

Adrian College Learn to Skate

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is Adrian College Learn to Skate?

WHO: Developed by U.S. Figure Skating and approved by the Professional Skaters Association (PSA), the Basic Skills Program is designed to provide a goal-oriented program that encourages ice skating at all levels and to enhance the quality of skating skills at these levels.

WHAT: This exciting program consists of Snowplow Sam, Basic Skills, Free Skate, Hockey, and Adult. Upon completion of each level, the skater will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and technique to advance to the next level.

The objectives of the program are:

- To provide a fun and safe skating experience for the beginner as well as the more advanced skater
- To teach correct technique of the simple basic elements
- To promote health and physical fitness
- To enable all participants to achieve the skills necessary to either skate for fun the rest of their lives or to move competently into the U.S. Figure Skating advanced test and/or competitive structure

2) Who are my skater's instructors?

Our staff is primarily composed of skaters on the synchronized skating and figure skating teams. We also occasionally have guest instructors from the men/women's ACHA hockey teams to assist with Basic Hockey skating classes.

Our instructors are trained by the directors and tested by the Professional Skaters Association's continuing education courses/exams for Basic Skills instructors. They are also nationally ranked competitors in synchronized skating and figure skating.

3) What time should my skater arrive?

Your skater should arrive approximately 15 minutes prior to class, in order to appropriately dress, rent skates (if needed), and properly lace skates.

4) What should my skater wear?

Skaters should wear warm, comfortable layers that they can easily move around in. Jackets and gloves are highly recommended. Helmets are recommended for all skaters. Please avoid jeans.

5) What kind of skates should my skater use?

Skaters in all Snowplow Sam and Basic classes (except Basic 6 and higher - figure skates only) may wear figure or hockey skates. Skaters in Basic Hockey must wear hockey skates. Double-bladed training skates are not allowed.

6) How does my skater move to the next level?

Sessions consist of 7 weekly classes. During the 7th class, each skater is tested by their instructor on the skills in their class level. Skaters must adequately perform each skill at a passing standard to be moved up to the next level. Skaters will receive written feedback at the end of each session. It is very common for skaters to repeat class levels, as it is important to build strong foundations to move onto more difficult skills.

7) What happens if I miss a class?

Due to ice time constraints, we are currently not offering make-up classes. Your skater can, however, schedule a private booster lesson with their current instructor during any Open Skate to work on skills/exercises/activities that may have been missed. There is no refund for a single missed class.

8) My skater has a long-term illness/injury. Do you offer refunds?

If your skater cannot complete a session due to a long-term illness or injury, we will provide a voucher for a future session. A Doctor's note must be presented to receive a voucher.

9) Are there any opportunities to perform in the annual ice show or local competitions?

Yes! Skaters in Basic 8 and above are eligible to perform in the annual ice show.

There are also opportunities to compete in local Basic Skills competitions. If your skater is interested in competing, please contact and/or the skater's instructor. All skaters and levels are eligible to compete.

10) How do I sign my skater up for private lessons/a private coach? How much do they cost?

Signing your skater up for private lessons is easy! Please see our document on Private Lessons - A Guide, on the Learn to Skate tab of adrian.edu/icearena. Instructor rates are based on knowledge, experience, and Professional Skater Association ratings.

Still have questions? Please contact Ashley Carlson at acarlson@adrian.edu or Bonnie Lynch at blynch@adrian.edu.