



## 6. KNOWLEDGE TOPICS

The ZLA Training Program is broken down into several different topic areas. Controllers must demonstrate satisfactory mastery of each topic in order to certify on that topic's positions and must certify on the prior knowledge topic before proceeding to the next. Visiting Controllers must demonstrate the same mastery of these knowledge areas, as derived from the VATSIM Global Ratings Policy, in addition to an understanding of local procedures. These topics serve as a broad overview of the training department's structure and goals. The ZLA STM and Training Syllabi provide more detail.

1. GC0: Clearance Delivery and Ground Fundamentals
  - a. SAN\_GND
    - i. Clearance Delivery Phraseology
    - ii. SOP Resource Gathering
    - iii. Basic Ground Control
  - b. Minimum of one training session on SAN\_GND
  - c. Successful mastery unlocks all "Minor Ground" positions and awards S1
2. GC1: Basic TMU Training and Local Control Fundamentals
  - a. SAN\_GND
    - i. Introduction to Metering
  - b. SAN\_TWR
    - i. Introduction of Local Control
    - ii. Pattern Work
    - iii. Combined Operations
  - c. Minimum of one session on SAN\_TWR
  - d. Demonstration of VATSIM S2 GRP Competencies
  - e. Successful mastery unlocks all "Minor Tower" positions, awards S2
3. MC1: Advanced TMU Training and Flow/Metering
  - a. LAX\_TWR
    - i. Advanced TMU/Flow topics
    - ii. Advanced Local Control e.g. parallel approaches, RNAV departures
    - iii. Advanced Coordination
  - b. Minimum of one training session on LAX\_TWR
  - c. Instructor discretion to authorize Self Monitored Training on LAX\_TWR (LAX\_S\_TWR)
  - d. Successful mastery unlocks all "Major Tower" and "Major Ground" positions
4. GC2: Radar Fundamentals
  - a. SAN\_APP
    - i. Introduction to radar concepts
    - ii. Introduction to vectoring and positive control
  - b. Minimum one session on SAN\_APP
  - c. Demonstration of VATSIM S3 GRP Competencies
  - d. Instructor discretion to authorize Self Monitored Training on SAN\_APP (SAN\_S\_APP)
  - e. Successful mastery unlocks all "Minor Approach," the following SOCAL single sectors, and awards S3:
    - i. EMPIRE (Combined with SPRINGS)
    - ii. COAST
    - iii. BURBANK
5. MC2: Finals and Sequencing
  - a. LAS\_APP
    - i. Sequencing for finals

- ii. Understanding, anticipating, proactively solving ties at fix
    - iii. Advanced radar concepts
  - b. Minimum one session on LAS\_APP
  - c. Successful mastery unlocks L30, in addition to the following:
    - i. LAX\_DEP aka "DEL RAY"
      - 1. LAX\_DEP shall be designated the tower cabs of LAX, SMO, and HHR.
    - ii. Authorization to conduct Self Monitored Training on SOCAL FINALS, FEEDER (including ZUMA) under the sign on and primary frequency of LAX\_DEP.
      - 1. SMT not authorized when overlying SOCAL Combined or LA Center are online. It is expected the LAX\_DEP controller will cede control of Area 2 (Los Angeles) to the overlying controller.
- 6. MC3: Combined Radar Fundamentals and Strategies
  - a. SCT\_APP
    - i. Culmination of advanced radar topics
    - ii. Advanced finals sequencing
    - iii. Advanced top-down controlling
  - b. Minimum two sessions on SCT\_APP
  - c. Mandatory Self Monitored Training as SCT\_S\_APP
  - d. Successful Mastery unlocks SOCAL COMBINED
- 7. MC4: En Route Control Fundamentals
  - a. LAX\_CTR
    - i. En Route topics
    - ii. Anticipating sequencing
    - iii. Advanced speed and vector control
  - b. Minimum two sessions on LAX\_CTR
  - c. Instructor discretion to authorize Self Monitored Training as LAX\_S\_CTR
  - d. Demonstration of VATSIM C1 GRP Competencies
  - e. Successful mastery unlocks LAX\_CTR and promotion to C1
- 8. AC1: Advanced Topics (Optional)
  - a. Advanced TMU and Flow Control

## 7. EXPECTATIONS

Students shall arrive to sessions on time and prepared with their radar client or controlling software set up properly. Students shall dedicate time to self-study and come to sessions having familiarized themselves with all appropriate training materials, SOPs, and topic knowledge. Students who fail to arrive at sessions prepared should expect to have their session cancelled.

Students shall use the "Request Session" function of the ZLA website to indicate available times an instructor or mentor can offer the student a session. Sessions are typically 90 minutes in length. Students shall only indicate availability for times they can make available. Repeated unexcused cancellations or declining of session offers shall result in disciplinary action. Training requests in the form of emails, private messages, discord messages, or any method other than use of the training calendar are classified as training solicitation and will not be tolerated. This keeps the training process fair for all students.

- Students should be in the ZLA Discord server at least 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of their session
- If a student is more than 15 minutes late for their session without informing a training staff member, then the student will be considered a no-show

Typically training staff aim to offer sessions a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Sessions offered less than 24 hours in advance are not counted “against” any individual and shall not be used as examples of training system abuse if declined or cancelled.

Sessions confirmed for the live network are automatically added to the controller sign up section of the facility’s homepage. It is assumed a training session requires all available positions top-down, e.g. SCT\_APP will assume positions all the way down to LAX\_DEL. The instructor or mentor running the session may permit lower lever services be staffed by additional controllers at their discretion.

## **8. CONCISE SUMMARY**

Controllers should refer to the Position Restrictions Policy and General Requirements Policy for additional details. The below is a condensed list of the training order. The training staff has discretion and leeway to adjust some aspects of training to better fit individual student needs, and thus this list represents a typical progression.

1. Training sessions to achieve S1
  - a. SAN\_GND
2. To achieve S2
  - a. SAN\_TWR
3. To achieve S2 Major Endorsement
  - a. LAX\_TWR
    - i. LAX\_S\_TWR Optional
4. To achieve S3
  - a. SAN\_APP
    - i. SAN\_S\_APP Optional
5. To achieve C1
  - a. LAS\_APP
  - b. SCT\_S\_APP
  - c. SCT\_APP OTS
  - d. LAX\_S\_CTR
  - e. LAX\_CTR OTS

## **9. AUTHORIZATION**

Certified on April 7th, 2021 by:

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Meg Bruck  
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