



**EQUINE SPECIALIST
IN MENTAL HEALTH
AND LEARNING**

PATH Intl. Certification Booklet



PATH
INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

*Ensuring excellence and changing lives
through equine-assisted activities and therapies*

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Booklet

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Mission

PATH Intl., Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine activities and therapies

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Updated June 2011



PATH
INTERNATIONAL

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Introduction

Purpose of Certification

The purpose of the certification as PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning is to determine that the candidate possesses the professionalism, experience and skills to meet the criteria as established. This certification qualifies an individual to act as the horse handler in a PATH Intl. unmounted mental health or learning session. If you also have a PATH Intl. certification in riding, vaulting and/or driving in addition to your Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification you can perform mounted mental health or learning sessions in the discipline for which you possess a certification.

Vocational Profile of an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning

The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning ensures the safety and well-being of the PATH Intl. center equine participating in equine-facilitated mental health and education sessions. She/he serves as the equine expert during equine/human interactions.

The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning works with mental health or education providers delivering services within the scope of their profession, incorporating equines in their practice. The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning has a general knowledge of mental health and education processes.

The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning has a thorough understanding of the ways equine behavior affects human responses and evaluates the role of the equine during mental health or education sessions she/he supervises. The Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning maintains responsibility for the equine, assesses the equine's response to any interactions, and prohibits or stops any activity that compromises the well-being of the equine. She/he ensures that equine interactions are safe and appropriate for the goals of the mental health or education session.

Being Physically and Mentally Prepared

While the on-site process is an effective certification method it can also be a stressful experience. If you have any concerns regarding your ability to pass any component of the certification, based on physical or mental limitations due to disability, injury or medical condition, contact the PATH Intl. Certification Department to request an accommodation at least 60 days prior to attending your onsite certification event.

Criteria to Apply

A PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL) is knowledgeable in horse mastery and understands how to work with a mental health therapist and/or educator to best meet the client's needs and keep the lesson safe. The PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Certification Subcommittee has developed criteria that outline the skills and knowledge a candidate should possess in order to achieve certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning.

Requirements:

- 1) Proof of attendance at a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning workshop
- 2) Passing grade on the on-site PATH Intl. ESMHL practical Horsemanship Skills test

Note: Offered at the conclusion of all ESMHL workshops

- 3) Passing grade on CAT exam

Note: The PATH Intl. office signs applicants up for this online exam upon receipt of portfolio

- 4) Current CPR and First Aid certification (online courses not accepted)
- 5) Signed copy of PATH Intl. Code of Ethics ,enclosed
- 6) 60 clock hours of experience in the equine-facilitated mental health or learning field to be accomplished in one of the following ways:

■ 60 clock hours working or volunteering at a PATH Intl. equine-facilitated psychotherapy or equine-facilitated learning program, can be done at a PATH Intl. center or just under the supervision of PATH Intl. certified instructor following all PATH Intl. core and specialty EFP standards . Hours can be started at any time. At this time hours do not expire and can be counted from anytime in your career.

OR

■ 30 clock hours working or volunteering in a PATH Intl. program offering equine-assisted activities and therapies [i.e. therapeutic riding program, driving etc]. Can be done at a PATH Intl. center, or under the supervision of a PATH Intl. certified instructor AND 30 clock hours in the mental health or special education field. These 30 hours of experience might include work in a residential treatment center, halfway house, group home, hospital or school for special needs. Equine-facilitated mental health programs used by applicants for their hours of experience must be able to demonstrate usual and professional therapeutic practices as evidenced by adherence to applicable

PATH Intl. standards. Hours can be started at any time. At this time hours do not expire and can be counted from anytime in your career.

Please note these hours are hours that you are working with a professional that is helping to further your knowledge in the mental health or learning industry. These hours should be hours where you are actively volunteering with people with special needs, not sitting in a lecture hall. These are practical/active hours. You can not combine the two options. You either have to have all 60 in EFL or EFP sessions involving equines or 30 involving equines and 30 or more out in your community where again you are working with a professional in the mental health or learning field. The professional may or may not be right next to you during all hours but should be supervising you in some way.

- 7) 20 clock hours of education in equine behavior and management.

Performing TRI lessons, able bodied lessons, ground lessons can't count towards these 20 hours. These are hours where you have attended a clinic, seminar or class that specifically relates to equine behavior or management that has furthered your knowledge of equines. For example, hours can include PATH Intl. regional or national events, EPONA, EAGALA, AIA, Equine Affaire events, horse expo/clinics, Clinton Anderson clinic, etc., with no more than 10 hours at one event or training. Hours can be started at any time. At this time hours do not expire and can be counted from anytime in your career.

- 8) Two completed recommendation forms from professionals in the field who have directly supervised your work (see enclosed forms), one each from:
- Mental Health or Learning Professional reference
 - Equine professional reference
- 9) Passing grade on the online written Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning exam

Note: The PATH Intl. office signs applicants up for this online exam upon receipt of portfolio

Application Procedure

Step 1: Attend an Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop and PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test

- Please begin your certification process by first visiting the PATH Intl. events calendar on the PATH Intl. website to locate a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop to attend. Register

with the host site for all workshops and the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test.

- If a candidate has already attended the workshop please be sure to locate a host site to attend the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test offered at the conclusion of the workshop. (See enclosed practical skills test on page 19-20.) Please note that you may repeat the workshop if you would like to, the fee is determined by the host site. When both the Equine Specialist Workshop and PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test are complete, gather the remaining information needed to complete your portfolio. See step 2 for portfolio details.

A candidate may attend the workshop and immediately test for the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test. Please review the criteria and the skills test carefully in order to properly prepare yourself for the testing.

A candidate may register to take only the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test if he or she has previously completed a workshop and wishes to take the skills test separately or failed a previous attempt of the skills test.

A PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop and skills test is valid for two years. Within two years after a candidate completes a workshop, all other certification requirements should be met, including:

- Successfully passing the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test, even if the candidate does not pass on the first attempt.
- Successfully passing the online Equine Specialist online written exam, even if the candidate does not pass on the first attempt.
- Successfully passing the online PATH Intl. CAT exam, even if the candidate does not pass on the first attempt.

Step 2: Portfolio

When a candidate is prepared to take the online PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning online written exam and the online PATH Intl. CAT exam please submit a portfolio to the PATH Intl. office that includes:

- A copy of your PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop certificate. (If you attended a workshop but cannot locate a copy of your certificate, please call the PATH Intl. office)
- A copy of your current PATH Intl. membership card
- A copy of your CPR and First Aid cards (online courses not accepted)
- A copy of your passing results from the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test
- A Signed copy of PATH Intl. Code of Ethics

- References
- Documentation of teaching hours
- Documentation of equine hours
- Processing fee of \$95

Please do not submit your portfolio to the PATH Intl. office until you have attended the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop, successfully completed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test and gathered all items to be included in your portfolio.

In this booklet you will find the forms needed to complete your PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning application and portfolio. Additional forms may be required by the host site at which you attend the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop and at which you take your PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test.

