



## Who Can Attend Your Course?

Who can attend your course?

Imagine an individual shows up on the morning of day one of your course and they are unable to fit into the canoe. What if an individual cannot swim, and you meet them for the first time at the beachside public landing for an open ocean kayak program? What if an individual doesn't have the ability to close their mouth, and they are signed up for your class III-IV whitewater rafting class? What if an individual cannot speak English and they want to become a certified instructor? Can you accept them into the course? Can you deny them entry?

How do you handle these type of situations appropriately?

The ACA's Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC), along with external subject matter experts, developed a set of Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) for ACA courses. There are separate EEC for skills and assessment courses, Instructor Development Workshops, Instructor Certification Exams, and Adaptive Paddling Workshops.

To familiarize yourself with the terminology of EEC and how it might apply to what and where you teach, please visit: [www.americancanoe.org/eec](http://www.americancanoe.org/eec)

If you have questions, feel free to contact the ACA's SEI Department.

Paddle Safe, Paddle Often!

Chris  
Christopher Stec  
Chief Operating Officer  
ACA | Canoe – Kayak – SUP – Raft – Rescue

Chris Stec serves as the Chief Operating Officer of the ACA, the oldest nonprofit paddlesports organization in the U.S., focusing on paddlesports education, stewardship, recreation and competition. In addition, Chris holds numerous paddlesports instructor certifications and enjoys spending time on the water with his wife and two kids, whether it's racing downriver canoes, kayak fishing, or surfing SUPs in the ocean.