



# PATH Intl. Advanced Riding Instructor Criteria



**PATH**  
INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

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

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## **ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS REGARDING CERTIFICATION (VISIT [www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org) TO DOWNLOAD)**

- **THE PATH INTL. ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR APPLICATION  
BOOKLET**
- **THE PATH INTL. ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION  
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- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED INSTRUCTOR CRITERIA**
- **ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR COMPLIANCE**
- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED INSTRUCTOR GLOSSARY**

**NOTE: THESE BOOKLETS ARE UPDATED ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE ACCURACY AND CLARITY OF INFORMATION. PLEASE VISIT THE CERTIFICATION WEBPAGE TO CONFIRM YOU ARE REFERENCING THE MOST RECENT VERSION, ESPECIALLY PRIOR TO ATTENDING A CERTIFICATION EVENT.**



### **MISSION**

***PATH Intl. promotes safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities  
and therapies for individuals with special needs.***

PATH Intl., Inc. / P.O. Box 33150/ Denver, CO 80233

1-800-369-7433 (RIDE) / Fax: 303-252-4610

Email: [path@pathintl.org](mailto:path@pathintl.org)/ Website: [www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org)



# *The PATH Intl. Advanced Riding Instructor Criteria*

**The PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor must exceed all the competency expectations of the registered level including equine management, horsemanship, riding, instruction, teaching methodologies and disabilities.** The advanced instructor is expected to apply this knowledge as demonstrated through effective analysis and problem solving in response to the given situation. Also, the advanced instructor is expected to provide accurate reflection, as well as safe and effective demonstration of all PATH Intl. Advanced Criteria.

## **AE - EQUINE MANAGEMENT**

### **AE.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards**

- AE.1.1 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation for horse care, maintenance, and usage.
- AE.1.2 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding the use of safety equipment and adaptive equipment.

### **AE.2.0 Breeds/ Colors/ Markings/ Parts of the Horse**

- AE.2.1 Identify and describe a horse by
- 1) age (equine terms related to gender and age such as: foal, filly, colt, mare, gelding and stallion)
  - 2) color and markings
  - 3) breed characteristics
  - 4) height and weight
- AE.2.2 Know, identify and relate conformation and the parts of the horse and form to function.

### **AE.3.0 Horse Senses and Behavior**

- AE.3.1 Know the characteristics of the senses of the horse.

AE.3.2 Know the characteristics of horse behavior and response to stimuli.

AE.3.3 Know how the senses of the horse and horse behavior affect the safety of the EAAT setting.

AE.3.4 Identify and know the causes and management of stable vices including but not limited to:

- 1) cribbing
- 2) weaving
- 3) wind sucking
- 4) stall walking
- 5) biting and kicking
- 6) wood chewing

### **AE.4.0 Feeds and Feeding**

AE.4.1 Know principles of feeding and feed requirements of the horse, including:

- 1) hay
- 2) salt and minerals
- 3) grain
- 4) supplements
- 5) water

AE.4.2 Recognize the signs of poor quality feed.

AE.4.3 Identify and describe different types of forages and feeds.

AE.4.4 Know the pros, cons and purpose of different types of feeds.

### **AE.5.0 Stable Management**

AE.5.1 Identify appropriate protection for horses, including:

- 1) fly masks and bonnets
- 2) shelter
- 3) fly repellants

AE.5.2 Know horse manure handling methods for sanitary conditions of stall and turnout areas.

AE.5.3 Identify bedding materials.

AE.5.4 Identify potential stall and fencing hazards.

AE.5.5 Identify and know pest concerns as well as management.

AE.5.6 Identify and know the use of blankets, sheets, coolers and turnout rugs.

