be contacted later for discussion.
- Resort space availability and policy may alter this procedure.

*Maximum of 6 candidates

*Any breaks will be determined by group needs in accordance with resort policies

Assessment Scoring

The assessment will be scored according to the criteria of the score sheet which is derived from the national standard. The assessment scale is from 1-6 and an average score of 4 in all scored criteria within a section is required to meet the standard. The assessment scale and all criteria used in the assessment are outlined on the assessment form.

Professional Behavior and Self Awareness

This will be scored throughout all Level 2 Assessment days.

Ski Scoring

Candidates will be scored on the application of skiing fundamentals as they relate to the assessment criteria (AC) and learning outcomes (LO). Each category is used to assess your level of competence as written in the PSIA-AASI 2021 National Alpine Certification Standards for Level 3.

Teaching Scoring

Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 3 Teaching and People Skills during their teaching segment. Professional Behavior and Self Awareness will be scored throughout the day.

Technical and Movement Analysis Scoring

Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 3 Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis Skills during these assessment segments.