PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP INTERNATIONAL
HIGHER EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

REGISTERED LEVEL CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

Register Instructor:

Course Objective: Includes preparation of candidates to become safe, knowledgeable, and effective therapeutic riding instructors consistent with the levels of PATH Intl. Instructor Certification.

The following hours are mandatory minimum requirements. Individual institutions/centers may increase the hours according to their design of the course.

A PATH Intl. Registered Instructor must be competent in basic levels of equine management, horsemanship, riding instruction, teaching methodologies and disabilities. The list below itemizes the skills and subject matter that a registered instructor is expected to know and/or demonstrate. “Know” indicates the knowledge of what a movement or skill is, how it is performed, the aids to accomplish the skill, and the purpose or benefit of the movement. “Demonstrate” indicates the ability to apply the appropriate aids and perform the skill. The registered instructor must be able to perform those skills which are criteria to be taught to students.

Please indicate in the space provided the course name/code where criteria will be incorporated.

RE. EQUINE MANAGEMENT

RE.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards

__________ RE.1.1 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation for horse care, maintenance, and usage

__________ RE.1.2 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding the use of safety equipment and adaptive equipment

RE.2.0 Breeds/ Colors/ Markings/ Parts of the Horse

__________ RE.2.1 Identify a horse by age, color and markings, breed characteristics, height and weight

__________ RE.2.2 Know the parts of the horse

RE.3.0 Horse Senses and Behavior

__________ RE.3.1 Know the characteristics of the senses of the horse

__________ RE.3.2 Know the characteristics of horse behavior

__________ RE.3.3 Know how the senses of the horse and horse behavior affect the safety of the riding setting.

__________ RE.3.4 Identify stable vices including cribbing, weaving, biting and kicking, wood chewing

RE.4.0 Feeds and Feeding

__________ RE.4.1 Know feed requirements of the horse including: hay, salt and minerals, grain, feeding intervals, water

__________ RE.4.2 Recognize signs of poor quality feed
RE.5.0 Stable Management

RE.5.1 Identify appropriate protection for horses including: fly masks and bonnets, shelter, fly repellents

RE.5.2 Know horse manure handling methods for sanitary conditions of stall and turn out areas

RE.5.3 Identify bedding materials

RE.5.4 Identify potential stall hazards

RE.6.0 Health and Sickness

RE.6.1 Know and recognize the signs of:
- behavior change
- rabies
- heat stroke
- colic
- ringworm
- stress
- dental problems
- good health
- thrush
- infectious diseases
- laminitis
- weight loss

RE.6.2 Know and recognize when a horse is unsound

RE.6.3 Identify normal ranges and how to take TPR: (temperature, pulse, respiration)

RE.6.4 Describe deworming, vaccination, hoof and teeth care programs

RE.6.5 Know first aid treatment for wounds

RE.7.0 Grooming

RE.7.1 Identify and explain the use of grooming tools including:
- curry comb
- mane or tail comb
- hard brush or dandy
- shedding blade
- soft brush or body
- sponges
- hoof pick
- sweat scraper

RE.7.2 Know how to give a horse a bath

RE.7.3 Know how to cool down a horse following a work session

RE.7.4 Know how to clip a horse for maintenance including:
- bridle path, fetlock, muzzle

RE.8.0 Tack and Tacking

RE.8.1 Identify and know the purpose, use, and function of:
- bits: snaffle and curb
- bitless bridles
- bridles
- saddles: english and western
- saddle pads
- bareback pads
- adaptive equipment
- breast plates and collars
- safety stirrups
- safety helmets
- surcingles

RE.8.2 Know the parts of english and western saddles and bridles

RE.8.3 Know how to tack a horse

RE.8.4 Select and evaluate equipment needs for riders and horses including:
- type of saddle and bridle
- how saddle affects rider position
- how bridle and saddle affect horse
adaptive equipment

RE.8.5 Know how to fit tack to horses and riders
RE.8.6 Know how to educate team, including riders and volunteers, in the use of the equipment
RE.8.7 Know and demonstrate tack cleaning, care, and maintenance

RE.9.0. Unsoundness and Blemishes / Form to Function
RE.9.1 Recognize the difference between a blemish and an unsoundness
RE.9.2 Identify and describe the foot falls and beats of the:
walk, trot or jog, canter or lope