AE.5.7 Identify and know purpose, fitting and how to apply the following boots and bandages:

- 1) bell, splint and ankle boots
- 2) shipping boots/bandages
- 3) hoof boots
- 4) standing/support/first aid wraps
- 5) exercise boots/wraps

### **AE.6.0 Health and Sickness**

AE.6.1 Know and recognize the signs of:

- 1) good health
- 2) behavior
- 3) condition (mental and physical)
- 4) weight gain and loss
- 5) illness/sickness/injury
- 6) abscess
- 7) dehydration
- 8) rain rot
- 9) thrush
- 10) wounds
- 11) parasites
- 12) lice
- 13) ticks
- 14) ring worm
- 15) intestinal worms
- 16) acute conditions
- 17) colic
- 18) choke
- 19) laminitis/founder
- 20) inoculations

AE. 6.2 Infectious disease with current vaccines

- 1) distemper (strangles)
- 2) equine encephalomyelitis
- 3) Eastern (EEE)
- 4) Venezuelan (VEE)
- 5) West Nile (WNV)
- 6) Western (WEE)
- 7) equine herpesvirus (EHV)
- 8) equine viral arteritis (EVA)
- 9) equine viral rhinopneumonitis (EVR)
- 10) influenza
- 11) Potomac Horse Fever (PHF)
- 12) rabies
- 13) tetanus

AE. 6.3 Infectious disease without current vaccines

- 1) pneumonia
- 2) equine infectious anemia (EIA)
- 3) equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM)
- 4) vesicular stomatitis (VS)
- 5) pigeon fever

6) non-infectious diseases

7) equine metabolic syndrome (EMS)

8) exertional rhabdomyolysis (tying-up, azoturia)

9) hyperkalemic periodic paralysis (HYPP)

10) anhidrosis

AE. 6.4 General Maintenance

- 1) hoof care
- 2) de-worming
- 3) teeth floating
- 4) sheath and udder cleaning

AE.6.5 Know and recognize when a horse is unsound.

AE.6.6 Identify normal ranges at rest, how to take TPR (temperature, pulse, respiration).

A.E.6.7 Describe, schedule and maintain records for deworming, vaccination, hoof and teeth care programs.

A.E.6.8 Know first aid treatment for:

- 1) proud flesh
- 2) sprains, strains, bruises
- 3) shock
- 4) wounds
  - abrasion
  - laceration
  - clean cut
  - bruise
  - puncture

AE.6.9 Identify types of shoes and their function.

AE.6.10 Identify characteristics of a correctly or incorrectly shod foot.

### **AE.7.0 Grooming**

AE.7.1 Identify, demonstrate and explain the use of grooming tools including:

- 1) curry comb
- 2) mane or tail comb
- 3) hard brush/dandy
- 4) shedding blade
- 5) soft brush/body
- 6) sponges
- 7) hoof pick
- 8) sweat scraper

AE.7.2 Know appropriate bathing treatment for skin and muscle soreness and how to give a horse a routine fungicide, liniment, medicated bath.

AE.7.3 Know how to cool down a horse following a work session including the use of liniments

AE.7.4 Know and demonstrate how to clip a horse for maintenance, including:

- 1) bridle path
- 2) muzzle
- 3) fetlock

AE.7.5 Identify and know the purpose of the following clips:

- 1) blanket clip
- 2) hunter clip

- 3) body clip
- 4) trace clip
- 5) belly and gullet clip

### **AE.8.0 Tack and Tacking**

AE.8.1 Identify and know the purpose, use and function of:

- 1) bits
  - action of a straight and jointed snaffle
  - types of cheek pieces and function
  - curbs and related shanks, curb chains, gags
- 2) breastplates and collars, martingales, tie-downs, draw-reins and cruppers
- 3) bitless bridles
- 4) long-lines
- 5) bridles
- 6) martingales
- 7) saddles: English and Western
- 8) safety stirrups
- 9) saddle pads
- 10) safety helmets
- 11) bareback pads
- 12) side reins
- 13) adaptive equipment
- 14) surcingles

AE.8.2 Know and identify the parts of tack as identified in 8.1

AE.8.3 Know how to tack a horse

AE.8.4 Select and evaluate equipment needs for riders and horses, including:

- 1) type of saddle and bridle
- 2) how saddle affects rider position
- 3) how bridle and saddle affect the horse
- 4) adaptive equipment
- 5) long-line and lunging equipment

AE.8.5 Know how to fit tack to horses and riders and know the signs of ill-fitting tack.