Written Exams

Upon receipt of your portfolio the PATH Intl. office will sign you up for both the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning online exam and the online PATH Intl. CAT exam that covers PATH Intl.'s Standards for Certification and Accreditation. The PATH Intl. office will send you the access information for these tests by email. (Please ensure that your PATH Intl. account contains your current and correct email address.) It may take 7 to 10 business days to process your portfolio submission and send you the online exam access information. Upon successful completion of both exams the PATH Intl. office will notify you of your official certification results. You have 60 days to complete both online exams.

Please allow 10 to 15 business days to process your results after you have completed your online tests.

Overview of PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Testing and Recourse

Candidates complete the following tests:

1. PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test (at a host center following a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop)
2. Online written PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning exam
3. Online PATH Intl. CAT exam

Recourse for failing PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test

- Retake the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test at a PATH Intl. hosting center
- Complete the remaining requirements and retake the skills test for certification within 2 years of the completion of the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop
- Fee is determined by the host site where retake of test is completed

Recourse for failing CAT exam

- Retake the entire exam
- Complete the remaining requirements for certification within 2 years of the completion of the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop
- \$10 retake fee payable to PATH Intl.. (Please call the office to sign up for your online retake exam.)

Recourse for failing PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning written exam

- Retake the entire exam
- Complete the remaining requirements for certification within 2 years of the completion of the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop
- \$25 retake fee payable to PATH Intl.. (Please call the office to sign up for your online retake exam.)

Education: PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop

Equine Specialist workshops are currently 3 days long and are offered at a variety of different PATH Intl. centers. Any PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center can apply to host a workshop if the center feels it meets the hosting guidelines. You may have to travel to attend a workshop and to take the onsite PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test. All workshops will be listed in PATH Intl. News and on the events calendar on the PATH Intl. website. Check the calendar frequently for updates.

The workshop is required for a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification.

- If a candidate completed a workshop prior to January 2011, the workshop is valid for meeting requirement #1 as outlined on requirements page 3, even if it has been more than 2 years since the candidate took the workshop. All other requirements must be completed by December 31, 2012 or start the process from the beginning by taking a workshop.
- For candidates attending workshops January 1, 2011 and after, the workshop is valid for two years from the date of the workshop in meeting requirement #1 as outlined on requirements page 3.
- A candidate does not need to complete the workshop prior to beginning the accumulation of hours of experience as outlined in requirement #6 on page 3. It is highly recommended, however, that candidates attend the workshop first and then gather remaining requirements.

Anyone that wishes to become involved in mental health or learning programs can attend a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Workshop, it is a very beneficial workshop for anyone involved in PATH Intl. mental health or learning programs. A PATH Intl. individual membership is the only requirement.

- The workshop provides specialized training for experienced equestrians, instructors or mental health professionals and educators who are interested in equine-facilitated mental health and education programs. The workshop will not count towards a certification for anyone except an Equine Specialist.
- Workshops are taught by a mental health professional and an Equine Specialist, using a combination of lectures, demonstrations, role-plays and hands on exercises with equines.
- The training focuses on the specific role of the horse handler (equine specialist) when assisting or collaborating with the mental health counselor or educator in designing safe, mutually beneficial and effective

activities to enhance participant outcomes, determining specific horse handling methods as well as understanding students with mental health and/or learning issues.

- Workshop participants learn how to create and maintain a therapeutic and educational environment including a review of current PATH Intl. standards as they relate to equine-facilitated psychotherapy programs.
- Workshops include demonstrations and exercises to increase awareness of equine behavior and how the behavior might enhance or endanger those in a therapy session.
- Keeping the equines and all participants in the session safe at all times is emphasized.
- Particular attention is given to assessing the horse's response to student behaviors and needs.
- Participants observe the collaboration between the mental health professional/educator and the equine specialist.
- The objective of the workshop is for participants to develop an understanding of the importance of a trusting relationship and open communication between professionals.
- Participants have the opportunity to look at treatment plans with the health professional, and develop lesson plans based on client goals.

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop participant learning goals are to be able to:

- Create a therapeutic environment
- Understand equine care and management and ethical treatment of the equine-facilitated mental health and/or learning equine
- Understand how to maintain the association's code of ethics and standards, including the ethical treatment of the equine
- Design appropriate exercises based on the IEP (individual education plan) or mental health treatment plan
- Collaborate with the other members of the team (mental health or education professional and the equine) to meet treatment goals or the individual education plan goals.

Tentative Schedule

Day 1: 8am-5pm

Welcome
PATH Intl. information
Mental Health Team
HIPAA and Confidentiality
LUNCH
Relationship Exercise
Equine Behavior and Management
Death of a Program Animal
Abuse of Animals and Aggression
Closing

Day 2: 8am-5pm

Partner vs. Tool

Riding Lesson vs. Meeting Therapy Goal or Education Plan

Equine Behavior and Ethical Treatment of Equines

Ethical Parameters

LUNCH

Design Lesson Plans

Group Work

Reporting and Discussion

Day 3: 8am-5pm

Define Partnership

Collaboration Exercise

LUNCH

Role Play

Processing and Final Reflection

Application Policies

Accommodation Policy

Requests for an accommodation to any component of this process must be made in writing and submitted to the PATH Intl. office. Please allow up to 60 days to process your request. All requests for accommodations will be reviewed by the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Certification Subcommittee on an individual basis and candidates will be notified of the committee's decision by the PATH Intl. office. All requests relating to a medical condition should have a medical note attached. For more information please contact the PATH Intl. office.

Evaluators will not be able to grant accommodations at the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop nor at the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills tests. Inability to complete ALL components of the certification within the time frame outlined, without previous approval from the PATH Intl. office, will be considered a withdrawal of the candidate's application.

Extension Policy

Requests for an extension to any part of this process must be made in writing and submitted to the PATH Intl. office. Please allow up to 60 days to process your request. All requests relating to a medical condition should have a medical note attached. For more information please contact the PATH Intl. office.

Medical Condition Policy

In the event of injury or medical condition that may not necessarily preclude the candidate from completing all portions of the certification but may affect participation in some way, the candidate is asked to seek the advice of a physician before participating in any activities that involve exercise, handling or being near horses. It is also the responsibility of the candidate to make PATH Intl., the host site representatives and the Equine Specialist Certification Evaluators aware of any such conditions. Refund policies may apply.

Refund Policy and Appeal Process

For the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop and/or PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test, please ask the host site for a copy of its refund policy as all payments are made directly to the host site to attend the workshop and practical skills test.

All requests for refunds for the application and portfolio submission need to be made in writing to the PATH Intl. office within 10 business days of receipt of the application/portfolio. Any requests for refunds made past 10 days cannot be honored.

Appeal Process

If a candidate does not successfully pass the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification and wishes to appeal the results, a written request for appeal may be submitted to the PATH Intl. office within 15 business days of the date on the written notification that the candidate has not passed. The request must state the reasons for the appeal.

