

National Curriculum for the Instructor Certification Program

A curriculum gives direction to the courses developed by schools and implemented by instructors. The curriculum will provide guidance and consistency, and will define outcomes for Senior Instructors who are developing an Instructor Course.

The Goal of the Instructor Certification Course

The goal is to provide an instructional program (24 hours knowledge-based and 25 hours practice-based) that develops well-trained, professional instructors who can design and deliver a safety oriented and effective program for students learning to fly hang gliders and paragliders.

Essential Required Elements (for 24 hrs knowledge-based portion)

Elements or aspects that the Instructor Certification Program must cover.

1. TC Requirements

- responsibilities
- new regulations
- local restrictions

2. HPAC Responsibilities

- annual report
- accident reporting
- first aid requirements
- administration of ratings and examinations
- non-resident insurance
- apprenticeship program
- rating system

3. Pedagogy and Communication

Theoretical Application

- Flight Instructor Guide (TP975) Part I: 7 learning factors, oral questioning technique
- lesson plan development and implementation
- presentation techniques, AV aids, classroom or teaching area preparation/layout
- use of anecdotes to emphasize and or solidify learning

Practical Application

- observation, demonstration, feedback techniques
- radio guidance technique
- developing an appropriate student progression

4. Risk Management and Safety

- accurate and complete hazard assessment (site, weather, equipment, students) and appropriateness for skills and level of student being taught

- engineering controls (managing equipment and sites to reduce, manage or eliminate risk)
- administrative controls (developing procedures to reduce, manage, or eliminate risk)
- PPE (use of personal protective equipment to reduce, manage, or eliminate risk)
- accident management, media management
- periodic re-evaluation of all safety related aspects

5. School Operations

- professional conduct and adherence to the HPAC Instructor Code of Conduct
- evaluation and implementation of various training methods, ie towing, foot launch, tandem, etc.
- developing an effective training progression for available resources; considering equipment, site and weather selection
- school records, administration, waivers
- business considerations; revenue vs safety, discount promotions, advertising
- liability and insurance
- program structure and implications, (eg. teaching by aero tow only, or by doing tandems, or some combination of foot and tow launch)
- sport advocacy and cross education of HG and PG

Appropriate Optional Elements (for 24 hours knowledge-based portion)

These are additional elements which round out the program and may be specific to an individual school based on local geography, weather, demographics, culture, resources, etc.

- increase knowledge base on aerodynamics, equipment design & function, weather
- site and geographical considerations for a specific teaching location
- general awareness and education across different disciplines; hang gliding, paragliding, sailplanes, ultralights, motorized aircraft
- awareness of other national and international teaching techniques and programs
- rating exams; review to assess knowledge and use as a basis for discussion of topics where the students level of understanding is lacking
- rating exams; review to identify validity and accuracy of questions and answers and provide feedback to HPAC
- recent advancements in equipment design and technology
- record and badge requirements, attempts and submissions
- XC flying techniques
- aerobatic or acro techniques
- TC representative presentation

Practical Instruction (for 25 hours practice-based portion)

Under the guidance and supervision of a certified instructor (discipline specific), the instructor candidate will practice/utilize the knowledge and skills, presented in the 24 hr course, in a real teaching environment.

Desired outcomes for the Instructor Certification Program

General:

To provide the training, education, and resources required for a qualified individual to develop and deliver a successful training program.

To act as an assessment process to determine whether an individual has the knowledge, skills and ability to train others.

Specific:

- sufficient knowledge in the following areas to answer student questions on; equipment design, aerodynamics, meteorology, airspace regulations, historical development of the sport, learning theory, risk management
- ability to develop a training syllabus for a particular lesson
- ability to set up and teach a ground school: identify main teaching points, start new material at the student's level of understanding, present material in stages, involve the students in the lesson, use effective questioning techniques, use AV aids effectively, confirm student learning at the end of each stage, use time effectively
- ability to use the following skills in practical instruction: effective demonstrations, effective and appropriate communication, break skills down into simple elements, effective use of oral questions, answer student questions effectively, deal with emotional or behavioural issues, analyze performance accurately and give positive debriefing, identify major errors first and take corrective action, correct minor deficiencies making only 1 or 2 suggestions at a time, be specific with suggestions for improvement, recognize physical and or psychological issues (fatigue, over-confidence, fear, etc.), do not allow a student to repeat an error.
- personal flight proficiency - be able to effectively demonstrate flight maneuvers being taught
- consistent history of appropriate pilot decision making, good airmanship, and safe flying practices
- ability to identify and mitigate specific hazards
- ability to take responsibility
- ability to establish a positive and supportive learning environment
- ability to evaluate and select appropriate equipment, sites and weather conditions for a particular lesson
- encourage further education/progression
- use appropriate equipment and training systems
- ability to analyse and discuss accident reports
- adhere to the HPAC Instructor Code of Conduct
- ability to confidently make accurate decisions and be able to justify reasons for making them
- communicate effectively in one or both of Canada's official languages

Applicable References:

- TC Flight Instructors Guide, [TP 975](https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/publications/tp975-menu-5494.htm),
<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/civilaviation/publications/tp975-menu-5494.htm>
- A [Risk Management Manual](https://www.flyhigh.com/reliability.html) for Hang Gliding & Paragliding, Michael Robertson,
<https://www.flyhigh.com/reliability.html>
- USHPA Instructor's Manual, Dennis Pagen

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