Introduction

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) is a nonprofit organization with individual and center members. PATH Intl.’s members represent a cross-section of individuals from various fields, disciplines and professions associated with equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT).

The PATH Intl. mission statement is “PATH Intl. changes and enriches lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities and therapies.”

Acknowledgments

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Standards for Certification & Accreditation reflects the cooperative efforts of many individuals, including the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees, all PATH Intl. committees and staff.

History and Development of Standards

From the organization’s inception in 1969, members have focused on the establishment of guidelines to ensure that participants receive the best possible instruction and that centers adhere to the highest quality standards. The commitment of early leaders to center accreditation and instructor certification has become a cornerstone of the organization. PATH Intl.’s goals and objectives have continued to place emphasis on the importance of these programs.

Initially, standards were developed and assessed by instructor certification examinations. By 1974, work began on the first accreditation program. Regional examiners reviewed the first centers in 1975. By 1980, the accreditation process was streamlined under the Standards and Education Committees and the examining team was enlarged. Initially, the association absorbed the expense of the on-site accreditation process. As demand for accreditation increased, an accreditation fee was borne by the centers. Despite fears to the contrary, the number of applicants grew.

Membership in the association and the resulting demand for accreditation, increased substantially during the 1980s.

The on-site process was hampered by high costs and long waiting periods. In 1989, the process was revised and accreditation was granted after the Accreditation Sub-Committee made a thorough review of videotapes, photographs and written documentation submitted by centers.

In 1990, the first edition of Standards for Centers was adopted by the association’s (then known as NARHA) Board and presented to the membership. The document was published in the NARHA Guide and distributed to all members.

The association’s Board of Trustees appointed a task force in 1993 to develop a process of on-site accreditation.

In 1994, the task force submitted to the board and members a process for on-site accreditation using peer review and objective assessments of voluntary compliance with industry standards. The new process met with enthusiastic approval from both groups, and the association prepared to implement the on-site peer review program in 1996.
The Standards Process

The standards process sets the procedures to propose, evaluate, modify and ultimately change Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International standards to reflect the evolving world of equine-assisted activities and therapies.

1. Any individual, committee, section, affiliate or nonmember may request consideration for the need to develop a standard. Such requests shall be communicated in writing to the PATH Intl. office, ATTN: Program and Standards Oversight Committee. The Program and Standards Oversight Committee will consider the request.

2. If approved by the Program and Standards Oversight Committee, the committee will assign a task force to investigate the feasibility of the standard.

3. Once a task force is assigned, the Program and Standards Oversight Committee will appoint a task force chair subject to approval by the PATH Intl. CEO.

4. After the task force has collected and documented input to the standard, the standard is presented to the PATH Intl. Program and Standards Oversight Committee.

5. The Program and Standards Oversight Committee presents the standard to the Strategic Initiative Review Committee (SIRC) for approval for field testing. SIRC either:
   a. Approves the standard for field test.
   b. Disapproves the standard for field test.
   c. Refers the standard directly to the board for immediate action.

6. If approved for field test, the standard is published in the next edition of the *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification & Accreditation*. The membership is notified of the field test standard through PATH Intl. publications.

7. If the standard is disapproved, the originator will be notified by the Program and Standards Oversight Committee.

8. If the standard is approved for implementation, it will either be published in the next edition of the *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification & Accreditation* or distributed directly and promptly to the membership through PATH Intl. publications. The PATH Intl. Board of Trustees will determine the effective date.

9. When a standard is being tested in the field, it is scored during accreditation site visits and by the PATH Intl. Membership remitting feedback. The Accreditation Sub-Committee reviews the scores and feedback. If a trend emerges that suggests a revision of intent, the standard is automatically referred back to the task force from which it originated. After the task force has made the necessary changes to the standard, it is presented to the Program and Standards Oversight Committee for approval.

10. Field test standards that fail in greater than 30% of the site visits of centers that have practical application are referred back to the task force of origin.
11. The Accreditation Sub-Committee recommends to the PATH Intl. Program and Standards Oversight Committee that a field test standard is mature enough to be put to the membership to vote. The PATH Intl. Program and Standards Oversight Committee determines if the field test standards are ready for a vote.

