



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DIVISION
Professional Ski Instructors of America
American Association of Snowboard Instructors

Alpine Certification Know Before You Go

Introduction

This document outlines PSIA-AASI Rocky Mountain Alpine Level 1, 2, and 3 Assessment prerequisites and details about the assessments. Candidates' assessment experience will be informed by this material. Successful candidates will use this material and the relevant RM and PSIA-AASI materials to prepare for assessments.

Professionalism at the Assessment

- All candidates earn a professionalism score based on their behavior at the exam. See the Assessment Form and Performance Guide for the assessment criteria

Suggested Reference Materials

- Alpine Technical Manual found [HERE](#).
- Teaching Snowsports Manual found [HERE](#).
- Assessment Documents found [HERE](#).
- Certification Standards and Performance Guides found [HERE](#).
- Additional resources can be found at thesnowpros.org or psia-rm.org websites.
- Other resources may include candidates' home area training team and local reference guides.

Modular System

- Attaining PSIA certification in the Rocky Mountain Region (RM) constitutes passing each of the three modules: Teaching, Technical/Movement Analysis (MA), and Skiing.
 - Levels II and III require a Children's Specialist 1 and 2 qualifications, respectively.
- Passed modules do not expire if candidate remains a current RM member and the National Standards are not overhauled.
- Level 1 modules must be completed in the order found in the outline.
- Level 2 and 3 assessments require prerequisites to be completed before attending the on-snow exam. Please see below for a full list of prerequisites for each certification level.
- Level 2 and 3 modules may be completed in any order, though the following is suggested:
 - Children's Specialist
 - Technical Assessment
 - Teaching Assessment
 - Skiing Assessment
- The event calendar is available at: <http://www.psia-rm.org>



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Assessment Criteria and Scoring

- Exam criteria for Skiing, Teaching and MA are described in the Assessment Form and the Performance Guide
- All RM forms may be found here: [PSIA-RM Education Materials](#)
- PSIA Alpine Certification Standards can be found at:
<https://www.thesnowpros.org/certification/national-certification-standards/>

Assessment Groups

- The RM Office and Exam Manager will lead a scheduled Examiner meeting to determine Examiner pairings, group assignments, terrain, and meeting locations for the event.
- Groups may include an assigned auditor. The Exam Manager pre-assigns all groups and verifies any changes.

Skiing Evaluations

During the exam, candidates will be asked to ski several tasks in various types of terrain and conditions. Refer to the Ski Assessment Overview, IDP, and Assessment Form for more details about skiing tasks.

Candidates will ski a minimum of two attempts at each task. There will be feedback offered – if it's to the entire group, listen as though it's directed at you. Variations in movements and mechanics may be requested at the discretion of the evaluator. These could include changes in the type of flexion, extension, edging or rotation mechanics, or in the Rate, Timing, Intensity, and Duration of those movements. Evaluators will provide specific descriptions of any task. Demonstrations will consist of a series of turns for a distance that allows adequate performance.

The examiners will be watching candidates' skiing at all times during the exam. Level One candidates may be given the opportunity to free ski during the exam; keep in mind this time is also part of the exam and can be used to demonstrate personal style and terrain preferences. Environmental and snow conditions will be taken into consideration.

Whatever your skiing style, no matter what equipment you've chosen to bring to the exam, be ready to make it work. From groomed to crud, come ready to show us that you can adapt to any or all of these situations. Bring the equipment and skills that can do it all.

Terrain & Conditions

Trail difficulty may vary due to snow conditions improving or deteriorating throughout the day. The event manager will determine if the local trail designations (I.E., green, blue, black) and conditions



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adequately reflect the stated national standard concerning terrain. If necessary, trails or sections of trails will be selected to keep exams consistent across the division and the country

Important Components of the Rocky Mountain Examination Process

- Exam Candidates are evaluated by specially trained and qualified Examiners.
- Feedback is consistent with National and Rocky Mountain divisional support materials.
- Sections of the alpine assessments highlight specific fundamentals or blends of fundamentals.
- Feedback is provided within each module. It is specific to each candidate and is based on the National Standards' Learning Outcomes, Assessment Criteria, and Performance Guide.

