



CSIA Level 4 Certification

Who Should Take This Program?

The CSIA Level 4 Certification Program is geared toward creating the most skilled, adaptable and professional instructors that the CSIA produces. It is achieved through admission to and participation in the Level 4 Academy and the demonstration and application of skiing and teaching skills at an expert level, as per the CSIA Level 4 standards.

The core of the program is comprised of three four-day, on-snow training camps offered over the course of one or two seasons. On-snow and online training include teaching, skiing and training skills and addresses aspects of Ski Industry and Snow School operations. Ongoing mentorship opportunities aid in creating continuity and focus throughout the Academy and allow for regular check-ins between Trainees and Trainers.

Trainees will be challenged to investigate and develop their own teaching approaches, understanding, professionalism, and interpersonal, communication and leadership skills. Assessment and evaluations are ongoing using a multi-level approach of peer teaching and evaluations as well as direct evaluation by trainers. Final evaluation is based on performance in both the training portion and final exam portion of the process.

The Certified CSIA Level 4 represents professionalism and leadership for the future of the Ski Industry. They possess expert teaching and skiing skills and are a role model for members of the organization. A willingness to learn and to help others is essential.

Entry into the Academy includes the following prerequisites and procedures.

Prerequisites:

- CSIA Level 3 Certification
- CSIA Trainer Designation
- Teaching experience within a recognized Snow School or other teaching institution
- Application submission accepted
- Pass Selection Camp

Note: Members who do not currently hold the Trainer Designation may apply for the Academy and register for Selection Camp provided they also have an active registration to an upcoming Trainer Exam that precedes the Selection Camp. Success on the Trainer Exam is mandatory to begin participation in the Level 4 Academy Camps.

Academy Structure

The Level 4 Academy Program structure is a five-part process:

- Selection Camp 2 Days
- Academy Camp 1 4 Days (Skills inventory)
- Academy Camp 2 4 Days (Skills development, includes brush training environment)
- Academy Camp 3 4 Days (Skills development and evaluation)
- Academy Exam 2 Days (Day 1: Teach, Day 2: Ski)

Am I Ready?

Application Submission

- Cover letter/ introduction (maximum 500 words). Some considerations for inclusion in the letter are:
 - Brief history of your ski career
 - Why you are interested in the L4 Academy
 - What attributes you feel make you a strong Level 4 candidate
 - What is your outlook for participation in the Academy
 - Other aspects you feel are relevant.
- Resume
 - Member Number
 - Professional skills and experience summary
 - Past and current ski industry involvement
 - Confirmation of past employment within a recognized Snow School or other teaching institution (minimum 1)
 - Reference letters optional
 - Other aspects you feel are relevant.
- Application period
 - Towards December 2023 and January 2024 Selection Camps:
October 1st through November 30th. Applicants will be notified of results by December 8th.
 - Towards February to April 2024 Selection Camps:
December 15th through January 12th. Applicants will be notified of results by January 20th.
- Please send applications to application@snowpro.com with the subject line:
 - Level 4 Application – Your Name, Member Number
- The above-mentioned prerequisites must be met, and applications must be accepted by the CSIA prior to being able to register for a Selection Camp.

Selection Camp

L4 Academy Selection Camp is a skiing skills-focussed two-day development and assessment in which candidates will ski in small groups, each facilitated by 2 Course Conductors. Course Conductors will work with participants to develop skills as well as use specific opportunities to observe performance objectives to provide written evaluation in each.

Selection Camp participants are selected to move into the Level 4 Academy based on their current skill set, their ability to apply and evolve new concepts during the Selection Camp as well as their overall comfort level and ability to ski safely and learn new skills in the terrain and conditions required for the Level 4. The intent of the Selection Camp is to identify an overall level of proficiency that would indicate a likelihood of successfully achieving the Level 4 standard following three camps in the Level 4 Academy.

- Ski off runs are listed below
- Runs are evaluated by CSIA Level 4 Course Conductors
- Final marks and notification of selection to the Academy will be provided at the conclusion of the Selection Camp.

How to prepare:

- Attendance at Level 1 Course Conductor Training and experience as a Level 1 Course Conductor can serve as valuable training.
- Pro Days and Pro Sessions offer training opportunities to hone your skiing and teaching skills.
- Physical fitness is an important factor. While there is no specific physical test, it is well documented that strength, flexibility and agility (to name just a few) are important factors in injury prevention and performance at an expert level.
- Participants who do not meet the criteria to be selected to the Academy are encouraged to consider taking additional training through Pro Sessions, Pro Days and Pro Days Camps before returning to the Selection Camp at a later date.