The PATH Intl. office will inform the candidate of the steps in the appeal process following receipt of the written request. It may take up to 60 days to process an appeal.

Equine Specialist Resubmission Policy

No video resubmissions will be accepted except in the case of international candidates. If a candidate is an international candidate please contact the PATH Intl. office for information.

Compliance Process

All PATH Intl. certified Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning are required to submit the following information on an annual basis to the PATH Intl. office in the month of their renewal:

Annual Compliance:

- PATH Intl. Membership renewal
- Expiration dates of current Adult/Child CPR and First Aid Cards (online courses not accepted)
- Documentation of a minimum of 20 clock hours of continuing education, 8 of which are specific to the mental health or learning field. (If you hold multiple PATH Intl. certifications please see below.)
- Review and sign PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics

Members holding a PATH Intl. certification in riding, driving or vaulting will need to submit their annual compliance as outlined for their particular discipline in addition to the 8 hours needed for their mental health and learning specialty. Please see your specialty booklet or refer to the list below:

- If certified as both a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor and a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning:
 - Submit 20 clock hours of continuing education
 - Submit 8 additional clock hours of continuing education related to the mental health or learning field
 - Total 28 hours
- If certified as both a PATH Intl. Driving Instructor and a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning:
 - Submit 20 clock hours of continuing education. Of the 20 hours please include one Driving Clinic per year
 - OR 8 hours of individual instruction
 - OR successful completion of a sanctioned (USAE, ADS) Combined Driving Event (CDE) at the preliminary level or above
 - OR completion of the PATH Intl. Driving Workshop (one time only)
 - In addition submit 8 clock hours of continuing education related to the mental health or learning field
 - Total 28 hours
- If both certified as both a PATH Intl. Vaulting Instructor, TRI and a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning:
 - Submit 20 clock hours of continuing education
 - Submit 8 additional documented hours of interactive vaulting instruction to include teaching to a group of at least three students. Provide total number and age of students, type of disability, location, horse used and hours taught
 - In addition submit 8 clock hours of continuing education related to the mental health or learning field
 - Total 36 hours
- If certified as a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Driving Instructor and a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning:
 - Submit 20 clock hours of continuing education
 - In addition attend at least one Driving Clinic per year
 - Or 8 hours of individual instruction
 - Or successful completion of a sanctioned (USAE, ADS) Combined Driving Event (CDE) at the preliminary level or above
 - In addition submit 8 clock hours of continuing education related to the mental health or learning field
 - Total 36 hours

An *Annual Compliance Form* is available on the PATH Intl. website to record all continuing education information required. Continuing education hours are referred to as clock hours, hours in which you were actively participating in an activity. Continuing education activities can be any educational event that you attend that will benefit you in your work. Some examples may include child advocacy clinics, school/library communication clinics, presentations from your social service agency and the like. Please see the *Annual Compliance Form* for more detailed examples of continuing education.

PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics binds together the like-minded professionals that are PATH Intl.'s members in the practice and preservation of the highest standards of ethical principles and integrity vital for the responsible implementation of obligations, activities and services provided by PATH Intl. members and centers. As part of the compliance process annually all members certified through PATH Intl. are asked to recommit to PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics with their signature on the *Annual Compliance Form*. (See following pages.)

Failure to meet all compliance requirements for the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification results in the forfeiture of one's PATH Intl. certified status. Please see the PATH Intl. reinstatement policy.

PATH Intl. Code of Ethics

Approved by PATH Intl. Board of Trustees October 21, 2010

Preamble

PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics sets forth ethical principles for all PATH Intl. members which includes individuals and centers and is binding on all staff. Centers are obligated to insure that all staff, professionals, and volunteers comply with this code. While each of the following codes will apply to all members, the applicability of each code may be determined by the role of the member and the setting.

The practice and preservation of the highest standards of ethical principles and integrity are vital for the responsible implementation of obligations, activities and services provided by PATH Intl. members and centers. All members and centers are responsible for maintaining and promoting these ethical practices. The PATH Intl. Code of Ethics is intended to be used as a guide for promoting and maintaining the highest standards of ethical practice, personal behavior and professional integrity.

The guidelines expressed in the code are not to be considered all-inclusive of situations that could evolve under a specific principle, nor is the failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice a denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices. The guidelines are specific statements of minimally acceptable conduct or of prohibitions applicable to all members and centers. PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics is designed to be appended to such other codes as may be applicable (such as: medicine, psychology, nursing, social work, etc.).

In recognition of the responsibility inherent in the delivery of services provided by equine-assisted activities and therapies, PATH Intl. asks all members and center personnel to subscribe to the following to the extent permitted by law:

Principle 1

The member respects the rights, dignity and well-being of all individuals (human and equine) and promotes well-being for all involved.

Guidelines:

- 1.1 The member shall promote a holistic awareness of body, mind, and spirit in equine activities and therapies for all involved.
- 1.2 The member shall be responsive to, and mutually supportive of, the individuals served including families, colleagues and associates.
- 1.3 The member shall respect the unique nature of each individual and shall be tolerant of, and responsive to, differences. The member shall not discriminate based on age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition or disability.
- 1.4 The member shall follow equal employment opportunity practices in hiring, assigning, promoting, discharging and compensating staff.
- 1.5 The member shall maintain in professional confidence participant, volunteer, and staff information, observations or evaluations and shall adhere to all legal requirements.
- 1.6 The member, in community settings, shall use caution in forming dual or multiple relationships with participants or former participants where there is a risk of a conflict of interest. The member, in clinical treatment settings, shall avoid dual relationships when possible. In situations where dual relationships are unavoidable, the member shall be responsible for setting clear, appropriate and sensitive boundaries.
- 1.7 The member will understand the sensitive nature of physical touch and use it with caution.

Principle 2

The member accepts responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment and professional competence.

Guidelines:

- 2.1 The member shall accurately represent his/her level of expertise, experience, education and actual practice and provide service only to those individuals he/she can competently serve.
- 2.2 The member shall engage in sound business, employment and administrative practices.
- 2.4 The member shall engage in continued personal growth, continuing relevant education and professional skill development.

- 2.5 The member shall recognize and take appropriate action to remedy personal problems and limitations that might cause harm to recipients of service, colleagues or others.
- 2.6 The member shall demonstrate objectivity and fairness by interacting with individuals in an impartial manner.
- 2.7 The member shall accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgement when interacting with individuals and animals.
- 2.8 The member shall demonstrate openness to, and respect for, other colleagues and professionals.

Principle 3

The member shall respect the integrity and well-being of program equines and animals whether owned, leased or borrowed.

Guidelines:

- 3.1 The member shall recognize and respect the individual character, nature, and physical attributes of each program equine.
- 3.2 The member shall encourage safe and respectful human and equine interactions, placing equines in activities suited to their temperament and physical ability.
- 3.3 The member shall support the highest standard of care, maintenance and selection for each program equine, understanding and responding to the equine's need for socialization, play, turnout, time off and retirement.
- 3.4 When equines are borrowed or leased, the same high standards of equine respect, care and maintenance apply.
- 3.5 The member shall cultivate a barn and practice environment that supports personal and professional development and is compliant with PATH Intl. standards.

