

American Avalanche Association Prior Learning Assessment

The American Avalanche Association acknowledges that many professionals are currently engaged in or have completed training under the previous education system. Our goal is to engage professionals at their current level in the previous educational system, provide clear direction on how to proceed, and promote consistency in training.

Table 1: A summary of the equivalence in the new Professional Training Program for professionals who have taken courses in the previous educational system.

Current Level of Training	Equivalent Within the New Professional Training System	Next Course For Professional Training
Level 1 Avalanche Training	Level 1 Avalanche Training	Avalanche Rescue Course (8hrs)
		Pro 1 Course
Level 2 Avalanche Training	Pro 1 w/ completion of Bridge Course	Bridge Course For Pro 1 Certification *
		Pro 1 Course
Level 3 Avalanche Training	Pro 2 Course**	Continuing Professional Development
National Avalanche School (Classroom and Field prior to 2017)	Pro 1 w/ completion of Bridge Course	Bridge Course For Pro 1 Certification *
		Pro 1 Course
National Avalanche School (Classroom and Field in 2017-18)	Pro 1-NAS Course	Pro 2 Course
AVPRO	Pro 2 Course**	Continuing Professional Development

*Bridge course evaluating student's skills from the previous Level 2 training will be offered for the first three years of the new professional avalanche training program. Following the first three years of the new program, a student with a Level 2 completion from the old educational system will need to take the complete Pro 1 course.

**Pro 2 avalanche training contains material not covered in the previous level 3 courses; however, expectations are that, post level 3 or AVPRO, professionals continue to acquire skills through continuing education and on the job training.

Recognition of Equivalency:

If the professional does not meet any of the criteria listed in table 1 and needs recognition of equivalency for employment, he/she may submit a Prior Learning Assessment application to the AAA. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that he/she meets or exceeds the skills and proficiencies described in the Pro 1 or Pro 2 Proficiencies and Guidelines documents. It is encouraged that the applicant take the time to compile a complete, thorough, and concise application with clear evidence supporting his/her claim for equivalency.

Prior Learning Assessment applications will be submitted electronically to the AAA's Professional Training Coordinator. Assessments will be reviewed as part of a collaborative process with AAA-approved instructors.

See Prior Learning Assessment Form Below:

American Avalanche Association Prior Learning Assessment

Applicant Information:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Equivalency: Application For Equivalency for the Following Course: _____ (Course Title)

Professional Training: List all avalanche and snow science related courses. Attach any certificates, evaluations, syllabi, etc. to support training completions and topics covered.

Course	Course Dates	Location	Course Provider	Topics Covered

Work Experience: List all employment pertinent to the avalanche and snow science field. Other work experience and/or further work descriptions may be provided by attaching a resume to the application.

Position	Employment Dates	Employer	Job Description

Continuing Education: List pertinent continuing education events or trainings.

Training/Event	Date(s)	Location	Topics Covered

References: Provide three references who can speak to the applicant’s qualifications, experience, and competency with the skills and proficiencies outlined in the Pro 1 or Pro 2 Guidelines and Proficiencies.

	Name	Job Title	Relationship	Phone	Email
1					
2					
3					

Course Content: Provide a description of work and/or educational experience that demonstrates competency in each of the skills and proficiencies for the course equivalency sought. The complete list of skills and proficiencies can be found in the Pro 1 and Pro 2 Proficiencies and Guidelines publications.

Examples: Pro 1 Equivalency

Skill/Proficiency: Observe, record and evaluate avalanche occurrence data

Over the past 5 years I have regularly documented and recorded avalanche occurrences while on avalanche mitigation routes at Mentone Ski Area. During an average winter I participate in 30 or more days of avalanche mitigation work at the ski area. Attached are two days of avalanche documentation from our recording forms during the most recent winter.

The applicant is encouraged to attach operational documentation that provides evidence of competency in support of the recognition of equivalency.

Submission: All Prior Learning Assessment applications must be submitted electronically to the AAA Professional Training Coordinator at pro.training@avalanche.org.