RE.10.0 Selection and Training
RE.10.1 Explain the characteristics of a therapy horse
RE.10.2 Know how to train a horse to accept:
leaders and side walkers, ambulation aids
mounting ramps and blocks, game equipment
mounting procedures
RE.10.3 Recognize the need for a conditioning and maintenance program for therapeutic riding horses including:
longeing, schooling, record keeping

RH. HORSEMANSHIP

RH.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety
RH.1.1 Know and demonstrate the following:
haltering and leading, tying and safety knot
grooming and tacking, proper riding attire

RH.2.0 Mounting and Dismounting
RH.2.1 Know and demonstrate:
mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block/ ramp
how to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
an equipment check prior to mounting
stirrup adjustment prior to mounting

RH.3.0 Position
RH.3.1 Know and demonstrate a secure seat and correct alignment at all gaits
RH.3.2 Know and demonstrate correct position, posture and alignment at the:
walk- free walk and working walk
trot (sitting) or jog
trot- posting
canter or lope	
two point at the walk and trot or jog
walk and sitting trot or jog without stirrups
reinback
RH.3.3 Know and demonstrate shortening and lengthening reins
RH.4.0 Gaits

_________ RH.4.1 Know and demonstrate:
walk- free walk and working walk
canter or lope on correct lead
trot or jog- sitting
reinback
trot- posting on correct diagonal
change of diagonals at the trot

_________ RH.4.2 Know and demonstrate light contact for all gaits

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

_________ RH.4.4 Know and demonstrate control of the horse at all gaits

_________ RH.4.5 Know and demonstrate the following transitions:
walk to trot/jog
canter/lope to walk
walk or trot/jog to canter/lope
walk to halt
trot/jog to walk

_________ RH.4.6 Know how to warm-up a horse prior to a work session

RH.5.0 Aids

_________ RH5.1 Know and demonstrate the following natural aids:
hands seat
legs voice

_________ RH.5.2 Identify and know the purpose of spurs

_________ RH.5.3 Know and demonstrate appropriate use of the following artificial aid: crop

_________ RH.5.4 Know and demonstrate the following rein aids:
leading / opening neck rein direct rein

_________ RH.5.5 Know and demonstrate the following leg aids:
both legs at the same time leg at the girth
alternating leg aids leg behind the girth

RH.6.0 Movements

_________ RH.6.1 Know turn on the forehand

_________ RH.6.2 Know and demonstrate bending a horse through corners and on circles

_________ RH.6.3 Know and demonstrate half halt or check

RH.7.0 Ring Figures

_________ RH.7.1 Know and demonstrate the following ring figures:
change of rein half circles
circles serpentine figure eight
**RH.8.0 Exercises and Games**

- RH.8.1 Know and demonstrate mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot or jog.
- RH.8.2 Know and demonstrate riding without stirrups at the walk and sitting trot or jog.
- RH.8.3 Know and demonstrate ground poles at walk, trot or jog, and two point.
- RH.8.4 Know and demonstrate design and set up of obstacle course.
- RH.8.5 Know and demonstrate proper spacing of ground poles.
- RH.8.6 Know how to longe a horse.

**RI. INSTRUCTION**

**RI.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety**

- RI.1.1 Instruct the following:
  - grooming and tacking
  - tying and safety knot
  - haltering and leading
  - proper riding attire
  - proper spacing when leading or riding in a group
  - warming up a horse appropriately
- RI.1.2 Orient student to facility, stable rules, and safety rules.
- RI.1.3 Select horse for individual riders according to:
  - behavior
  - movement quality
  - temperament
  - height
  - size
- RI.1.4 Instruct a group lesson of two or more riders.
- RI.1.5 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding lesson area.

**RI.2.0 Mounts and Dismounts**

- RI.2.1 Instruct the following:
  - mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block
  - how to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
  - equipment check prior to mounting
  - stirrup adjustment prior to mounting
  - independent, partially assisted, fully assisted mounts from the ground, block and ramp.