Principle 4

The member shall be truthful and fair in representing him or herself and other members or centers.

Guidelines:

- 4.1 The member shall be responsible for providing each participant with accurate information regarding programs, services, professional training and credentials, as well as possible benefits, outcomes, expected activities, risks and limitations of the service or program.
- 4.2 The member shall meet commitments to participants, colleagues, equines, agencies, the equine-assisted activities and therapies community and the community at large.
- 4.3 The member shall use the PATH Intl. logo only in accordance with the PATH Intl. brand policy.

Principle 5

The member shall seek to expand his/her knowledge base related to the field of equine-assisted activities and therapies.

Guidelines:

- 5.1 The member shall maintain a high level of professional competence by continued participation in educational activities that enhance basic knowledge and provide new knowledge.
- 5.2 The member shall support the sharing and dissemination of information, the provision of training and conduct of research for the benefit of the profession.
- 5.3 The member shall demonstrate commitment to quality assurance. The member in clinical treatment settings shall engage in providing and receiving individual or peer supervision and/or staffing consultation on a regular basis.

Principle 6

The member shall honor all financial commitments to participants, personnel, vendors, donors, PATH Intl. and others.

Guidelines:

- 6.1 The member shall negotiate and clarify the fee structure and payment policy prior to the initiation of service and charge in a responsible and reasonable manner.
- 6.2 The member shall not misrepresent in any fashion services rendered or products dispensed.
- 6.3 The member shall be truthful and fair in representing itself in fundraising activities.
- 6.4 The member shall honor all debt obligations.
- 6.5 The member shall maintain membership in PATH Intl. and pay the appropriate fee as determined by the Board of Trustees. Instructors shall remain in good standing with the annual compliance process for instructors.

Principle 7

The member shall abide by PATH Intl. Standards and Guidelines and all state, local and federal laws.

Principle 8

The member supports PATH Intl. in its efforts to protect participants, equines, the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent or illegal practice.

Guidelines:

- 8.1 The member shall present this PATH Intl. Code of Ethics to all staff and personnel, outlining their collective obligation to support it and address any questions or concerns pertaining to it.
- 8.2 The member accepts the responsibility to discuss suspect unethical behavior directly with the parties involved and, if unresolved, to report unethical, incompetent or illegal acts to PATH Intl..

I have read, fully understand and will uphold the PATH Intl. code of ethics at all times.

Signature _____ Date _____

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Suggested References

The following are suggested materials for preparation.

PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation Manual (current edition). Hard copies and CDs are available from PATH Intl. (800) 369-7433 or www.pathintl.org. The manual is also available for download in the Members Only section of the PATH Intl. website

Equine Specialist Workshop Student Manual. This manual is given to every candidate who attends the workshop

PATH Intl. Instructor Educational Guide, 2nd Edition. Available from PATH Intl. (800) 369-7433 or www.pathintl.org

CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual. Available from CHA (800) 399-0138 or www.cha-ahse.org

101 Arena Exercises, Cherry Hill. Available from Story Communications, Inc. (800) 441-5700

Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior, Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. Available at www.amazon.com

The Body Language of Horses, Bonnie Ledbetter and Tom Ainslie. Available at www.amazon.com

Understanding Horses, Garda Langley. Available at www.amazon.com

There are many opportunities for an individual to learn about equine behavior and management techniques. In the myriad of names, books, clinics and workshops available, each individual needs to use their judgment in determining which person or system works best for a given situation. Each time we have the opportunity to work with an equine we learn something. Take the opportunity to read, listen and observe others around you and this will expand your knowledge. The following is a list of a few names that come to mind. There are many other individuals, systems and programs out there that may be equally as useful. These are listed to start you thinking about who you might know that might lend some insight and help expand your knowledge and understanding of equine behavior and management.

Adventures in Awareness (Barb Rector)
EAGALA
EPONA
E3A
Ann Alden
Chris Irwin
Buck Branaman
Carol Coppinger
Tom Curtain (Ray Hunt)
Julie Goodknight
Dennis Reese
Monty Roberts
Karen Rolf
Donna West
Clinton Anderson
Chris Cox
Wendy Murdock
EGEA
MNLync
Carol Parker- Green Chimneys
Frank Bell
Dr Deb Bennett
Linda Tellington-Jones
David Lichman
John and Josh Lyons
Pat and Linda Parelli
Lynn Palm
Gwani Pony Boy
Mark Rashid
Nita Jo Rush
Linda Wysocki
Craig Cameron

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Criteria

ES em. 1.0	PATH Intl. Standards
ES em. 1.1	Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation for horse care and maintenance (Program Standards)
ES em. 1.2	Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding the use of safety equipment and adaptive equipment (Program Standards)
ES em. 2.0	Breeds/Colors/Markings/Parts of the Horse
ES em. 2.1	Identify a horse by: A) age B) color and markings C) breed characteristics D) height and weight
ES em.2.2	Know the parts of the horse
ES em. 3.0	Horse Senses and Behavior
ES em. 3.1	Know the characteristics of the senses of the horse
ES em. 3.2	Know the characteristics of horse behavior
ES em. 3.3	Know how the senses of the horse and horse behavior affect the safety of the equine-facilitated mental health setting
ES em 3.4	Include herd behavior and dynamics
ES em. 3.5	Identify stable vices including A) cribbing B) weaving C) biting and kicking D) wood chewing
ES em. 4.0	Feeds and Feeding
ES em. 4.1	Know feed requirements of the horse including: A) hay B) salt and minerals C) grain D) feeding intervals E) water
ES em 4.2	Recognize signs of poor quality feed
ES em. 5.0	Stable Management
ES em. 5.1	Identify appropriate protection for horses including: A) fly masks and bonnets B) shelter C) fly repellents
ES em. 5.2	Know horse manure handling methods for sanitary conditions of stall and turn out areas
ES em. 5.3	Identify bedding materials
ES em. 5.4	Identify potential stall hazards

ES em. 6.0	Health and Sickness
ES em. 6.1	Know and recognize the physical signs of good health and illness in equines A) colic B) thrush C) laminitis D) weight loss E) ulcers
ES em. 6.2	Know and recognize when a horse is unsound A) Identify healthy footfalls at all three gaits
ES em. 6.3	Recognize the difference between a blemish and an unsoundness
ES em. 6.4	Identify normal ranges and how to take TPR (temperature, pulse, respiration)
ES em. 6.5	Describe deworming, vaccination, hoof and teeth care programs
ES em. 6.6	Know first aid treatment for wounds
ES em 6.7	Recognize the signs of emotional health in equines
ES em 6.8	Recognize behavioral changes related to the client
ES em. 7.0	Grooming
ES em. 7.1	Identify and explain the use of grooming tools including: A) curry comb B) mane or tail comb C) hard brush or dandy D) shedding blade E) soft brush or body F) sponges G) hoof pick H) sweat scraper
ES em. 7.2	Know how to give a horse a bath
ES em. 7.3	Know how to cool down a horse following a work session
ES em. 7.4	Know how to clip a horse for maintenance including: A) bridle path B) muzzle C) fetlock
ES em. 8.0	Tack and Tacking
ES em. 8.1	Identify and know the purpose, use and function of: A) bits: snaffle B) halters and leads C) headstalls D) safety helmets E) surcingles
ES em. 8.2	Know how to fit above tack to horse and rider