12. The Program and Standards Oversight Committee is responsible for holding the standards hearing at every possible PATH Intl. regional and international conference in years that there are standards in field test. Representatives from standards development task force(s) or individuals selected to represent the task force(s) are asked to be present to record and report feedback. The standards hearing is a formal event. It is public and open to all who have a vested interest in the proceedings. The procedure at the standards hearing will include the following:

- Officials presiding shall include a reader and a recorder. Other officials may include a moderator and representatives of standards development task forces or special interest groups as determined by the PATH Intl. Program and Standards Oversight Committee.
- All field test standards are heard at PATH Intl. region conferences. Field test standards being voted on in the current year are heard at the PATH Intl. conference. The forum at the international conference may include other standards in field test if time permits.
- All field test standards being heard are available to the audience in printed media (either on paper or displayed to the group on a screen).
- All field test standards being heard are presented orally.
- The reader presents visually and verbally each field test standard individually. Members of the audience are allowed three minutes each to address each field test standard. The recorder documents all discussion in the form of minutes. The hearing may be videotaped or audio recorded.

13. The recorder will submit the minutes of the hearing to the PATH Intl. Program and Standards Oversight Committee Chair within 7 days of the close of the hearing. The Program and Standards Oversight Committee Chair will pass these minutes to the Program and Standards Oversight Committee members.

14. At the international conference, the standards voting session is open to the public for observation only. There will be no discussion during the voting session. The field test standards are individually read aloud and depicted visually. Each Membership Oversight Committee Region Representative will cast a pass or non-pass vote for every standard.

15. The results of the standards votes are presented to the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees for ratification. The PATH Intl. Board of Trustees shall determine final action.
Standards for Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Centers

Content of Standards

Administration and Business Standards:
Include organization, emergency procedures, safety regulations, risk management, business practices, documentation and written policies and procedures.

Facility Standards:
Include safety and maintenance of buildings, grounds and activity area, equipment storage and maintenance.

Equine Welfare and Management Standards:
Include equine management, equipment and care.

Activity Standards:
Mounted
Driving
Interactive vaulting
Ground

Service Standards:
Equestrian Skills (The goal/outcome of a session is for the participant to gain equestrian skills.)
Medical/Mental Health (The goal/outcome for the participant is achieved by a licensed/credentialed health care professional. This section includes standards relating to hippotherapy, equine-facilitated psychotherapy and direct service health care providers.)

Field Test Standards:
A standard or a group of standards that are placed before the membership for evaluation and review prior to becoming a standard.
Composition of the Standards
A3 (Standard number)

The bold type text following the standard number is considered the “standard.” For scoring purposes, centers are responsible to meet the requirements identified in bold type (i.e., the standards).

1. If the standard has numbered subparts, all numbered subparts must be in compliance in order to answer yes to the standard.

   Yes   No

Compliance Demonstration: Explains the method(s) the visitors will use to determine compliance with the standard.

Interpretation: This text is to help the center and the visitor understand the intent of the standard and to serve as an educational tool.

Some standard numbers are preceded with an * and followed by the word MANDATORY. Compliance with standards marked * MANDATORY are required for center accreditation.

Some standards are preceded with DNA (does not apply) and text outlining the rationale to be used to determine if the standard is to be scored by the visitor. This rationale is the only reason for not scoring the standard.

Disclaimer

The purpose of these standards is to educate program directors, program personnel/staff and the public regarding practices and procedures followed within the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) industry. The purpose is furthered to the extent that the standards provide a basis for accreditation of member programs by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International. It should be understood that each standard or each part of every standard may not be applicable to all EAAT programs. Further, it is not the intention of PATH Intl. to attempt to include every practice or procedure that might be desirable for or implemented by a program since conditions, facilities and the goals or objectives of all programs are not identical or uniform. PATH Intl. does not suggest or infer that those who do not follow all of these standards or recommendations engage in unsafe practices. The Premier Accredited Center program of PATH Intl. is designed to be applied only to those member programs that are consistent with the stated definitions and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the identified designations. Programs outside of these definitions or criteria are not subject to PATH Intl. standards and are not considered for accreditation.

In developing and applying these standards in the accreditation process, PATH Intl. does not undertake to verify or otherwise intend to represent the full and continuous adherence by those member programs or directors to any or all applicable standards or guidelines. Nor does PATH Intl. warrant, guarantee or ensure that compliance with these standards will prevent any or all injury, loss or litigation that may be caused by or associated with any person’s use of facilities, equipment, horses or other items or activities that are the content of these standards; nor does PATH Intl. assume any responsibility or liability for any such injury or loss.

Further, PATH Intl. hereby expressly disclaims any responsibility, liability or duty to member programs, directors, program personnel/staff, and to clients/students and their families for any such liability arising out of injury or loss to any person by the failure of such member programs, directors or program personnel/staff to adhere to these standards or guidelines.
Membership Requirements for All Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Centers

These membership requirements apply to all PATH Intl. Centers regardless of accreditation status. Failure to follow these membership requirements may result in loss of good standing status as a PATH Intl. center.