**RI.3.0 Position**

- RI.3.1 Instruct correct position at the:
  - halt
  - canter or lope
  - walk- free and working walk
  - two point at walk and trot
  - trot (sitting) or jog
  - rein-back
  - trot- posting
- RI.3.2 Instruct lengthening and shortening of reins.
RI.4.0 Gaits

 RI.4.1 Instruct:
walk- free walk and working walk
trot( sitting) or jog
trot- posting on correct diagonal
canter or lope on correct lead
change of diagonals at the trot

 RI.4.2 Instruct light contact at all gaits

 RI.4.3 Instruct straightness of the horse at all gaits

 RI.4.4 Instruct the following transitions:
walk to halt	trot/jog to walk
walk to trot/jog
canter/lope to walk
walk to trot/jog to canter/lope	walk to canter/lope

RI.5.0 Aids

 RI.5.1 Instruct the following natural aids:
hands seat legs voice

 RI.5.2 Instruct the appropriate use of the following artificial aids: crop

 RI.5.3 Instruct the following rein aids:
leading /opening neck rein direct rein

 RI.5.4 Instruct the following leg aids:
both legs at the same time leg at the girth
alternating leg aids leg behind the girth

RI.6.0 Ring Figures

 RI.6.1 Instruct the following ring figures:
change the rein figure eight
circles half circles

RI.7.0 Exercises and Games

 RI.7.1 Instruct mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot or jog

 RI.7.2 Instruct riding without stirrups at the walk

 RI.7.3 Instruct riding over ground poles at walk, sitting trot or jog, and
two point

 RI.7.4 Instruct riders through an obstacle course

 RI.7.5 Utilize appropriate games in the riding setting

RI.8.0 Ground and Stable lessons

 RI.8.1 Instruct ground stable management lessons that are within the
knowledge requirements of the registered instructor level.
RT. TEACHING METHODOLOGY

RT.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards and Information

_______ RT.1.1 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretations regarding student forms
_______ RT.1.2 Know PATH Intl. services available to the instructor
_______ RT.1.3 Locate information about PATH Intl. Standards and Accreditation process
_______ RT.1.4 Know PATH Intl. Instructor Certification program
_______ RT.1.5 Know and practice emergency procedures
_______ RT.1.6 Know the location of the phone and emergency numbers

RT.2.0 Record Keeping

_______ RT.2.1 Verify that the student forms are complete and updated for students that the instructor teaches
_______ RT.2.2 Interpret student forms and apply the information to the riding setting
_______ RT.2.3 Write and maintain progress notes on riders
_______ RT.2.4 Complete incident report as needed
_______ RT.2.5 Comply with confidentiality requirements regarding students

RT.3.0 Lesson Plans

_______ RT.3.1 Assess rider skills and determine goals and objectives for each individual rider
_______ RT.3.2 Develop a lesson plan to achieve the goals and objectives
_______ RT.3.3 Choose activities and skills suitable for the objective of the lesson

RT.4.0 Teaching

_______ RT.4.1 Know and demonstrate teaching skills applicable to the registered instructor level, to include:
teaching a riding skill
safe and effective mounting and dismounting procedures
flexibility and adaptability in pursuit of stated teaching objectives
teaching to level of students emotional learning, physical and cognitive ability
fairness and consistent in applying standards of behavior
shows genuine interest in each student
progress towards independence effective use of volunteers
appropriate games and exercises appropriate praise
adapts and corrects equipment provide whats, hows, whys
flexibility of teaching techniques posture corrections
progression of equitation skills rapport
teaching at individual rider's level teaching environment
giving clear and concise instructions control of class
ring presence
safe spacing and procedures

RT.4.2 Possess instructor attributes, to include:
common sense professionalism
ethical punctual
organized respect for riders and horses
patience self confidence
positive attitude team player
knowledge of subject at instructor skill level
ability to self-reflect independently

RT.4.3 Meet annual continuing education requirements for the registered instructor (20 hours, current CPR and first aid, maintain PATH Intl. Membership)

RT.5.0 Methods
RT.5.1 Know that riders learn in different ways
RT.5.2 Use simple behavior management techniques to maintain class control
RT.5.3 Work with instructional team (instructors, therapists, volunteers, students, families and care providers) including:
develop rapport
provide direction to leader and side walkers during lesson
assign volunteers to riders
provide feedback to team members
reward team members
RT.5.4 Identify dysfunctional behavior

RD. DISABILITIES
RD.1.0 Human Anatomy
RD.1.1 Identify parts of the human skeleton including:
clavicle humerus tibia
cranium pelvis ulna
femur radius vertebrae
fibula scapula
RD.1.2 Know the following movement terminology:
abduction extension rotation
adduction flexion

RD.2.0 Disabilities
RD.2.1 Know precautions and contraindications to therapeutic riding
RD.2.2 Know definition, causes, characteristics and teaching management for rider's disabilities that the instructor teaches
RD.2.3 Locate information pertaining to all disabilities
RD.2.4 Self-evaluate instructional capabilities, facility environment, horse and
personnel to determine riders that can be accepted as students

________ RD.2.5 Know the benefits of therapeutic riding
________ RD.2.6 Know the realms of therapeutic riding
________ RD.2.7 Know and demonstrate handling techniques for mounting, dismounting, postural alignment
________ RD.2.8 Know and demonstrate good body mechanics during mounting and dismounting.