- ES em. 8.3 Know how to educate team, including participants and volunteers, in the use of the equipment
- ES em. 8.4 Know and demonstrate equipment care and maintenance
- ES em.9.0 Selection and Training**
- ES em. 9.1 Explain the characteristics of a therapy horse
- ES em. 9.2 Know how to train a horse to accept:
- A) leading by someone who is learning to lead
 - B) 2 persons in the stall
 - C) hugging and awkward grooming
 - D) game equipment/ props
 - E) yielding to touch
- ES em. 9.3 Recognize the need for a conditioning and maintenance program for therapeutic riding horses including:
- A) longeing
 - B) ground schooling
 - C) record keeping
 - D) de-stressing techniques
- ES em. 9.4 Know how to determine when to stop a session for the benefit of equine and participant safety.

Horsemanship Criteria

- ES h.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety
- ES h.1.1 Know and demonstrate the following:
- A) haltering and leading
 - B) tying and safety knot
 - C) grooming
 - D) proper barn attire
 - E) helmet fit
 - F) proper precautions for both equines and participants regarding catching and haltering both in a stall, field or arena.
 - G) how to determine when to stop a session for benefit of equine and participant safety
- ES h.1.2 Know how to longe and free longe
- ES h.1.3 Identify how to use proper tools for longeing and free longeing
- ES h.1.4 Know and identify gaits of the equine
- A) walk, free walk and working walk
 - B) trot or jog
 - C) canter or lope
- ES h. 2.0 Activities**
- ES h. 2.1 Know and demonstrate design and set up of obstacle course
- ES h. 2.2 Know and demonstrate proper spacing of ground poles

Instruction Criteria

- ES i. 1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety
- ES i. 1. Instruct the following:
- A) grooming
 - B) tying and safety knot
 - C) haltering and leading
 - D) proper attire
 - E) proper spacing when leading in a group
- ES i. 1.2 Orient student to facility, stable rules and safety rules
- ES i. 1.3 Select horse for a particular individual according to:
- A) behavior
 - B) movement
 - C) temperament
 - D) height
 - E) size
- ES i. 1.4 Instruct a group of two or more
- ES i. 1.5 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards

ES i 2.0 Exercises and Games

- ES i. 2.1 Instruct students in unmounted exercises
- ES i. 2.2 Instruct participants through an obstacle course
- ES i. 2.3 Utilize appropriate games in the equine-facilitated mental health setting

ES i. 3.0 Ground and Stable lessons

- ES i. 3.1 Instruct ground stable management lessons that are within the knowledge requirements of the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification as appropriate.

Teaching/Implementation/Training Methodology Criteria

- ES tm. 1.0 PATH Intl. Standards and Information
- ES tm. 1.1 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretations regarding participant forms (Administrative Standards).
- ES tm. 1.2 Know available PATH Intl. services
- ES tm. 1.3 Locate information about PATH Intl. Standards and Accreditation process
- ES tm. 1.4 Know PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Program
- ES tm. 1.5 Know and practice emergency procedures
- ES tm. 1.6 Know the location of the phone and emergency numbers
- ES tm. 2.0 Record Keeping**
- ES tm. 2.1 Verify that the participant forms are complete and updated
- ES tm. 2.2 Interpret participant forms and apply the information to the equine-facilitated mental health setting

ES tm. 2.3	Write and maintain progress notes on participants	ES tm. 5.0	Methods
ES tm. 2.4	Complete incident report as needed	ES tm. 5.1	Know that participants learn in different ways
ES tm. 2.5	Comply with confidentiality requirements	ES tm. 5.2	Work in conjunction with a MHP or Educator to facilitate session: A) develop rapport B) provide direction to volunteers C) assign appropriately matched volunteers D) provide feedback to team members and participate in session debriefing E) reward team members
ES tm 3.0	Lesson Plans	ES tm.5.3	Identify dysfunctional behavior and recognize "therapeutic" or teachable moment
ES tm. 3.1	Assess participant skills and determine goals and objectives	ES tm. 5.4	Know how to determine when to stop a session to maintain safety of participant and treatment team
ES tm. 3.2	Develop a lesson plan to achieve the goals and objectives		
ES tm. 3.3	Choose activities and skills suitable for the objective of the lesson		
ES tm. 4.0	Teaching/Implementation/Training		
ES tm. 4.1	Know and demonstrate teaching skills applicable to the Equine Specialist to include: A) flexibility and adaptability in pursuit of objectives B) teaches to level of students ability C) fair and consistent in applying standards of behavior D) shows genuine interest in each student E) progress toward goals F) effective use of volunteers G) appropriate games and exercises H) appropriate specific praise I) adapts and corrects equipment J) provide: whats, hows, whys K) flexibility of teaching techniques L) rapport M) teaches at individual's level N) teaching therapeutic environment O) gives clear and concise instructions P) control of session		
ES tm. 4.2	Possess instructor attributes, to include: A) professionalism B) ethics C) organization D) respect for participants and equines E) patience F) self-confidence G) positive attitude H) cooperation I) knowledge of subject at equine specialist skill level J) recognition of when to stop a session to maintain the safety of all participants, including the treatment team K) ability to leave ego behind/be humble		
ES tm.4.3	Meet annual continuing education requirements for the Equine Specialist (20 hours), current CPR and First Aid, maintain PATH Intl. membership		
		Criteria Specific to the Field of Mental Health and Learning	
		ES mhl 1.0	Mental Health and Learning
		ES mhl 1.1	PATH Intl. A) Know contents of: Glossary, Psychosocial Guideline Checklist, DSM IV, EFP Forms and other relevant materials in Standards and Accreditation Manual B) Know precautions and contraindications to equine-assisted activities and therapies and equine-facilitated mental health and learning C) Know definition, causes, characteristics and teaching management for participants involved D) Know the benefits and the realms of the assisted activities and therapies and equine-facilitated mental health and learning
		ES mhl 1.2	EFMH Team
		ES mhl 1.3	Confidentiality A) State requirements for mental health professional or educator B) Mandated reporting (state requirements) C) Boundaries of confidentiality a. physical boundaries with program b. program personnel, maintaining boundaries c. dual relationships
		ES mhl 1.4	HIPAA

