



**USCCA®**

**Defensive Pistol Program (DPP)**

**Certifying Standards**

**June 12, 2025**

**ALL ASSESSMENTS ARE SHOT FROM CONCEALED CARRY AND TIMED WITH AN ELECTRONIC TIMER.**

**Any hits outside of the designated scoring area will result in a +.5 second penalty.**

***Any hits off of the scoring area (misses) will result in a failed assessment.***

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- **These certifying standards are in place to establish a minimum level of demonstrated skills for DPP instructor candidates.**
  - **These shooting standards are not the only assessments used to determine instructor certification for the USCCA Defensive Pistol Program.**
  - **At the discretion of the USCCA DPP Training Counselor, any attempt to circumvent these assessments by “gaming” or violating the intent of an assessment may result in disqualification from the course.**

## ASSESSMENT: First Shot From Holster

- To test the students' efficiency and accuracy while presenting the pistol from concealment and firing a single round at a target 5 yards away.
- Evaluate the students' ability to execute fundamental pistol skills under time constraints and cognitive stress.

*Target:* USCCA Universal Target, High-center chest

*Distance:* 5 yards

*Rounds:* 1

*Strings:* 1

*Total round count:* 1

*Start position:* Holstered, concealed

*Condition of the pistol:* Load and make ready

*Accuracy standard:* IDPA circle

*Start command:* Shot-timer

- On the start signal, present the pistol and fire one round, high-center chest.
- Follow after-action procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.

Record the time to establish a baseline skill level.

### Certified Instructor Standard

- 2.1 to 2.5 seconds

## ASSESSMENT: Modified Bill Drill

- To test the students' presentation efficiency, recoil control and trigger manipulation
- Evaluate students' ability to execute fundamental pistol skills under time constraints and cognitive stress

*Target:* USCCA Universal Target, High-center chest

*Distance:* 7 yards

*Rounds:* 6

*Strings:* 1

*Total round count:* 6

*Start position:* Holstered, concealed

*Condition of pistol:* Load and make ready

*Accuracy standard:* IDPA circle

*Start command:* Shot-timer

- On the start signal, present the pistol and fire six rounds, high-center chest, with deliberate and intentional shooting technique.
  - Follow after-action procedures.
  - Safely holster the pistol.
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- Record the time to establish a baseline skill level.
  - Do not shoot this as a speed drill. Be deliberate and intentional.

### Certified Instructor Standard

- 3.6 to 4.5 seconds

## ASSESSMENT: 2-4-1 Drill

- To test the students' target and target zone transitions while maintaining defensive accuracy and precision with performance constraints.
- Evaluate students' ability to execute fundamental pistol skills under time constraints and cognitive stress.

*Target:* 2 USCCA Universal Targets, High-center chest & head

*Distance:* 7 yards

*Rounds:* 7

*Strings:* 1

*Total round count:* 7

*Start position:* Holstered, concealed

*Condition of pistol:* Load and make ready

*Accuracy standard:* IDPA circles

*Start command:* Shot-timer

- Set up two targets one yard apart at 7 yards.
- On the start signal, present the pistol and shoot the first target, high-center chest, with two shots, transition to the second target and shoot with four shots, high-center chest, and one shot to the head.
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.

● **Missing more than two shots High Center Chest or failing to achieve a headshot results in a failed assessment.**

- Record the time to establish a baseline skill level.

### Certified Instructor Standard

- 5.1 to 6 seconds

## ASSESSMENT: Modified F.A.S.T. Drill

- To test students' fundamental pistol skills, speed, precision and handgun manipulation.
- Evaluate students' ability to execute fundamental pistol skills under time constraints and cognitive stress.

*Target:* USCCA Universal - High-center chest & head

*Distance:* 7 yards

*Rounds:* 6

*Strings:* 1

*Total round count:* 6

*Start position:* Holstered, concealed

*Condition of pistol:* Load and make ready

*Accuracy standard:* IDPA circles

*Start command:* Shot-timer

- Load the pistol with only two rounds and have a spare magazine with at least four rounds.
- On the start signal, present the pistol and fire two rounds, head zone, perform an emergency reload, fire four rounds high center chest.
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.

- Record the time to establish a baseline skill level.

### Certified Instructor Standard

- 7.1 to 10 seconds

## FINAL ASSESSMENT: Modified Wilson 5x5 Drill

- To test students' presentation from the holster, accuracy, speed, and reloads under time pressure.
- Evaluate students' ability to execute fundamental pistol skills under time constraints and cognitive stress.

*Target:* USCCA Universal Target, High-center chest & head

*Distance:* 10 yards

*Rounds:* 5 & 10

*Strings:* 4

*Total round count:* 25

*Start position:* Holstered, concealed

*Condition of pistol:* Load and make ready

*Accuracy standard:* IDPA circles

*Start command:* Shot-timer

- If possible, have your student load and make ready using two magazines, the first with 15 rounds and the second with 10 rounds. (or two tens and a five)
- **String 1:** On the start signal, present the pistol and fire five rounds, high-center chest, freestyle (using both hands) .
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.
- **String 2:** On the start signal, present the pistol and fire five rounds, high-center chest, strong hand only.
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.
- **String 3:** On the start signal, present the pistol and fire five rounds, high-center chest, perform an emergency reload, fire an additional five rounds, high-center chest.
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.
- **String 4:** On the start signal, present the pistol and fire four rounds, high-center chest, and one round head zone.
- Follow Post-Engagement procedures.
- Safely holster the pistol.

- Any hits off the scoring area (misses) is a failed assessment.
- Record the time to establish a baseline skill level.

### Certified Instructor Standard

- 32.25 to 40.25 seconds



USCCA  
UNIVERSAL  
TARGET

4

1

FAIL

3

A

-0

+.5

-0

+.5

+

2

5

FAIL

5

B