

PSIA-AASI-Intermountain

Guide to the Alpine Level 2 Certification Process



Certification Standards

Candidates will be assessed on technical, teaching, and people skills standards for Level 2 as described in the PSIA-AASI National Alpine Certification Standards 2021. These standards should be reviewed! They can be found on the “Alpine Certification” page or at [PSIA Alpine National Standards](#)

Certified Level 2 instructors must be able to ski all green and blue terrain (including bumps and other un-groomed conditions) and groomed, moderate black terrain.

Alpine Certified Level 2 instructors are expected to teach adults and children through the Intermediate Zone. According to the PSIA-AASI Alpine Technical Manual, “Skiers in this zone can perform consistent parallel turns on beginner and easy intermediate terrain.”

Certification Prerequisites

- PSIA Level 1 Certification
- Review and understand the PSIA National Alpine Certification Standards for Level 2
- Consult the “Event Calendar” found at www.psia-i.org
- Attain a minimum of 6 hours of designated assessment prep clinics prior to the assessment.
- Choose the date for an assessment that meets your needs. Individual assessment days do not need to all be done one after the other.
- 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 250 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 2 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 L2 Knowledge Test](#)
- **Skiing assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - [L2 Alpine Skiing Assessment Form](#)
- **Teaching assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - [L2 Teaching Assessment Form](#)
- **Technical & Movement Analysis assessment**
 - One day on snow assessment that can be taken in any order
 - [L2 Tech / MA Assessment Form](#)

Resources

Here are some links to **RESOURCES** that will help you prepare for your Alpine Level 2 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 and 2)
 - [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 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 and Setup**
 - At the start of the day, all Candidates are assigned 2 peers who they will teach.
 - The topic is to be randomly assigned to the candidate 30 minutes (one teaching segment) before they teach. (The first person can be told at Warmup)
 - The candidate preparing should not be part of the previous teaching segment, so they can prepare and choose terrain.
- **9:15 am Warmup and initial collaboration**
 - Candidates observe each other during warm-up runs using Level 2 skiing activities to assist with peer observations.
 - Warmup laps will be performed in the teaching area so candidates can preview and plan before their teaching segment.
 - 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 collaborate with their assigned peers to define goals that link to the desired learning outcome they were assigned.
 - The candidates should plan to use intermediate-zone (blue) terrain to easy advanced-zone (black) terrain. Some teaching on green terrain is allowed, but the learning experience should return to intermediate terrain.
 - 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 five minutes after the candidate has finished their teaching segment. Follow-up and 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.

*Maximum 6 Candidates.

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

Level 2 Learning Outcomes

1. Consistent speed during a series of turns
2. Pole use to aid turn transition
3. Adjust speed as terrain changes
4. Matching inside ski earlier in the turn
5. How to ski more challenging terrain and/or snow conditions
6. How to make skiing off-trail smoother
7. How to make smaller turns
8. Speed control with less effort
9. How to maintain grip through a series of turns
10. How to enter a turn smoothly

Level 2 Example Teaching Segment Follow-up Questions

- What did each student need to change or adjust to achieve the desired outcome?
- How did you plan and/or adapt your learning experiences to achieve the desired outcome?
- How did you help the students reflect upon their learning experiences?
- Was there a change in the understanding or performance of your students?

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 2 peers who they will watch in later segments (specific segments are not assigned)
 - Candidates ski the terrain that the assessment may be held on
 - Candidates get an opportunity to watch each other
 - The group will ski and perform level 2 ski activities and variations based on conditions or needs. Examiners may utilize line rotation or call-down format.
 - Activities will be performed using one to two runs, depending on the number of candidates and terrain, traffic, and hill size considerations.
 - 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 1a - *Personal Performance vs Ideal***
 - Examiners will choose an activity from the Integrated category and define an ideal for the group.
 - Candidates will ski the activity and present a comparative movement analysis based on the awareness of their personal performance.
 - Examiners may request a line rotation or call-down format
 - Clarifying questions may be asked as needed.
 - Tasks will be performed on blue to easy black groomed terrain.
 - Then the process is repeated with each candidate.
 - **Segment 1b - *Peer Performance vs Ideal***
 - The candidate will watch one of their assigned peers perform the activity from segment 1
 - The candidate will present a technical movement analysis based on the performance of their peer and then compare it to the ideal performance
 - Examiners may request a line rotation or call-down format
 - Clarifying questions may be asked as needed.
 - Activities will be performed on blue to easy black groomed terrain. Then the process is repeated with each candidate.

- **Segment 2 *Peer movement analysis interview***
 - *Examiners will choose an activity from the versatility or Individual categories (Level 1 or 2)*
 - *Candidates will watch their second assigned peer perform the activity*
 - *Examiners will perform a short interview after the candidate has finished their movement analysis presentation. Candidates may be asked the following*
 - Describe the ski and body performance, relative to two or more alpine fundamentals in all turn phases, and from turn to turn?
 - Link ski and body performance when describing cause-and-effect relationships in at least two fundamentals in all phases of the turn and from turn to turn?
 - Evaluate the described performances and compare them to a more ideal performance?
 - Prescribe a specific change in one alpine fundamental using DIRT to create a change in performance?
 - Relate how equipment choice affected their performance?
 - Clarifying questions to be asked as needed
 - Then the process is repeated with each candidate.
- **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 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 2.

Teaching Scoring

PSIA-I Alpine Level 2 Assessment Guide

Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 2 Teaching and People Skills during their teaching segment.

Technical and Movement Analysis Scoring: Candidates will be scored on the Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria in the PSIA 2021 National Standards for Level 2 Technical Understanding and Movement Analysis Skills during these assessment segments.