What do I have to do to become an NRA Instructor?

To qualify as an NRA Instructor:

* Candidates must have completed the basic course in the discipline they wish to be certified to teach, e.g. NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting (Instructor Led Only—the online or blended courses are not allowed for instructor candidates), NRA Basic Rifle Shooting, etc. and pass the shooting qualification for instructor level for that discipline.
* Candidates must possess and demonstrate a solid background in firearm safety and shooting skills acquired through previous firearm training and/or previous shooting experience. Instructor candidates must be intimately familiar with each action type in the discipline for which they wish to be certified.
* Candidates will be required to demonstrate solid and safe firearm handling skills required to be successful during an instructor training course by completing pre-course questionnaires and qualification exercises administered by the NRA Certified Training Counselor.
* Candidates must take BIT (Basic Instructor Training) given by an NRA Training Counselor, and pass the examination with a grade of 90% or better.
* Candidates must satisfactorily complete an NRA Instructor Training Course in the discipline they wish to teach (e.g., NRA Basic Pistol Course), and receive the endorsement of the NRA Training Counselor conducting that training.

NRA Instructor courses are discipline specific. During NRA’s course, candidates will learn NRA policies and procedures; basic public speaking skills; training methodology; use of a training team and training aids; organizing a course, building a budget; and finally preparing to teach. In addition, candidates will be provided the appropriate lesson plans and basic course student packets. Role-playing is a major part of an instructor course; therefore, as a student in an NRA Instructor’s Class, must be prepared to take on the role of both the instructor (to the best of your ability) and student (as realistically as possible) throughout the class. Candidates take turns working in teams, actually conducting portions of the course to other candidates who portray basic students.

Instructor training courses are conducted by [NRA Training Counselors](https://firearmtraining.nra.org/become-an-instructor/become-a-training-counselor/). Training Counselors are active and experienced instructors who have been certified by NRA to train experienced shooters to teach others to shoot. Training Counselors will evaluate candidates' 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 are also graded on the level of enthusiasm and excitement that they bring to the classroom and range. Candidates can also expect to learn the NRA discipline specific instructional methods and evaluating and improving the performance of beginning shooters.