Welcome to the riding component of PATH International Registered Level Riding Instructor Certification. Please keep in mind the following information when completing your riding test:

A therapeutic horseback riding instructor needs to know and demonstrate the criteria listed in the PATH Intl certification packet. Some of those criteria include:

- bending
- straightness
- control of the horse
- posture and body alignment
- balance
- posting on the correct diagonal as outlined in the registered booklet
- correct canter leads
- warm-up of horse

The same criteria must be demonstrated regardless of what style of riding is being performed or the type of equipment being used.

When teaching riders for which balance is a primary goal, an understanding of these principles is critical. Additionally, these riding skills allow PATH instructors to evaluate a prospective therapy horse for a program and to appropriately match equines and participants. In order to teach riding and evaluate equines, PATH Intl’s Riding Certification Subcommittee has defined the criteria that objectively demonstrate these important skills.

Whether an English or Western rider, beginner or advanced rider, the riding criteria is what is being tested, not the type of saddle, equipment, or personal choice of discipline. The question PATH Intl’s evaluator’s answer is:

“Has the rider demonstrated knowledge of the skills necessary to benefit riders with disabilities as outlined in the PATH Intl. Registered Instructor riding criteria?”

If yes, the candidate will pass the riding portion of the PATH Intl. Registered Instructor certification test.

Evaluators want each candidate to be confident and successful in their riding demonstration. During warm-up, demonstration of the walk, jog/trot and lope/canter while meeting the horsemanship and riding criteria is required. Additional components within the warm-up are at the discretion of the candidate and designed to reflect the candidate’s ability to recognize the horse’s needs in the warm-up while meeting horsemanship criteria. Should you have a component of your test that you would like to demonstrate additional proficiency, you may ask to revisit that component at the conclusion of your test before you dismount your horse. Each candidate will be allowed 3 minutes to re-ride a component of their choice with the approval of the evaluators. It is up to you as the rider to request to perform a component of the pattern again and there will be no reminder from the evaluators. Candidates will not be allowed to re-ride the entire test or remount to perform a component.

During the both the riding component and the teaching component of certification, photography and videotaping is not allowed. In addition, candidates are required to complete a self-reflection as a part of their lesson plan upon completion of their teaching component. Candidates are required to complete this self-reflection on their own without any additional outside input from others.

Thank you for choosing to pursue a PATH Intl. Riding Instructor Certification. We wish you continued success in your endeavors!