Level 4 Academy Learning Outcomes

- Expert Teaching Skills
 - Assessment and Development of expert skiing skills
 - Application of teaching concepts
 - Application of technical concepts
 - Risk Mitigation
 - Objectives, Outcomes and Terrain implications
- Expert Skiing Skills
 - Versatility and Adaptability
 - Variable Speed and Terrain
 - Skiing Objectives
 - Bumps
 - Free
 - Medium (steered)
 - Short (steered)

- Long (steered/ carved)
- Learning outcomes, activities and assessments are designed with standards of the CSIA Level 4 Certification in mind.
- The Academy will provide specific focus and development for each individual to ensure that training is provided in the aspects that each member will benefit from most.
- Assessment of skills and knowledge is ongoing throughout the Academy Training Camps through informal assessments and practical teaching opportunities within the academy peer groups.
- Participants should be prepared to be very active in the learning process through direct involvement in teaching fellow participants, discussions, and peer teaching assessments.

Assessment, Development and Evaluation Format

- Each Academy Camp prioritizes education and development with ongoing assessment against the Level 4 Standards through the duration of the process. At the conclusion of each Camp, Trainees are provided with a Skills Transcript completed and signed off by a minimum of one Course Conductor.
- Additional to the transcript, each Camp will culminate with a development plan designed collaboratively between the Course Conductor and the Trainee. This will be the plan that the Trainee should continue with until the next camp.
- Between Camp 1 and 2 and Camp 2 and 3, each participant will be offered an opportunity to connect virtually with their previous Course Conductor via an online “Check in”. The check ins are offered as an opportunity to discuss progress and targets as the participant trains in the “off” periods.
- At the end of Camp 3, Trainers and participants will discuss Exam recommendations based on competencies and training outcomes. An official mark will be attributed to the candidates’ Skiing and Teaching skills.
- The Exam consists of a one-day Teaching Skills evaluation (one-hour Expert Teaching Session) and a one-day Skiing Skills evaluation (Marked Ski off runs). Marks are independent for each component.
- Final results of the Level 4 Academy process are derived from a combination of marks achieved through the training process and the exam, for each component (Skiing and Teaching). These marks are weighted as follows:

Training Camps (best Camp 3 mark, valid for 2 years):	70% weighting
Final Exam (most recent mark) :	30% weighting

- Candidates must achieve the overall passing mark on both Skiing and Teaching components to obtain the Level 4 Certification. An overall passing mark on only one component will result in a partial Level 4 Certification.
- Candidates who do not achieve an overall passing mark on either component must seek further training to improve their Camp 3 marks by attending additional Academy Camps, followed by another attempt at the final Exam. The Exam is the only possible exit point.

Ski Off Runs (Selection Camp and Final Evaluation)

Type	Medium Turn (9 - 11m)
Speed	Medium Speed
Performance	Steered
Pitch	Black
Surface	Groomed
Qualities	Round Linked turns Speed remains Consistent Rotational Control results in the appropriate steering angle for the objective Edging Control results in outside ski directing COM throughout Skis change edge at transition simultaneously

Type	Short Turn (Approx 1 cat track)
Speed	Expert Speed
Performance	Steered
Pitch	Black
Surface	Groomed
Qualities	Speed remains consistent throughout Round, Linked Turns Steering results in deflection of COM across the run Edge grip is apparent above the fall line Skis remain parallel throughout

Type	Long Turn (14 - 18m dependent on ski choice)
Speed	Expert Speed
Performance	Steered
Pitch	Black
Surface	Groomed
Qualities	Round, linked turns Speed remains consistent Steering of BOS directs COM beginning above fall line

Type	Free (Terrain Interpretation)
Speed	Advanced/ Expert Speed
Performance	Conditional
Pitch	Black
Surface	Off Piste
Qualities	Turn shape and line are adjusted to terrain Speed is adjusted in relation to terrain Snow contact is controlled at will CSIA technical elements are applied

Type	Bumps (fall line)
Speed	Expert Speed
Performance	Steered
Pitch	Blue/ Black
Surface	Bumps
Qualities	Speed remains consistent Turn shape and line are adjusted to terrain Skills are blended to produce an overall fall line run Snow contact is controlled at will

Type	Mixed Radius (on piste)
Speed	Expert

Performance	Steered - Carved
Pitch	Black
Surface	Groomed
Qualities	Round Linked Tuns
	Mix of short, medium, long as above
	Speed is consistent
	Minimum two rhythm changes
	Must finish with short

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