ES mhl 2.0 ES mhl	<p>Relationships</p> <p>2.1 Demonstrate the ability to form relationships</p> <p>A) based on: respect, caring concern, genuineness and empathy</p> <p>B) client with equine</p> <p>C) help client to generalize relationship with equine to relationships with people in conjunction with mental health professional or educator</p> <p>D) role model relationship with mental health professional or educator</p> <p>E) role model relationship with equine as partner</p> <p>F) demonstrate an understanding of self, what the ES brings to the relationship</p> <p>a. positives, strengths, assets; what needs to be utilized</p> <p>b. negatives, weaknesses, liabilities; what needs to be controlled</p> <p>G) Demonstrate responsibility for the therapeutic environment</p> <p>a. emphasis on safety</p> <p>b. clear, congruent communication</p> <p>c. developing trust</p> <p>d. using discretion and maintaining confidentiality</p>	<p>ES mhl 2.3</p> <p>Assist others in building relationships in conjunction with MHP or Educator</p> <p>A) client with equine</p> <p>B) help client to generalize relationship with equine to relationships with people</p> <p>C) role model relationship with equine as partner</p>
ES mhl 2.2	<p>Build relationships with appropriate boundaries</p> <p>A) collegial with mental health professional or educator, therapeutic/professional with client or student, or personal/collegial with equine</p> <p>B) Demonstrate an understanding of the “systems” perspective – all members of team impact on each other – dynamic interaction through use of the Triangle or Diamond Models</p> <p>C) Demonstrate an ability to observe and assess:</p> <p>a. self</p> <p>b. others (client, MHP or Educator)</p> <p>c. equine(s)</p> <p>d. activities</p> <p>e. environment</p> <p>D) Demonstrate effective communication:</p> <p>a. importance of body language for all, especially client and equine</p> <p>b. need for congruence: body language, voice tone, message</p> <p>c. address both cognitive and emotional domains.</p>	<p>ES mhl 3.0</p> <p>Ethical Treatment of Equines</p> <p>ES mhl 3.1</p> <p>Application of ethical standards</p> <p>A) Knowledge of PATH Intl. standards w/regard to ethical treatment of the equine</p> <p>B) Evaluation of equine mental & physical condition</p> <p>a. safety & ethical concerns and likely impact on participants</p> <p>b. ethical & safety considerations for session impact on equine</p> <p>c. documentation</p> <p>d. team discussion</p> <p>C) Knowledge of how the barn environment impacts the education/therapy process</p> <p>a. assess the setting</p> <p>b. adjustments needed to assure physical & emotional safety for humans and equines to promote education and therapy</p> <p>ES mhl 3.2</p> <p>Death of a Program Animal</p> <p>A) Develop a plan in conjunction with MHP or Educator</p> <p>a. Notifying client support group</p> <p>b. How to prepare client</p> <p>c. Closure, processing after</p> <p>ES mhl 3.3</p> <p>Animal Abuse</p> <p>A) Demonstrate knowledge of risk management</p> <p>a. student assessment</p> <p>b. equine assessment</p> <p>c. recording dynamics of human-equine interaction</p> <p>ES mhl 3.4</p> <p>Partner vs. Tool</p> <p>A) Demonstrate the ability to work with equines as sentient partners in the education and therapy process.</p> <p>B) Demonstrate the knowledge that interactions with equines can assist participants in building and enhancing positive human relationships and an understanding of the activities that can facilitate this process.</p> <p>C) Demonstrate a knowledge of the</p>

need to assess the likely impact of the participants mental & physical status on the reactions of the equine and make adjustments to keep the interactions safe for all (to include crisis prevention & management)

a. Incongruence, understanding the effects on the equine

D) Demonstrate knowledge/understanding of an equine's emotional and physical needs particularly after a stressful situation

a. How to de-stress, strategies for de-stressing

b. responsibility for keeping safe

ES mhl 3.5

Riding and Horsemanship Lesson vs. Meeting Therapeutic Goals

A) Knowledge that lessons will have basis in horsemanship but goal is therapeutic or educational in nature

B) Issues raised may change lesson completely; emphasize flexibility equine may react to client's energy or issues

ES mhl 4.0

Design Activities According to PATH Intl. Standards

A) In conjunction with a mental health professional or educator, learn how to design clinically sound and therapeutic equine activities

B) In conjunction with and working with a mental health professional or educator, have a basic understanding of the language used for criteria in common diagnoses

C) In conjunction with and working with a mental health professional or educator, understand the common side effects of medications used to treat psychological problems

ES mhl 5.0

Collaboration

ES mhl 5.1

Identify Roles and define responsibilities of ES and MHP or Educator

A) physical & emotional safety of students/clients, volunteers, faculty and equine

B) screening and evaluation of students/clients for intake

C) dealing with crises (students/clients, equine, volunteer)

D) modeling of functional relationship regarding difference of opinion

E) documentation, intake and progress

notes/unusual incidents

F) Interpret horse, human interactions for MHP/Ed

G) Evaluate volunteers for program

H) Train volunteers to work with EFMH/L population

I) Support the Mental Health Professional or Educator

ES mhl 5.2 Identify time and method for processing in conjunction with MHP or Educator, on site and off site.

ES mhl 5.3 Identify strategies for-self care

A) boundaries: personal and professional

B) self-health and awareness

C) manage personal issues

D) debriefing after session

ES mhl 5.4 Identify and describe functioning as a team

A) advocate for equine

B) flexibility according to the conditions and variables of the day

C) respect partners and roles

Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Horsemanship Skills Test

The practical test takes place at the conclusion of every workshop. A candidate may attend the workshop and test immediately following or attend just the testing. This test is meant to demonstrate every candidate's horse handling and interaction skills with the equine. Every candidate walks through an obstacle course and is expected to safely handle, read and connect with the equine.

Please see the next page for the course; it is recommended that candidates familiarize themselves with this course prior to testing. A candidate may also have a volunteer read off the steps to the pattern during your exam.

Every candidate will need to successfully complete the Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test unless the candidate is applying for the PATH Intl. certified instructor option.

Please see the enclosed criteria specific to the horsemanship skills test on the next two pages in order to help you prepare for the exam.

PATH Intl. On-Site ESMHL Practical Horsemanship Skills Test

Criteria for participants

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Verbal Greeting is given to horse
- 1.2 Demonstrate appropriate method of approach
- 1.3 Demonstrate safe space position in stall/paddock
- 1.4 Quiet, effective, timely approach especially if horse has rear end facing person

2. Haltering

- 2.1 Demonstrate proper placement of halter on horse
 - Candidate does not stand in front of the horse, stands on the left side of the horse
 - Halter is placed on the horse correctly, not too tight or too loose
- 2.2 Demonstrate caution around horse's eyes and ears
- 2.3 Demonstrate safe method of securing the horse while in the stall/paddock
- 2.4 Safety

3. Exiting and Entering Stall/Paddock

- 3.1 Demonstrate spacing for both leader and horse during exit/enter of stall or paddock
 - Open stall or paddock door completely when exit/entering
- 3.2 Demonstrate appropriate release of horse
- 3.3 Demonstrate method of maintaining visual observation of horse while exiting stall
- 3.4 Close gate to paddock or stall door only if center/situation requires it
- 3.5 The horse does not leave stall before the leader
- 3.6 Turn horse towards the front of stall/paddock prior to release
- 3.7 Security while releasing and haltering the horse, gate or stall door closed prior to release/catch

