



Updated 07-25-23

Welcome to the Professional Ski Instructors of America! The Alpine Level 1 Assessment is the first step in your exciting career as a ski instructor.

If you're new to PSIA/AASI, make sure to check out our [New Member Guide](#); there's lots of great information to help you start your career as a ski instructor!

To achieve this Alpine Level 1 Certification, you will need to complete these

tasks: **Requirements**

- Become a [registered member](#) of PSIA and PSIA-I with current dues paid.
- Successfully complete [PSIA Alpine Level 1 E-Learning Course](#)
- Complete the [PSIA-I Alpine Level 1 Workbook](#)
- Understand the [PSIA Alpine National Standards](#)
- It is highly recommended that you attend the L1 Foundations clinic.
- At least two weeks prior to this event, register and pay for the event • Attend your choice of level 1 certification event. It is a two-day assessment; attendance is required both days.

Member School Affiliation

To best prepare for the Level 1 Assessment, each candidate should complete 25 hours of on-snow teaching, coaching, or training. Most people do this through their employment with one of our [member schools](#).

If you are not currently teaching at a Member School

If you are not currently teaching at one of our member schools or have not gone through a new hire training clinic at a PSIA-AASI Member Snowsports School YOU MUST ATTEND THE INTERMOUNTAIN LEVEL 1 FOUNDATIONS CLINIC.* This is a 2 day preparation clinic designed to facilitate your success at the Level 1 assessment.

As a non-affiliated member, YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN LIFT TICKET FOR THE 2 DAYS OF THE FOUNDATIONS CLINIC AND THE 2 DAYS OF THE EXAM.*

Exceptions may be made for members who have previously taught or trained at a member school, or are officially coaching a snow sport.

PSIA Intermountain Alpine Resources

Here are some links to **RESOURCES** that will help you prepare for your Alpine Level 1 and will continue to be valuable resources as you progress as an instructor.

the [PSIA Alpine Technical Manual](#)

the [PSIA Teaching Snowsports Manual](#)

You received access to a digital copy of these with your membership. Both of these can be purchased in hard copy through the webshop on <https://thesnowpros.org/> You can view the National Certification Standards, Performance Guide and Assessment Form for Alpine Level 1 here [PSIA Level 1 Resources](#)

Intermountain specific resources can be found on our website, here is a link to those resources [PSIA-I Level 1 Resources](#)

Prior to attending your Level 1 Exam you are required to complete the PSIA national Level 1 online course that can be found by following this link: <https://lms.thesnowpros.org/> You will need to be a registered member of PSIA and have created an account on <https://thesnowpros.org/>

- **You will ALSO need to complete the PSIA-I Online Workbook.** It is best done on a computer and can be found by following this link: [PSIA-I Alpine Level 1 Workbook](#)

Once completed you will receive feedback from the grader and will need to take the quiz again if you do not get a score of 80% or higher.

Overview

While this is an assessment, coaching will be provided. This is unique to the level 1 assessment. During the two days, your Clinic Leader/Examiner will help you to understand the skiing and teaching requirements defined by the PSIA National Certification Standards.

Level 1 Assessment Process

Day 1 (On-Snow)

- **Check-in 8:30am:** Arrive at the designated indoor meeting location to sign-in and get ready for the day. Get group assignments. Affiliated members will receive their lift pass for the day.
- Introductions and review of the level 1 assessment process. Discussion about the Level 1 PSIA 2021 National Certification Standards.
- **Skiing Tasks:** Candidates will ski the tasks from the [PSIA-I Level 1 Activity Guide](#). There will be, individual and group, coaching to help the candidates improve their understanding and performance of the tasks.

- **Technical Understanding & Movement Analysis:** Candidates will observe one of their peers skiing a specific task. Then individually review specific performance related to the task with the examiner.
- **The day ends at 3:00pm.**

Day 2 (On-snow)

- **Check-in 8:30am:** Arrive at the designated indoor meeting location to sign-in and get ready for the day.
- **Teaching Presentations:** Candidates will present a teaching progression for up to 15 minutes. The topic will be randomly assigned from the PSIA-I Level 1 teaching topics list. Candidates can expect group or individual discussion led by the examiner. The purpose of the discussion is to improve the group's understanding of technical, teaching, or people skills.
- **Feedback and Coaching:** This will be provided based on the needs of the participants. • **The day ends at 3:00pm. Results to follow.**

Level Teaching Topics

1. How to create and ski in a gliding wedge
2. How to make wedge turns
3. How to make and use a straight run
4. How to make and use wedge changeups
5. Using turn shape to for speed control
6. How to make and use wedge christies
7. How to absorb terrain variations
8. How to make and use lower and higher edge angles in wedge turns

*Maximum 8 Candidates

*Attendance both days is required

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

*Results delivered by email the same day with the group leader available for questions

Assessment Scoring

Ski Scoring

Candidates will be scored on 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 1. Professional Behavior and Self Awareness will be scored throughout.

Teach Scoring

Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 1 Teaching and People Skills during their teaching segment. Professional Behavior and Self Awareness will be scored throughout.

Technical and Movement Analysis Scoring

Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 1 Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis Skills during these assessment segments. Professional Behavior and Self Awareness will be scored throughout.

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