

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INTERVIEWER

As a reminder, this interview is one of the required steps in the sequence to become an Associate Instructor.

The most important aspect of conducting this interview is to open a conversation with the applicant and to develop an understanding of 1) his/her motivations and goals for becoming an Associate Instructor and 2) the moral character of the applicant as it relates to association requirements. Unlike some other steps in this process, this interview is not structured as a pass/fail component of becoming an Associate Instructor. Only in rare instances should the results of an interview lead to the denial of certification.

Your judgement and opinions in this process are necessary, valuable, and appreciated.

However, please be advised that the interview session is not intended to be harsh, exclusionary, or negative. Its best use will be as a respectful and welcoming conversation with the applicant. No time limit is set but 30 - 60 minutes should be sufficient.

Questions 1 - 15

Please note that numerical scoring has not been used. Judgement indicators are strong, average, and weak. You can think of these categories as corresponding to a green yellow or red traffic light. These indicators are used in both the individual questions and the overall judgement.

Notes to support your judgement are expected. There is some space between questions so that you can make notes of your impressions, but feel free to use additional sheets or tools as best suits your style.

The questions are quite open ended and can be answered with a great deal of depth in some cases. It is the interviewer's responsibility to manage the time of the interview and communicate the expectation of reasonable depth to the applicant.

Section 1 - Questions 1-4

This section allows the applicants to talk about themselves and their motivations and desires. Hopefully, this section will also help set both parties at ease. Answers to these questions do not require any particular understanding of the Yang family or tai chi chuan content.

They are meant to help discover a candidate's motivation for wanting to become an Instructor and to understand some of the candidate's personal/professional experiences that brought him/her to this point.

Section 2 - Questions 5 - 9

This section reviews some important points of tai chi chuan and Yang family theory and history. This material will have been covered in ranking tests but is important enough to engage the applicant in a discussion. Answers to these questions can be found in Yang Family Tai Chi Chuan Essentials.

Section 3 - Questions 10 - 15

This section focuses on teaching. Most of the questions are intended to cover common classroom challenges and to help you determine whether or not you think the applicant has the interpersonal skills required to manage people in a tai chi chuan class and impart their love of tai chi chuan. Can they, for instance, see a situation from a teacher's vs. a student's perspective?

Qualities to look for in answers to all of the questions are:

- Enthusiasm
- Ability to articulate answers clearly
- Ability to make a connection with the interviewer and engage in a conversational way.

IN SUMMARY, YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

1. Schedule and conduct the interview, being careful to keep the conversation friendly and the time managed appropriately.
2. Complete the top of the form with the applicant's name, the date and the duration of the interview, the overall judgment, any general comments, the Interviewer's printed name, and the Interviewer's signature.
3. Combine this form with other required elements, and submit the completed package with recommendation to the Head of the Department of Training Standards

INTERVIEW FOR ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR



Applicant's Name _____ Date and duration of Interview _____

OVERALL Interviewer's Judgement: Strong Average Weak

Interviewer's Comments

Interviewer's Printed Name _____

Interviewer's Signature _____

SECTION 1. PERSONAL MOTIVATION INTERVIEWER'S NOTES AND JUDGMENTS

1. How did you come to be involved with tai chi chuan and the Yang family style?	Strong	Average	Weak
2. What do you find attracts you the most to the tai chi chuan community and Yang family?	Strong	Average	Weak
3. Tell me about your goals and motivations for becoming an Associate Instructor?	Strong	Average	Weak
4. How has your practice of tai chi chuan affected your personal development and character?	Strong	Average	Weak



SECTION 2. BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE INTERVIEWER'S NOTES AND JUDGMENTS

<p>5. Name the five major styles in tai chi chuan</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>6. Discuss Yang style's unique characteristics/ contributions.</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>7. Discuss Yang Chengfu's ten (10) guiding principles of tai chi chuan practice.</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>8. What are the basic concepts of The Yang Family Morals and Commandments?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>9. How does tai chi chuan practice cause people to have better health?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>



SECTION 3. TEACHING INTERVIEWER'S NOTES AND JUDGMENTS

<p>10. In observing your own teachers, what strengths did they exhibit that you want to employ in your own teaching?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>11. Describe your teaching experience.</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>12. Discuss how to handle a student who is argumentative and challenging.</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>13. What approach would you take with a student who simply cannot seem to grasp the mechanics of the form?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>14. How do you manage a large class (20+) differently from a small class (5)?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>
<p>15. In an on-going class, a few students need instruction in the first moves, some need instruction in the later moves, and some others are nearing the end of the form. What do you do in this situation?</p>	<p>Strong</p>	<p>Average</p>	<p>Weak</p>