AE.8.6 Know how to educate team, including riders, volunteers and staff in the use of the equipment.

AE.8.7 Know and demonstrate tack cleaning, care and maintenance.

### **AE.9.0 Unsoundnesses and Blemishes/Form to Function**

AE.9.1 Recognize the difference between a blemish and an unsoundness. Describe and locate the following blemishes and unsoundnesses:

- 1) bog and bone spavins
- 2) laminitis
- 3) sidebone
- 4) bowed tendons
- 5) navicular
- 6) shoe boil
- 7) capped hocks and elbows

- 8) parrot mouth
- 9) splints
- 10) contracted heels
- 11) quarter crack
- 12) thoroughpins
- 13) curbs
- 14) ringbone
- 15) windpuffs
- 16) heaves
- 17) roaring

AE.9.2 Identify and describe the foot falls and beats of the:

- 1) walk
- 2) canter/lope
- 3) trot/jog
- 4) hand gallop

AE.9.3 Describe and demonstrate tempo, rhythm, impulsion, tracking up.

AE.9.4 Describe the effects of tempo, rhythm, impulsion and tracking up on the rider.

AE.9.5 Identify and relate to form and function common conformation faults of the horse.

### **AE.10.0 Selection and Training**

AE.10.1 Explain the characteristics of a horse in various EAAT programs.

AE.10.2 Know how to train to the various needs of an EAAT program, including:

- 1) leaders and sidewalkers
- 2) assistive devices, such as ambulation aids and communication devices
- 3) mounting equipment such as ramps, blocks and lifts
- 4) game equipment
- 5) mounting procedures
- 6) dismounting procedures
- 7) student behaviors

AE.10.3 Design, implement and recognize the individual needs for a conditioning, schooling and maintenance program for EAAT horses including:

- 1) schooling and conditioning
- 2) suppling
- 3) lungeing
- 4) record keeping
- 5) training progression
- 6) vices

AE.10.4 Know how conditioning relates to performance.

AE.10.5 Identify conformation faults and how they affect the function of the therapeutic riding horse.

AE.10.6 Recognize common conformation faults of the horse.

## **AH - HORSEMANSHIP**

### **AH.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety**

AH.1.1 Know and demonstrate the following:

- 1) haltering and leading
- 2) tying and safety knot
- 3) grooming and tacking
- 4) proper riding attire

### **AH.2.0 Mounting and Dismounting**

AH.2.1 Know and demonstrate:

- 1) mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block/ramp
- 2) how to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
- 3) an equipment check prior to mounting
- 4) stirrup adjustment prior to mounting

### **AH.3.0 Position**

AH.3.1 Know and demonstrate effective position at the:

- 1) walk - free walk and working walk
- 2) trot or jog - sitting
- 3) trot - posting
- 4) canter or lope
- 5) two point at the walk, trot/jog and canter/lope
- 6) walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot, canter/lope without stirrups
- 7) two point at the walk and trot or jog without stirrups
- 8) reinback
- 9) hand gallop

AH.3.2 Know and demonstrate shortening and lengthening reins.

### **AH.4.0 Gaits**

AH.4.1 Know and demonstrate:

- 1) walk - free walk and working walk
- 2) trot or jog - sitting
- 3) trot/jog - posting on correct diagonal
- 4) canter or lope on correct lead
- 5) reinback
- 6) change of diagonals at the trot/jog
- 7) lengthening and shortening at the walk and trot/jog
- 8) hand gallop

AH.4.2 Know and demonstrate different degrees of contact for all gaits.

AH.4.3 Know and demonstrate straightness of the horse during all gaits.

AH.4.4 Know and demonstrate the following transitions:

- 1) walk to trot/jog
- 2) canter/lope to walk
- 3) walk to canter/lope
- 4) canter/lope to trot/jog

5) trot/jog to canter/lope

6) canter/lope to halt

7) trot/jog to walk

8) walk to halt

9) trot/jog to halt

### **AH.5.0 Aids**

AH.5.1 Know and demonstrate the following natural aids:

- 1) hands
- 2) voice
- 3) legs
- 4) weight
- 5) seat

AH.5.2 Know and demonstrate appropriate use of the artificial aids.