4. Leading

- 4.1 Demonstrate method of holding lead with both hands (unless praising or cueing horse)
- 4.2 Demonstrate method of holding lead in a folded or figure 8 manner
- 4.3 Demonstrate skills of leading
 - Candidate is not too far in front or behind horse
- 4.4 Demonstrate correct position of leader at halt, walk and turn
- 4.5 Demonstrate proper hand placement on lead rope, not grabbing buckle of lead rope or halter
- 4.6 Rhythm of active walk is maintained throughout testing and in serpentine
- 4.7 Demonstrate smooth, timely transitions
- 4.8 Demonstrate wide, smooth turns

- 4.9 Leader does not contribute to horse stress level (throwing head up, pulling up)
- 4.10 Leader promotes straightness of horse
 - Horses' head is not bent or being pulled toward the leader
- 4.11 Demonstrate correct position leading over cavaletti
- 4.12 Organization, effective use of aids and body position shown during 1/4 turn in box

5. Aids

- 5.1 Demonstrate use of clear voice aids with different inflection for upward & downward transitions
- 5.2 Demonstrate tone of voice that influences horse
- 5.3 Demonstrate ability to read horse's mood & respond
- 5.4 Demonstrate body language according to horse behavior
- 5.5 Walk with eyes forward and head up except when going over poles or cavaletti
- 5.6 Demonstrate use of aids
 - Voice, body and energy sticks can be appropriate aids and must be used appropriately
- 5.7 Demonstrates use of touch aid when appropriate
- 5.8 Demonstration of praise/appreciation for work done by equine

6. Safety

- 6.1 Closes gate when entering working ring/arena
- 6.2 Overall Safety
- 6.3 Planned carefully and safely conducted

7. Automatic Failures

- 7.1 Abrupt or rough handling of horse
- 7.2 Lead rope allowed to drag on the ground
- 7.3 Lead rope draped over shoulder
- 7.4 Lead rope tightly wrapped around hand
- 7.5 Halter is put on backwards or incorrectly positioned on horse
- 7.6 Failure to close gate when entering working ring/arena
- 7.7 Consistently dropping lead rope
- 7.8 Kneeling on the ground
- 7.9 Approaching horse from blind spot

Am I Ready to Proceed with the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification?

- I am 21 years of age or older
- I have a current Adult/Child CPR and First Aid Certification
- I am a current PATH Intl. member
- I have significant working knowledge of horse management and horsemanship
- I have good verbal communication skills in small group settings
- I have adequate written communication skills
- I am able to attend a 3-day PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop and a 1 day practical horsemanship skills test that follows every workshop
- After successful completion of the ES workshop I will complete the requirements for the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop portfolio
- I am ready to complete and send in the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Certification Application

FAQ

1. Who should take the Equine Specialist for Mental Health and Learning workshop?

Anyone interested in learning more about Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) or Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP). This workshop is aimed at teaching equine behavioral and management skills as it relates to EFL and EFP as well as collaboration skills with the mental health or learning professional. It will touch on how to develop curriculums that support treatment plans, volunteer management, equine interaction, your role as an ESMHL (Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning) and much more! While the focus in this workshop is on the Equine Specialist we encourage any mental health professional or learning professional to attend as this workshop is very educational and will help you to work better with your Equine Specialist partner. If you are currently performing EFL or EFP this workshop would benefit you and your program, it will give you new ideas, best practices scenarios, tips for volunteer management, who to accept into your program, and of course how to best focus on proper horse handling and the physical/emotional care of your equine during all EFP and EFL sessions. The workshop is a requirement of the certification so if you wish to become certified as an ESMHL you need to attend this workshop as it will only benefit you!

2. How do I get this certification?

Step 1: Attend a workshop and skills test. The prerequisite to attending a workshop and skills test is to be a current PATH Intl. individual member; there are not any preparatory items to complete. If you plan to complete the skills test after the workshop horsemanship skills are necessary. It is beneficial to have horsemanship skills and experience when attending the workshop but it is not required.

Step 2: Review the portfolio requirements on page 3 of the ESMHL certification booklet and when you are ready mail your completed portfolio to the PATH Intl. office with a \$95 fee.

Step 3: The PATH Intl. office will receive your portfolio and within 15 business days sign you up to take the PATH Intl. online CAT and ESMHL exam. Upon completion of the exam and confirmation from the PATH Intl. office your certification will be complete.

3. What is the practical skills test?

The skills test is held on day 4 following the ESMHL workshop. The un-mounted skills test is meant to test your horse handling ability/ground skills as well as how you relate to horses. This test is required for certification and can be taken at any point; the only prerequisite is to be a PATH Intl. member. Please see all details in the ESMHL certification booklet including the skills test criteria. The skills test is good for two years from the time you complete it.

4. How do I sign up for a workshop and practical skills test?

Contact the hosting center for registration fees, deadlines, obtain an application and pay the center directly to attend the workshop and skills test.

5. How do I locate a workshop and practical skills test?

All events are advertised in the PATH Intl. E-news and on the PATH Intl. events calendar on the web site. The events are in a green color and are titled ESMHL workshop and skills test.

6. What does this certification certify me to do?

This certification is meant to certify an individual as the Equine Specialist (horse handler, horse expert) in any un-mounted mental health or learning session. With this certification you can meet PATH Intl. standards, start up a PATH Intl. EFL or EFP program and PATH Intl. center and offer un-mounted activities with your clients.

7. Will the Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification be required in the future for all existing PATH Intl. programs that offer EFP and EFL sessions?

Yes for EFP programs only. If a PATH Intl. center is offering an EFP program they will have two years from July 1, 2011 to employ a PATH Intl. certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. This Equine Specialist will be required to be present during all un-mounted EFP sessions. If a PATH Intl. center conducts mounted EFP sessions the ESMHL must be present and directly supervised by a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor (unless the ESMHL is dually certified as a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor). Please see the updated PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation manual released in July, 2011, specifically the EFP standards for more information.

8. What about EFL?

In the new 2011 PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation manual members can find EFL guidelines and definitions. PATH Intl. has not yet developed EFL standards therefore PATH Intl. centers can continue to run an EFL program without having a PATH Intl. certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. Your EFL programs will need to continue to be supervised by a PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor to meet standards if you choose not to employ an ESMHL. It is highly recommended to have a PATH Intl. certified ESMHL for all EFL sessions but not yet required.

However, if a center wishes to start up an un-mounted EFL program and wishes to gain PATH Intl. accreditation for this program they can do so with a PATH Intl. certified ESMHL. In the future when EFL standards are developed the ESMHL certification may be a requirement for EFL programs.

9. I have already attended an ES workshop in the past, do I need to retake it?

No. Your workshop will count towards certification. If you would like to retake it you may do so. The fee is up to the host site and is not set by the PATH Intl. office. You can request to audit the workshop for a discounted fee. Auditing is only an option if you have already taken the workshop once. Your workshop is good until December 31st, 2012 if you took it prior to January 1, 2011. If you take the workshop after this date it is good for two years from the date you took it.

