

Certification of Skating Instructors

In the US, there is no "certification" required for skating instructors. Within reasonable limits, anyone who decides they want to teach, and who can find other skaters willing to take lessons from them can call themselves a "skating pro". The Professional Skater's Association (PSA), in cooperation with the USFSA and the ISI has established a voluntary "ratings" system which provides certification for skating professionals.

Most serious skating instructors are members of the PSA and many participate in the ratings program. All skaters looking for qualified instructors should consider PSA rating of their candidate instructors as a part of their evaluation process.

What is a Rating?

A rating is a certification that a professional is qualified to teach at a certain level in a specified discipline. Just like skaters "test" to different levels to prove their skating abilities, pros can "test" to demonstrate their teaching abilities at various levels.

The testing program for instructors is administered by the PSA. Candidate instructors must be members of the PSA.

To obtain a Rating, all candidates must pass a one-time written exam, in combination with a 45-minute oral exam for each separate level or rating desired. Additional requirements include documented teaching experience for certain periods of time for each level, and the documented passing of appropriate level/discipline skating tests by students they have taught.

What Ratings are Available?

At the time of this writing, PSA ratings are offered in the following categories. The available rating levels for each category are indicated in italic print following the category name. The "lowest" rating is first in each list:

Freestyle:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master</i>
Moves in the Field:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master</i>
Figures:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master</i>
Dance:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master, Master Dance & Free Dance</i>
Pairs:	<i>Certified, Senior, Master</i>
Group:	<i>Certified, Senior, Master, Master Program Director</i>
Choreography:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master</i>
Precision:	<i>Registered, Certified, Senior, Master</i>

What does it take to obtain a Rating?

Contact the PSA to get the complete and up-to-date requirements for each rating. Just to give an idea of what is involved, this section indicates the highlights of the requirements for the Freestyle Ratings, as they were at the time of this writing.

PSA Rating Requirements for Free Skating

Registered FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at PSA seminar, conference, etc or completion of PSA Apprentice program at "Registered" level within 1 year of application • Must have passed written exam • Must have passed Juvenile skating test (or ISI 5, or international equivalent) or have coached a pupil through this level. • Minimum one (1) year teaching experience • Must pass oral examination for "Registered" rating
Certified FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at PSA seminar, conference, etc or completion of PSA Apprentice program at "Certified" level within 1 year of application • Must hold valid "Registered" rating • Must have passed Novice skating test (or ISI 7, or international equivalent) or have coached a pupil through this level.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum two (2) years teaching experience • Must pass oral examination for "Certified" rating
Senior FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at PSA seminar, conference, etc or completion of PSA Apprentice program at "Senior" level within 1 year of application • Must hold valid "Certified" rating • Must have passed Junior skating test (or ISI 8, or international equivalent) or have coached a pupil through this level. • Minimum three (3) years teaching experience • Must pass oral examination for "Senior" rating
Master FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at PSA seminar, conference, etc or completion of PSA Apprentice program at "Master" level within 1 year of application • Must hold valid "Senior" rating • Must have passed Senior skating test (or ISI 10, or international equivalent) or have coached a pupil through this level. • Minimum five (5) years teaching experience (must have taught for minimum 15 hrs/week at least 48 weeks per year during this period) • Must pass oral examination for "Master" rating

Once again, be aware that the requirements as listed above are simplified from the actual PSA documentation, and may not be current at the time you read this. They are presented as background only. If you are a pro, contact the PSA directly to get current requirements.

Continuing Education

Rated instructors are required to pursue an aggressive program of "continuing education" in order to maintain their ratings. Credit is received from participation in workshops, training programs, seminars, training camps, etc, which are approved or run by the PSA. All training events are assigned "credit values" based on content and duration. Rated instructors must continuously maintain 24 credits through the duration of a 3-year rolling window. Failure to do so causes an inactivation of the Rating. This requirement helps instructors to remain "current", and provides skaters with an assurance that their instructors are up-to-date with the latest techniques and requirements.

To Learn More

Professionals interested in becoming PSA members or earning PSA ratings should contact the PSA directly for specific and up-to-date information on requirements.

The PSA offers study guides for each rating. It also offers a "Coaches Manual" for member instructors. Additionally it offers an excellent training video for Moves in the Field (this is available to the public).

Professional Skater's Association
 3006 Allegro Park SW
 Rochester MN 55902
 Phone: 507-281-5122 / Fax: 507-281-5491
 Email: office@skatepsa.com
 Web: www.skatepsa.com/