AH.5.3 Know and demonstrate the following rein aids:

- 1) direct
- 2) neck rein
- 3) leading/opening
- 4) pulley rein
- 5) indirect rein

AH.5.4 Know and demonstrate the following leg aids:

- 1) both legs at the same time
- 3) leg at the girth
- 4) alternating leg aids
- 5) leg behind the girth

### **AH.6.0 Movements**

AH.6.1 Know and demonstrate the following lateral movements:

- 1) turn on the forehand
- 2) leg yield at the walk and trot or jog
- 3) side pass
- 4) shoulder in
- 5) haunches in
- 6) bending
- 7) pivots/turn on haunches

AH.6.2 Know and demonstrate half halts.

AH.6.3 Recognize and demonstrate riding on effective contact.

AH.6.4 Know and demonstrate simple change of lead through the trot.

### **AH.7.0 Ring Figures**

AH.7.1 Know and demonstrate the following ring figures:

- 1) various changes of rein
- 2) half circle in reverse
- 3) circles
- 4) serpentines
- 5) figure eights
- 6) spirals
- 7) half circles

## **AH.8.0 Exercises and Games**

- AH.8.1 Know and demonstrate mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot/jog and canter/lope.
- AH.8.2 Know and demonstrate riding without stirrups at the walk and sitting trot/jog, posting trot, canter/lope, two point.
- AH.8.3 Know and demonstrate safe use of ground poles at walk, sitting trot/jog, posting trot and two point.
- AH.8.4 Know and demonstrate design and set up of obstacle course.
- AH.8.5 Know and demonstrate proper spacing of ground poles.
- AH.8.6 Know and demonstrate safe and effective lungeing of the horse.
- AH.8.7 Know and demonstrate suppling exercises for the horse.

## **AI - INSTRUCTION**

### **AI.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety**

- AI.1.1 Instruct the following:
  - 1) grooming and tacking
  - 2) tying and safety knot
  - 3) haltering and leading
  - 4) proper riding attire
  - 5) proper spacing when leading or riding in a group
- AI.1.2 Orient student to facility, stable rules and safety rules.
- AI.1.3 Select horse for individual riders according to:
  - 1) behavior
  - 2) movement quality
  - 3) temperament
  - 4) physical characteristics such as height, width and size
  - 5) training
- AI.1.4 Instruct a group lesson of three or more mounted riders
- AI.1.5 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding lesson area.

### **AI.2.0 Mounts and Dismounts**

- AI.2.1 Instruct the following:
  - 1) mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block
  - 2) how to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
  - 3) equipment check prior to mounting
  - 4) stirrup adjustment prior to mounting
  - 5) independent, partially assisted, fully assisted mounts from the ground, block and ramp
  - 6) the volunteer team on effective assistance during mounting and dismounting

## **AI.3.0 Position**

- AI.3.1 Instruct correct position at the:
  - 1) halt
  - 2) canter or lope
  - 3) walk - free and working walk
  - 4) two point at walk, trot, canter
  - 5) trot or jog - sitting
  - 6) rein back
  - 7) trot - posting
  - 8) walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot without stirrups

- AI.3.2 Instruct lengthening and shortening of reins

## **AI.4.0 Gaits**

- AI.4.1 Instruct:
  - 1) walk - free walk and working walk
  - 2) trot (sitting) or jog
  - 3) trot - posting on correct diagonal
  - 4) canter or lope on correct lead
  - 5) change of diagonals at the trot
  - 6) reinback
  - 7) change of diagonals at the trot
  - 8) lengthening and shortening at the walk and trot/jog
  - 9) hand gallop
- AI.4.2 Instruct different degrees of contact at all gaits.
- AI.4.3 Instruct straightness of the horse at all gaits.
- AI.4.4 Instruct the following transitions:
  - 1) walk to halt
  - 2) trot/jog to halt
  - 3) walk to trot/jog
  - 4) trot/jog to walk
  - 5) walk to trot/jog to canter/lope
  - 6) canter/lope to walk
  - 7) walk to canter/lope
  - 8) canter/lope to trot/jog
  - 9) trot/jog to canter/lope
  - 10) canter/lope to halt