PSIA Alpine Level 1 Assessment

Level 1 is the first level of PSIA-AASI certification. At Level 1, you're expected to demonstrate experience teaching beginner level skiers, show an introductory level of knowledge of ski instruction.

Most Level 1 candidates are new to the profession and need help understanding how the big picture of teaching skiing is enhanced by improving the details (Skiing, Movement Analysis, and Teaching Skills). Throughout the assessment, examiners help candidates succeed at the "details" of the assessment and understand how each section relates to the big picture of teaching better lessons for Level 1 to Level 4 guests.

Level 1 Prerequisites:

- Current with PSIA-AASI Membership Dues
- Minimum 16 years of Age
- If you are affiliated with a ski & snowboard school and have completed in-house training, you may go directly to the Level 1 assessment. If not, you must first attend the two-day Level 1 prep clinic before attending the Level 1 on-snow assessment
 - This course is required for those members who have not completed new-hire training at their ski & snowboard school. The course is recommended for those who have been through training but have limited teaching experience or want to spend more time preparing for the exam
- Complete and pass online E-Learning Modules prior to the on-snow assessment:
 - Alpine Level 1
 - Delivering the Beginner Experience – Alpine (optional)
- Attend and pass the three-day Alpine Level 1 Assessment



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PSIA Alpine Level 2 Assessment

Level 2 Certification is the second level of PSIA certification, focused on intermediate ski instruction. At Level 2, candidates will demonstrate experience teaching intermediate to advanced level skiers, display an appropriate level of knowledge of ski instruction concepts, and apply their knowledge and skill to situations on-snow and through discussions with the examiners. The Level 2 exam is a three-day process, participants will be on snow all 3 days.

Level 2 Prerequisites

- All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 1 exam.
- PSIA Level 1 Certification
- PSIA-AASI Children's Specialist 1 can be used as both a prerequisite and as the required module
- Complete at least two of the approved prerequisite courses.
 - If you attended CS1, you are only required to attend one 201-level clinic.
- Pass the Level 2 Professional Knowledge Exam

Level 2 Prerequisite Courses

Complete at least two of the following courses prior to your first assessment module:

- Teaching Courses
 - Alpine Teaching Prep 201
 - Children's Specialist One (CS1)
 - Certification in 2nd Discipline
- Technical Courses
 - Boot Balancing & Alignment
 - 201 Movement Analysis Online
 - 201 Movement Analysis On Snow
 - Technical Foundations Clinic
 - USSA Coaches Qualification*
 - The Coaches qualification must be submitted as Non-PSIA Clinic Credit to the PSIA-AASI RM Office
- Skiing Courses
 - Precision Skiing 201
 - Alpine Freestyle Specialist (any level)

PSIA Alpine Level 3 Assessment

Level 3 is the highest level of PSIA-AASI certification. At Level 3, candidates should be able to teach or ski anything, anytime, and anywhere.



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Candidates are expected to demonstrate experience with high-level students, show mastery of ski instruction concepts, and apply their knowledge and skill to situations on-snow and through discussions with the examiners. The Level 3 exam is a three-day process, participants will be on snow all three days.

Level 3 Prerequisites

- All prerequisite courses must be taken after passing the Level 2 exam
- PSIA Level 2 Certification
- PSIA-AASI Children's Specialist 2 can be used as both a prerequisite and as the required module
- Complete at least two of the approved prerequisite courses.
 - If you attended CS2, you are only required to attend one 301-level clinic.
- Pass the Level 3 Professional Knowledge Exam

Level 3 Prerequisite Courses

Complete at least two of the following courses prior to your first assessment module:

- Teaching Courses
 - Alpine Teaching Prep 301
 - Children's Specialist 2 (CS2)
 - Certification in Secondary Discipline
- Technical Courses
 - Boot Balancing & Alignment
 - 301 Movement Analysis Online
 - 301 Movement Analysis On-Snow
 - Technical Foundations Clinic
- Skiing Courses
 - Precision Skiing 301
 - Alp Freestyle Specialist (any)
 - USSA Coaches Qualification*
 - The Coaches Qualification must be submitted as non-PSIA Clinic Credit to the PSIA-AASI office.