

NRA Class requirements for students

By class, here is a detailed explanation of what a student should be able to do BEFORE they take our class.

First though, a word about juveniles in our classes. We have been asked more than once about what age is acceptable for our classes. We nearly always push that decision back on the parent or guardian. They know the maturity level of the child. They know if the child can sit through the class, pay attention, behave in a responsible manner and act in a mature manner considering the subject matter. We've had some older teens we would not invite back, we've had some younger teens and 'tweens' who were fantastic students. The parent or guardian should know if their child is capable of taking our class seriously and successfully.

And now, the specific classes and their requirements:

Home Firearms Safety - This is a non-shooting class. There is some physical activity when unloading and handling the firearms in the class, but a normal-strength adult, or a physically able teen should have no issues taking this class. There is a test at the end, so paying attention, reading for comprehension, and average intelligence should suffice.

Basics of Pistol Shooting – This is a shooting class. Since students do not need their own pistol, ours can be used for the class. We recommend .22lr caliber pistols over another larger caliber when a new shooter is learning the basics. Average strength is required, and a reasonable level of manual dexterity is necessary to fill a magazine and put it in/remove it from the pistol during the shooting exercises. Some dexterity is also required to be able to lock the gun 'open' at the end of shooting. The student's shooting ability is graded, and is recorded on their completion certificate. Also, there is a test at the end of the class, so the ability to learn and retain information is important. The test is 'open book' so the ability to read for comprehension is equally important.

Basic Rifle Shooting – This is a shooting class. If a student does not have their own rifle, we have great .22lr rifles for learning these basics. Physically, the rifles aren't too heavy, but being able to manipulate the bolt, the magazine and particularly get into the shooting positions requires some dexterity, flexibility and average strength. There is a test at the end of the course, so the ability to learn and retain information is important. The test is 'open book' so the ability to read for comprehension is equally important.

Personal Protection In The Home – This is a more advanced class from the Basics of Pistol Shooting, which is one of the qualifying 'prerequisites' for this class. Our .22lr pistols can NOT be used in this class, it is a requirement that centerfire calibers of .380acp or larger be used. The student is expected to be comfortably familiar with their gun in this class, showing ease of operation, including filling magazines, loading and unloading the gun, locking the action open. We expect a student coming into this class to be able to hit a paper plate (8" circle) at 7 yards consistently. Those who take Basics of Pistol Shooting need more practice before they attempt this class. Like the other classes, there is a written, open book test, so the ability to comprehend what you read and hear is very important to pass the test successfully.

Personal Protection Outside The Home – This is the most advanced class we teach, and the skills from Basics of Pistol Shooting and also Personal Protection In The Home should be well practiced before taking this class. This class teaches drawing the pistol from concealment. The type of holster is quite limited for the class: must be a non-crushable outside the waistband holster that completely covers the trigger. The following holsters are NOT allowed in this class: Shoulder holsters, appendix carry, ankle holsters, pocket holsters, small of the back holsters, cross draw holsters or holsters with emphasized FBI Cant. While these may be fine for legal carry, they are not safe for use on a range with other shooters present. Like the other classes, there is a written, open book test, so the ability to comprehend what you read and hear is very important to pass the test successfully.

Additionally, students who cannot physically perform an activity or 'position' in shooting due to any physical limitation are not penalized, and certainly not forced to assume that position in order to pass the class.