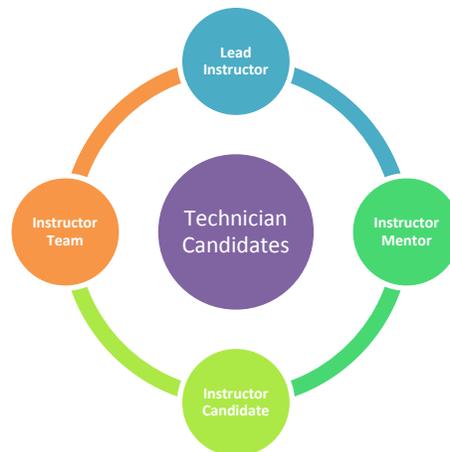


Congratulations on becoming an Instructor Candidate!

These tips from your CPSTI colleagues will help you get started on the right foot—and running towards the Instructor finish line!

Keep in mind that the success of your candidacy and the class revolves around creating a positive learning experience for Technician Candidates. As a result, these new technicians will have a firm foundation to build upon. As an IC, setting expectations is important, but it's also important for instructors to meet the expectations of the class.



Pre-Class

- Always conduct pre-meetings and ask colleagues for tips and feedback
- Practice new material out loud before teaching
- Study all chapters in the curriculum so you can fill in for someone who cannot teach
- Become familiar with the training seats that will be used in your class
- Anticipate roadblocks and plan for inclement weather, student and logistical issues
- Instructor Candidates can be nervous the first time teaching, but remember you know more than your students do
- Highlight or make flash cards of key points you want to teach
- Familiarize yourself with the checklist that will be used at the course checkup event
- Read all materials related to the course more than once
- Know the state law
- Take TSI's Instructor Development class, more information can be attained through your NHTSA Regional Office

During Class

- Anticipate what is coming up next in the class so you are one step ahead with setting up hands-on activities

- Listen to other instructors and pick up on teaching techniques
- Personal stories can help students relate to material, but make sure not to get off task
- Follow along in your manual during the class even when other instructors are teaching to become more familiar with the content
- Develop relationships with course participants so you can get them connected in local events
- Even as an instructor, do not be afraid to say you do not know and ask questions
- Practice with the AV before you teach to make sure it is all working properly
- Try not to use filler words such as, “um, like, uh”
- Remember that learning styles vary and you may need to know how to explain how to do something in different ways
- Encourage student participation to engage them and reinforce learning
- Speak up, make eye contact and read your students
- Teach the section you dislike the most, the more familiar you become with the content the more comfortable you will be with the information
- Not every student in the class is going to understand something the same way. Checking in with the class throughout demonstrations and lectures is very essential.

Post-Class

- Teach another course as soon as you can following your candidacy to build on your skills and become comfortable with the curriculum
- Teach as many courses as you can first year, practice will improve your teaching technique
- Review student evaluations closely to help you become a better instructor
- Teach with as many instructor teams as you can

Staying Current

- Read tech updates, attend update courses, CEU classes and participate in car seat checks regularly
- Prepare early for re-certification
- Attend industry conferences such as Lifesavers, Kidz In Motion conference and Safe Kids meetings or conferences

Closing Thoughts

Everyone has their own journey to take in their professional development. It is good to be inspired by other instructors that you admire and respect, but do not get in the habit of comparing yourself to others. You have your unique experiences, perspective and skillset that no one else possesses. Enjoy the experience, learn from it and build upon it in every class you teach.