## **AI.5.0 Aids**

- AI.5.1 Instruct the following natural aids:
  - 1) hands
  - 2) legs
  - 3) seat
  - 4) voice
  - 5) weight
- AI.5.2 Instruct the appropriate use of the following artificial aids such as:
  - 1) crop
  - 2) martingales
  - 3) spurs
  - 4) other adaptations and their function
- AI.5.3 Instruct the following rein aids:
  - 1) leading / opening

- 2) indirect
- 3) direct
- 4) neck rein

AI.5.4 Instruct the following leg aids:

- 1) both legs at the same time
- 2) leg at the girth
- 3) alternating leg aids
- 4) leg behind the girth

### **AI.6.0 Movements**

AI.6.1 Instruct the following lateral movements:

- 1) turn on the forehand
- 2) bending a horse through corners, on circles and ring figures
- 3) leg yield
- 4) shoulder in
- 5) haunches in
- 6) turn on the haunches

AI.6.2 Instruct half halts

AI.6.3 Instruct simple change of lead through the trot

### **AI.7.0 Ring Figures**

AI.7.1 Instruct the following ring figures:

- 1) changes the rein
- 2) half circles
- 3) circles
- 4) half circle in reverse
- 5) figure eight
- 6) serpentine

### **AI.8.0 Exercises and Games**

AI.8.1 Instruct mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot or jog.

AI.8.2 Instruct riding without stirrups at the walk and sitting trot, posting trot, canter or lope.

AI.8.3 Instruct riding over ground poles at walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot and two points.

AI.8.4 Instruct riders through an obstacle course.

AI.8.5 Utilize appropriate games in the riding setting.

AI.8.6 Instruct a rider on a lunge line.

### **AI.9.0 Ground and Stable Lessons**

AI.9.1 Instruct ground stable management lessons that are within the knowledge requirements of the advanced instructor level.

## **AT – TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

### **AT.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards and Information**

AT.1.1 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards.

AT.1.2 Know PATH Intl. services.

AT.1.3 Know PATH Intl. Instructor Certification Program.

AT.1.4 Know and implement the policies and procedures related to all emergency situations and house rules of the center.

### **AT.2.0 Record Keeping**

AT.2.1 Verify that the student forms are complete and updated for students the instructor teaches.

AT.2.2 Interpret student forms and apply the information to the EAAT setting.

AT.2.3 Write and maintain progress notes on participants.

AT.2.4 Complete incident report as needed.

AT.2.5 Comply with confidentiality requirements.

AT.2.6 Process rider forms.

### **AT.3.0 Lesson Plans**

AT.3.1 Assess the participant's skills, goals and objectives for the individual participant.

AT.3.2 Develop a lesson plan to achieve the goals and objectives incorporating appropriate riding skills.

AT.3.3 Choose activities and skills suitable for the objective of the lesson

AT.3.4 Know and utilize individual planning tools such as Individual Education Plan (IEP), ISP, etc.

AT.3.5 Demonstrate organization in the lesson sequence that promotes progression.

### **AT.4.0 Teaching**

AT.4.1 Know and demonstrate teaching skills applicable to the advanced instructor level, to include:

- 1) safe and effective mounting and dismounting procedures
- 2) flexibility and adaptability in pursuit of stated teaching objectives
- 3) teaches to level of student's physical and cognitive ability
- 4) fair and consistent in applying standards of behavior
- 5) shows genuine interest in each student
- 6) progresses participants toward independence
- 7) effective use of volunteers
- 8) appropriate games and exercises
- 9) appropriate specific praise
- 10) adapts and corrects equipment
- 11) provide whats, hows, whys
- 12) flexibility of teaching techniques
- 13) posture corrections
- 14) progression of equitation skills
- 15) rapport
- 16) teaches at individual rider's level
- 17) teaching environment
- 18) gives clear and concise instructions
- 19) control of class
- 20) ring presence
- 21) effective communication techniques

