

The National Rifle Association Certification Process for Firearms Instructors

The **NRA Instructor Training Program** is designed to train experienced shooters to teach NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses as NRA Certified Instructors. Instructor training courses are conducted by NRA Appointed Training Counselors (TC) themselves very experienced and active instructors who have attended an NRA Training Counselor Workshop to “train the trainer”.

The NRA Instructor Training Certification consists of two parts:

Basic Instructor Training (BIT) (6 hour Course)

Course Goal: To develop NRA Certified Instructors who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to conduct the NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses.

BIT is conducted in a classroom room setting and focuses on the NRA’s teaching philosophies and methodologies. Instructor Candidates learn about the **Total Participant Involvement (TIP)** method of presenting and training that is used by instructors in both the classroom and on the range. Instruction includes the structure of NRA Instructor Lesson Plans, effective use of training aids and material along with how to plan, promote, organize, and present NRA courses.

Candidates are required to pass an open book test on the BIT course with 90 percent passing score (minimum).

*Note: A current Basic Instructor Training certification is a prerequisite for all NRA Instructor course (Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, etc.). Once an instructor is BIT certified, that individual can attend any NRA Instructor Course within two years of their BIT completion date. After this two year period all instructors must renew their BIT certification (retake the course) prior to taking any additional NRA Instructor Courses. **REMEMBER**, BIT certification expires after two years and once expired must be taken prior to attending or in conjunction with any NRA Instructor Course.*

Discipline-Specific Instructor Training

Each Instructor Candidate must meet all the prerequisites for each specific instructor discipline which includes:

1. Successfully Completed BIT in the past 24 months

2. Completed any basic student or instructor courses required by the NRA for the Instructor Discipline being sought.

Example: For Pistol Instructor Certification, the candidate must show proof of successful completion (certificate) of the NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting Instructor Led Training (BOPS ILT) student course prior to taking the Pistol Instructor course.

3. Pass the discipline specific **Pre-Course Qualification** which consists of hands-on, practical exercises to evaluate an individual’s knowledge, skills, attitude, and safety in:

- **LOADING/UNLOADING** (Usually done at the beginning of the course)
- **CLEARING COMMON STOPPAGES** (Usually done at the beginning of the course)
- **SHOOTING** (*Can be done at the beginning of class, but may be done during the practical exercises covered in the discipline specific shooting session in the NRA Instructor Lesson Plan.*)

Using the NRA Instructor Lesson Plan for the discipline being taught, Instructor Candidates will step through and present selected lesson from the course to each other. This training approach is TPI at work and each Candidate’s presentation(s) will be observed and assessed with real time feedback by the TC’s and assistant NRA Instructors as they step through the *course* with the Candidates.

During the course TC’s and Assistant Instructors evaluate each Instructor Candidate’s performance based on their ability to handle the firearms with confidence, use of appropriate training aids, following the lesson plans and meeting all learning objectives, while utilizing the teaching philosophies expected of NRA Certified Instructors. Candidates must learn the NRA discipline specific instructional methods and how to evaluate and improve the performance of beginning shooters.

An open book test is administered at the end of the Instructor Training and Candidates must pass with a grade of:

Certified Instructor: 90 percent or higher

Assistant Instructor: 85 percent or higher (18 years of age or older)

Apprentice Instructor: 85 percent or higher (13-17 years of age)

NRA instructor certification is not available to any individual who is not a citizen of the United States or has been convicted of a crime of violence, or who is prohibited by federal, state, or local law from possessing firearms.