10. I have attended a workshop in the past, I would like an updated workshop manual, how do I get one?

Contact the PATH Intl. office so an electronic copy of the manual can be sent to you. You will need to provide the date and location of the workshop you attended for verification. Only members who have attended a workshop can get a copy of the ESMHL workshop manual.

11. Why should I attend the ESMHL workshop?

The PATH Intl. office highly recommends anyone that would like to offer EFL and EFP to attend this workshop. The feedback received after individuals attend this workshop is very positive. Many appreciate the information given in the workshop and find that it provides so much assistance in creating or improving their own EFP or EFL programs. Most participants come home wondering why there are so many individuals performing EFL and EFP without taking the workshop. This workshop will only create more understanding and professionalism within the PATH Intl. industry.

12. How do I get my 60 hours of experience in mental health or learning?

There have been established PATH Intl. EFL and EFP programs in place for many years now. You can locate PATH Intl. centers that offer EFL and EFP sessions using our Find A Center link on the web site. It would be wonderful to gain all 60 hours in an EFL or EFP session. For the 60 hours; they can be collected at any time (at this time your hours do not have an expiration date). They need to be all performed in a PATH Intl. EFL or EFP program (meaning under a PATH Intl. instructor or at a PATH Intl. center). OR you can do 30 in a PATH Intl. program offering equine assisted activities (TRI, Vaulting etc) and 30 in the mental health and learning field in your community like at a group home or special needs learning school etc.

The hours are active hours, just like continuing education hours. This means only the hours you are volunteering/participating in a session or school or group home count. Not the hours you may need to prepare, do lesson plans, prepare horses, read about students etc.

Your hours (including the 20 equine education hours) can be performed at anytime.

13. I am a certified vaulting instructor performing EFL, do I need to gain this certification to continue my interactive vaulting lessons?

No. At this time PATH Intl. does not require anyone to have this certification to participate in EFL, only if you participate in EFP. Please see the EFL guidelines in the PATH Intl. standards manual and offer any feedback you may have to the PATH Intl. office.

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Application

Please type or print clearly in ink. Please use the form provided.

Name _____ PATH Intl. Member # _____

Address _____

Phone: Daytime _____ Evening _____ Cell _____

Fax _____ E-mail (required) _____

- I am 21 years of age or older
- I am a current PATH Intl. member
- I am ready to take the online PATH Intl. CAT exam and PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning online written exam
- I have completed all requirements for my portfolio and have included the portfolio with this application
- I completed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning workshop on _____ (date)
- I passed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test on _____ (date)
- I have enclosed \$95.00**

I wish to pay by:

- Check (Make payable to PATH Intl. in U.S. Funds) Check # _____ VISA MasterCard American Express

Name as appears on Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Applicants Signature _____ Date _____



PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Recommendation from Educator or Mental Health Professional

Please type or print clearly in ink

Candidate Name _____

To the Reference: The above named person is a candidate for certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. The equine specialist should be competent to partner with an educator or mental health professional in providing equine services to students in experiential education or to clients with mental health issues. In preparation for this service, candidates are required to work at least 60 hours in an equine-facilitated mental health or equine-facilitated learning program or 30 hours in a mental health/educational setting and 30 hours in a program offering equine-assisted activities and therapies. (i.e., therapeutic riding program.) You are being asked to validate the candidate's experience and ability for the mental health and/or education component. You should have been provided with a copy of the "PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Criteria" to facilitate your assessment of this candidate.

Reference (mental health professional or educator):

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Program: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Experience: I hereby certify that the above named candidate worked for a total of _____ hours in a program that provides:

Equine-facilitated Psychotherapy or Education _____
OR Initial

Describe Mental Health or Educational Service: _____
Initial

Please answer the following on an attached sheet:

1. How long and in what connections have you known the candidate?
2. Evaluate the candidate's performance in your program in regard to understanding client need, providing program services, integrating with other staff, etc.
3. Personal qualities such as intelligence, maturity, emotional stability, sensitivity, resourcefulness, sound judgment and a concern for the well-being of others are important when working with special populations. Please assess the candidate within this context.
4. Please rate the candidate relative to others whom you have known in the same field in recent years:

ITEM	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	
Ability to maintain safe and therapeutic environment _____					
Ability to relate to clients/students _____					
Ability to relate to, and collaborate with, other staff; teamwork _____					
Ability to use supervision _____					
Ability to analyze a problem and formulate a solution _____					
Ability to partner with professional staff, i.e. mental health professional or educator _____					
Works within defined role and within skill level _____					
Communication skills: oral _____					
Communication skills: written _____					
Maturity _____					
Self-awareness _____					
Professionalism _____					
Knowledge of and adherence to PATH Intl.'s Code of Ethics _____					
Signature of Reference _____					
Date _____					



PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Recommendation from Equine Professional

Please type or print clearly in ink

Candidate Name _____ PATH Intl. Member ID # _____

The above named person is a candidate for certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. One of the criteria for this certification is comprehensive experience with equines. The Mental Health and Learning Equine Specialist is primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of the participants and the health of the horse involved with mental health clients. You should have been provided with a copy of the "PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Criteria" to facilitate your assessment of this candidate.

Equine Professional Information

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Program: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Equestrian Credentials/Certifications: _____

By my signature below, I am certifying that the candidate has experience and demonstrated competence in, at minimum, the following horsemanship skills. Additionally, the candidate has the ability to train others in the performance of these skills.

- Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics and senses of the horse.
- Demonstrates knowledge of feed requirements of horses.
- Demonstrates knowledge of stable management, maintaining cleanliness, safety and health for the horse.
- Can recognize common horse health problems and unsoundness.
- Can recognize common stable vices.
- Can competently apply basic horse first aid.
- Can approach, catch and halter a horse safely.
- Can properly fit a helmet.
- Can lead, turn and back a horse safely.
- Can lead a horse into, and out of, a stall.
- Understands and demonstrates proper attire for equine activities.
- Can tie a horse at appropriate level and length, with a quick release knot.
- Can competently groom a horse, including picking up and cleaning the feet.
- Can lead a horse at a walk and trot.
- Can lunge a horse at a walk, trot and canter, in both directions.
- Follows safety procedure when turning horse loose.
- Additionally, the candidate is suitable for work with participants who may have mental health issues.
- The candidate has demonstrated common sense, professionalism, cooperation, ethics and the ability to teach others.

I, _____ confirm that _____
Reference (Print) *Candidate (Print)*

has ample experience, demonstrated competence in horsemanship, the ability to work with others and has a history of safe equestrian practices.

_____ confirm that _____
Signature of Reference *Signature of Candidate*

PATH Intl. Photo Release Form

I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) of any and all photographs taken of me/my son/my daughter/my ward for promotional printed materials, educational activities, PATH Intl.'s website, exhibitions or for any other use for the benefit of PATH Intl. and equine assisted activities.

Signature _____ Date _____

For PATH Intl. Records

Name _____

Name of person(s) in photo _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone/email _____



