



## SR Instructor's Certification Program - updated 2016

The purpose of this certification program is several fold:

1. Improve the quality of teaching and thus the quality of the students
2. Grow SR both in terms of numbers and skills. Increase retention and enrollment.
3. Give SR Instructors a focus to improve and gain 'certification'.
4. Teacher Training Weekend with SMS funded by Shoshin Ryu - room, board, training, \$250 toward airfare

### Assistant Instructor:

**Purpose:** to give students a place to start teaching and helping with dojo, serve as a substitute if primary sensei is absent.

### Pre-requisites:

1. Rank: brown belt and up
2. Written test: pass
3. Production: blackbelts produced - none required
4. Reading requirement:  
SR Practitioner's Guidebook  
SR Instructor's Guidebook  
Zen and the Martial Arts by Joe Hyams
5. Privileges: attend instructor's seminars (must have an official "title" of Assistant Instructor. Not everyone with a brown belt can attend")
6. Function: ability to run class when sensei is not around, aid the quality of class by drilling class, learn to drill students physically



## Instructor:

**Purpose:** entry level teaching position (need not be assistant instructor first - this is our certified instructor) - knows how to physically drill students and get them to shodan.

## Pre-requisites:

1. Rank: Shodan (if no shodan in area brown belts can teach, but needs mentor to take ownership of dojo from afar, also needs board/SMS approval.)
2. Written test: pass
3. Production: black belts produced - none required
4. Reading requirement:  
*Don't Shoot the Dog*  
*The Way of the Peaceful Warrior* by Dan Millman  
*Mastery* by George Leonard  
*Facing Violence* by Rory Miller,  
*Three Budo Masters* by John Stevens  
Know *SR Practitioner Guidebook* & *Instructor's Guidebook*.
5. Privileges: attend instructor's seminars, may be addressed as Sensei
6. Function: start and run a dojo, produce quality SR practitioners and Yudansha, know how to drill class, efficient use of time.
7. Training: Required to attend Instructor training with SMS within first 2 years of starting dojo. SR Journal: write one article per year.
8. Nationals: attended at least 1 SR Nationals every 3 years to stay current.



## Teacher (Sensei)

**Purpose:** to run and maintain a dojo of high standards, regularly produce shodan and new instructors, teach life skills as well as physical art, know how to make positive changes efficiently.

### Pre-requisites:

1. Rank: nidan and up
2. Written test: pass
3. Production: produce 5 shodan, regularly teach a class
4. Reading requirement:  
*Zen and Japanese Culture* by Suzuki (chapter 4,5,6)  
*Budo Secrets* by John Stevens  
*The One Minute Manager* by Ken Blanchard  
*Meditations on Violence* by Rory Miller,  
*Mindset, the new psychology of success* by Carole Dweck  
*Know SR Practitioner Guidebook & Instructor's Guidebook.*
5. Privileges: attend instructor's seminars, be addressed as Sensei, teach at Nationals
6. Training: SMS visiting their dojo or vice versa and watching them teach and/or critiquing their teaching at a Nationals or Yudansha Gasshuku. At least every 3 years do one of the following: have SMS evaluate at nationals, Visit SMS or have SMS visit home dojo and observe teaching or attend Instructor's Workshop
7. Nationals: Regular attendance to Nationals and/or Yudansha weekends.  
Strive to have a dojo capable of hosting nationals (i.e. local support).
8. SR Journal: one article per year



## **Teacher of Teachers = Shihan** [written only, not addressed as shihan]

**Purpose:** to produce quality teachers of Shoshin Ryu, continue to improve their understanding of the Art and Applied Sciences of Shoshin Ryu, understand how to make significant progress with challenging students and how to challenge exceptional students

### **Pre-requisites:**

1. Rank: sandan and up
2. Written test: pass
3. Production: produce 10 shodan and 3 nidan  
Help write or create DVD/new chapters in guidebooks.
4. Reading requirement:  
*The Unfettered Mind* by Takuan,  
*The Japanese Art of War* by Thomas Cleary  
*Leadership and The One Minute Manager* by Ken Blanchard  
*HBR's 10 Must Reads on Leadership* (Harvard Business Review)  
Know *SR Practitioner Guidebook & Instructor's Guidebook*.
5. Privileges: attend instructor's seminars, may be addressed as Sensei, teach at nationals, teach at instructors workshops
6. Function: produce quality SR practitioners and Yudansha, help SR create better teachers by writings & example, Create more dojo
7. Training: regular visits with SMS or Hanshi
8. Nationals: have attended at least 1 nationals in past 3 years. Attend nationals and Yudansha gasshuku regularly.
9. SR Journal; one article per year



**Hanshi** = exemplary person/teacher (person/teacher who exhibits Ri in their Art. And their Art in their everyday life.) Written only, not called by name. Usually only 1-2 at any given time.

**Purpose:** to set model for future generation to aspire to and help them exceed, help train shihan, understand how to develop quality students to the highest level, impact nearly all practitioners of Shoshin Ryu in some manner - perhaps creating DVD's, book chapters, etc.

**Pre-requisites:**

1. Rank: yondan and up
2. Written test: pass
3. Production: produce at least 14 shodan, 7 nidans and 3 sandan  
Help write or create DVD/new chapters in guidebooks.
4. Reading requirement:  
*The Life Giving Sword* by Yagyū Munenori  
*No Boundaries* by Ken Wilbur  
Know *SR Practitioner Guidebook & Instructor's Guidebook*.
5. Privileges: attend instructor's seminars, may be addressed as Sensei, teach at nationals
6. Attend at least 1 SR Nationals every 3 yrs



## FAQ:

**1. How do we assign who gets 'credit' for each new shodan, nidan, sandan, etc?** SMS's call or Board decision if not apparently clear. May ask student who influenced this rank change. The primary Sensei for the student gets the credit. If the student is off on their own - perhaps no one or perhaps two (but not more) Sensei may get credit. The board will assign this on case by case basis.

Shoshin Ryu National Website shall keep a running log of yudansha and who their sensei was.

**2. Why do we do a yearly update of instructor information?** This is an effort to help with Quality, Reporting and Feedback. SR endeavors to make sure one of our Practitioners are safe and well taught by having responsible Instructors who have the student's best interest at heart. Our instructors should be continuing to grow as teachers and martial artists. SR wants to be aware of any felonies or DUI's, etc that arise and helps solve the problem and protect the students. It also allows the SR board to get feedback from its Instructors on a regular basis.

**3. Where do we take the tests?** They are online at [www.ShoshinRyu.org](http://www.ShoshinRyu.org) in the Yudansha Section under Sensei.

**4. What is minimum level to run a Shoshin Ryu Dojo?** Instructor - and of course be in good standing.

**5. Why are we doing this again?** Shoshin Ryu, for both the current generation and future generations wants to provide a format to increase the quality of teachers and thus the quality of Shoshin Ryu Practitioners. Yudansha will now have a very specific training model to grow as teachers and continue to improve their quality of teaching over the years. They will have a better way to help pass on Shoshin Ryu properly to the next generation of Shoshin Ryu practitioners. Please these are not meant to limit or exclude but rather challenge and help draw up each individual teacher to levels perhaps they didn't even think they were capable of. One step at a time.

a. From another point of view this should help sensei start a new dojo in YMCA or University type setting - show teaching certification.