MAXIMUM, MINIMUM, RECOMMENDED AND MANDATORY ALTITUDES

The profile view of instrument approach charts indicates altitudes to be flown. They depict minimum, maximum, recommended and mandatory block altitudes for various phases of the procedure.

- An underscored number (example: 3200) is the lowest altitude (MSL), or minimum altitude, that may be flown in that segment of the approach.
- A number with a line above it (example: 4500) indicates a maximum altitude to fly in that segment.
 This maximum is usually the result of conflicting airspace for other instrument procedures overhead,

or in some cases, airplanes circling overhead for the

 5500
 Mandatory Altitude
 3000
 Recommended Altitude

 2500
 Minimum Altitude
 5000
 Mandatory Block

 4300
 Maximum Altitude
 Altitude

ALTITUDES

- same approach.
 Recommended altitudes are neither underscored nor overscored, and are not mandatory for the procedure.
- Mandatory altitudes are underscored and overscored, and are required to be flown in that depicted segment.

When formally cleared for the approach by ATC, you are permitted—and expected—to fly in accordance with mandatory altitudes. More importantly, you may descend to the minimum altitude, but no lower, as you transition onto each successive segment of the approach.