AT.4.2 Possess instructor attributes, to include:

- 1) common sense

- 2) professionalism
- 3) ethical
- 4) punctual
- 5) organized
- 6) respect for riders and horses
- 7) patience
- 8) self-confidence
- 9) positive attitude
- 10) team player
- 11) knowledge of subject at instructor skill level
- 12) Understanding of horse behavior

AT.4.3 Meet annual continuing education requirements for the advanced instructor (20 hours, current adult/child CPR and first aid, maintain PATH Intl. membership).

#### **AT.5.0 Methods**

AT.5.1 Know and address the different learning styles of riders including:

- 1) auditory
- 2) kinesthetic
- 3) visual

AT.5.2 Know and use behavior management techniques to maintain class control.

AT.5.3 Develop the instructional team to include the role of:

- 1) instructor
- 2) support professionals
- 3) therapist
- 4) teamwork concepts
- 5) volunteer team

AT.5.4 Identify and manage dysfunctional behaviors.

AT.5.5 Provide initial and ongoing team training.

AT.5.6 Work with instructional team (instructors, therapists, volunteers, students, families and care providers), including:

- 1) develop rapport
- 2) provide direction to leader and sidewalkers during lesson
- 3) assign volunteers to riders
- 4) provide feedback to team members
- 5) reward team members

AT.5.7 Determine rider placement according to disability, age, size, skill/ability.

AT.5.8 Know and implement the following teaching techniques:

- 1) cueing
- 2) repetition
- 3) modeling
- 4) prompting
- 5) scaffolding

AT.5.9 Know and implement the following teaching prompts and cues:

- 1) gradual guidance
- 2) tactile
- 3) hand over hand
- 4) verbal
- 5) independent
- 6) visual

AT.5.10 Know, develop and evaluate a task analysis.

AT.5.11 Develop and utilize a teaching system that is challenging, educational and promotes skill progression.

### **AD- DISABILITIES**

AD.1.0 Know human anatomy.

AD.1.1 Identify parts of the human skeleton.

AD.1.2 Know the terminology related to movement and posture.

AD.1.3 Know the muscles that are important in equine activities.

AD.1.4 Know parts of the brain.

#### **AD.2.0 Disabilities**

AD.2.1 Know precautions and contraindications to therapeutic horsemanship.

AD.2.2 Know definition, causes, characteristics and teaching techniques for the following disabilities:

- 1) Amputation
- 2) Apraxia
- 3) Arthritis
- 4) Asthma
- 5) Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder
- 6) Autism spectrum disorder
- 7) Behavior disorders
- 8) Cerebral palsy
- 9) Cerebral vascular accident
- 10) Developmentally delayed
- 11) Down syndrome
- 12) Dwarfism
- 13) Emotionally disturbed
- 14) Epilepsy
- 15) Fetal alcohol syndrome - effect
- 16) Hearing impaired
- 17) Hydrocephalus
- 18) Intellectual disabilities
- 19) Learning disabilities
- 20) Limb deficiencies
- 21) Multiple sclerosis
- 22) Muscular dystrophy
- 23) Poliomyelitis
- 24) Post-traumatic stress disorder
- 25) Scoliosis
- 26) Seizures
- 27) Spina bifida
- 28) Spinal cord injury
- 29) Traumatic brain injury

- 30) Visual impairment
- 31) Other disabilities that one may teach

- AD.2.3 Know and demonstrate where to find current information pertaining to disabilities.
- AD.2.4 Self-evaluate instructional capabilities, facility environment, horse and personnel to determine riders that can be accepted as students.
- AD.2.5 Know the benefits of EAAT specific to individual disabilities.
- AD.2.6 Know the realms of therapeutic riding.
- AD.2.7 Know and demonstrate effective and respectful handling techniques for mounting, dismounting, postural alignment.
- AD.2.8 Know and demonstrate safe and effective body mechanics during mounting and dismounting.