The following is a list of requirements for students to be eligible for PATH Intl. Registered Level Certification.

Phase One:
- Current PATH Intl. Individual Membership
- Minimum of 18 years of age
- Current First Aid/CPR cards (on-line not accepted)
- Completed PATH Intl. Equine Management Skills Checklist
- CAT and Self Study course and exam
- Documentation of 25 teaching hours

PATH Intl. CAT (Center Accreditation Training) Course and Exam: This is an on-line course designed to familiarize the candidate with the PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation. Password provided by the PATH Intl. office. The open book exam tests the candidate on the content of the PATH Intl. CAT course, with emphasis on components related to instructor certification.

PATH Intl. Instructor Self-Study Course and Open Book Exam: This is an interactive on-line course designed to help the candidate assess individual strengths and weaknesses. Password provided by the PATH Intl. office. The open book exam will follow this course and test the candidate on the information covered in the course.

Equine Management Skills Checklist: You may begin completing this list at any point. The completed form should be included in your phase one packet in order to have your IT letter is issued.

Documentation of Teaching Hours: These hours of teaching experience need to be acquired while under the guidance or direct supervision of a PATH Intl. Certified Instructor (mentor). Hours without a PATH Intl. mentor's guidance will not be accepted. You can only count hours taught to a group of students (2 or more). Recorded hours must only be actual mounted teaching hours. You can begin counting hours at any time; they cannot be more than 2 years old at the time you attend your certification testing.
The following is a list of requirements needed after completing phase one and before attending the PATH Intl. Higher Education certification event.

Phase Two:
- PATH Intl. Instructor in Training letter (IT)
- Instructor resume
- Professional and personal reference
- PATH Intl. Liability Release
- Center's Confidentiality and Liability Form(s)
- Essay questions

On-Site Certification Components Summary:
Candidates who participate in the on-site certification will be evaluated by two PATH Intl. Certification Evaluators on two components:
1. Riding demonstration (see riding pattern on page 12)
2. Teaching riders with disabilities
   a. At the completion of the certification, candidates will be notified of their results by the evaluators. Candidates will receive a Registered Instructor Summary Sheet and Comment Sheet at the conclusion of the certification. These documents are provided as proof of successful or unsuccessful completion of the certification components.
   b. The results will then be sent to the PATH Intl. office to be processed. Formal notification of the results will be sent to the candidate by the PATH Intl. office via US Mail.

Please note: Candidate certification results will not be official until you receive these formal documents from the PATH Intl. office.

1. Candidates who pass both components:
Candidates will receive formal notification from the PATH Intl. office of your results in the form of a congratulatory letter and an instructor certificate. Annual compliance requirements will be detailed in the letter which must be adhered to in order to maintain your Instructor status. Compliance must be sent to the PATH Intl. office annually on your original membership joined date, not your certification date.

2. Candidates who fail one or both components:
Candidates will receive an official letter from the PATH Intl. office, via certified mail, with reference to resubmission options for failed component. The resubmission process is different for those candidates who fail both components. The failed component(s) must be successfully completed in order for candidate to become certified.
For complete details please review the certification booklet on the PATH Intl. website at www.pathintl.org/resources-education/certifications
PATH INTL. HIGHER EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP
REGISTERED LEVEL RIDING DEMONSTRATION

In order to successfully pass this segment, all candidates must wear an ASTM/SEI approved helmet. Candidates will be required to demonstrate their own riding ability by riding the following pattern.

- Warm-up
- Ride at a walk, trot (jog), and canter (lope) both directions of the arena
- Change the rein through the diagonal
- Circle
- Back
- Halt

After a brief warm-up, execute the following pattern to demonstrate you’re riding skills:

1. Halt. Proceed at the walk
2. Posting Trot
3. Change rein across the diagonal at posting trot
4. Change rein across diagonal at a sitting trot / jog
5. Canter / lope right rein
6. Posting Trot
7. Canter / Lope
8. Sitting trot / jog large circle
9. Sitting trot / jog
10. Walk forward into the center of the arena
11. Halt & back 3 - 4 steps in center of arena
12. Walk forward, halt & dismount in center of arena