1. All PATH Intl. Centers must have their current center membership in good standing.

2. All instructors at PATH Intl. Centers must be a PATH Intl. Instructor-in-Training (see definition) or hold current PATH Intl. Instructor Certification. Centers must have at least 1 (one) PATH Intl. Instructor-in-Training prior to joining. New PATH Intl. Centers have 12 months from the time their center membership is purchased to acquire a PATH Intl. Certified Instructor.

3. All PATH Intl. Centers must have current insurance coverage in effect at all times that meets or exceeds the insurance requirements as stated in Standard A2. Appropriate insurance coverage must be confirmed to PATH Intl. annually at the time of the center’s renewal. New center members must submit proof of insurance within 30 days of the date their membership application is submitted.

4. All PATH Intl. Centers must be in compliance with all mandatory and applicable standards that apply to their program activities.

5. All PATH Intl. Centers must have a signed Annual Statement of Compliance form on file with PATH Intl. each year. This form is to be filled out and submitted in conjunction with a center’s annual membership renewal.

6. The following changes to a center’s information should be submitted to the PATH Intl. office within 30 days of the change. PATH Intl. Premier accredited centers will have their changes reviewed by the Accreditation Sub-Committee. All changes must be submitted using the appropriate change notification form included in the forms section (Section H) of this manual:
   - Contact information including mailing address, location and primary and secondary contacts
   - Any change in program activities, including the addition or deletion of programs
   - Change in critical personnel including directors, managers and instructors

Facts about PATH Intl. Center Membership:

- All center membership runs January 1st to December 31st. All centers are required to renew their center membership by December 31st each year, regardless of their initial date of joining. Centers that join after the first month of the year may pay a prorated amount for that calendar year’s membership, depending on the month the center joins PATH Intl.

- After one year of membership member centers are eligible to participate in the accreditation program. Centers are not required to participate upon eligibility.

Please feel free to contact the PATH Intl. office if you have questions about PATH Intl. Center Membership.
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International
Brand Policy

STANDARD PATH Intl. LOGO

All communications from PATH Intl. contribute to its brand identity. To protect and provide consistent brand equity, follow brand policy guidelines when using the PATH Intl. logo on all communication materials.

Brand Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communicative Name:</th>
<th>PATH Intl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Name:</td>
<td>Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Mark:</td>
<td>Horse &amp; Rider Silhouette Trademark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seal:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tagline:</td>
<td>Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- PATH Intl. Centers are to use the standard PATH Intl. logo on all promotional materials.
- An electronic version of the logo suitable for reproduction is available by contacting the PATH Intl. office.
- Individual PATH Intl. Members may not use the standard PATH Intl. logo without explicit, written permission from PATH Intl.
- The PATH Intl. logo is to be used by PATH Intl. and other entities upon special permission from PATH Intl.
- When using the PATH Intl. logo, no alterations may be made to the logo. Use the tagline when possible. The registration mark must always be used.
- The corporate mark may not be rotated and must remain in a horizontal position.
- Use the following colors when printing the PATH Intl. logo: Pantone 541, black and white (reversed).
  For black and white ads, print the logo in 100% black.
  If the background is more than 60% gray, print the logo in white (reversed).
  The PATH Intl. office must approve any variations of color.
- The brand components must not be touching or overlaid onto other text or artwork.

Please avoid placing the logo on the left-hand side of the page. The logo is best centered or on the right-hand side of the page.

Important: The PATH Intl. brand is the legal property of PATH Intl. Any violations in its required use are strictly prohibited and use privileges may be taken away.

For any questions concerning brand policy, please contact the international PATH Intl. office at (800) 369-7433.
Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship
International Brand Policy

PATH Intl. PREMIER ACCREDITED CENTER LOGO

All communications from PATH Intl. contribute to its brand identity. To protect and provide consistent brand equity, PATH Intl. asks that you follow brand policy guidelines when using the PATH Intl. logo on all communication materials.

Brand Components

Communicative Name: PATH Intl.
Legal Name: Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International
Corporate Mark: Horse & Rider Silhouette Trademark
Seal: PREMIER ACCREDITED CENTER
Tagline: Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies

- PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers are to use the specialized PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center logo on all promotional materials.
- An electronic version of the logo suitable for reproduction is available by contacting the PATH Intl. office or by downloading it from the Members Only page of the PATH Intl. website.
- Use the artwork provided. No alterations may be made to the logo. Do not delete the words “Premier Accredited Center” or “PATH Intl.” Please use the tagline when possible. The registration mark must always be used.
- The corporate mark may not be rotated and must remain in a horizontal position.
- Use the following colors when printing the PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center logo: Pantone 541, black and white (reversed).
  For black and white ads, print the logo in 100% black.
  If the background is more than 60% gray, print the logo in white (reversed).
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Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Brand Policy

PATH Intl. EQUINE SERVICES FOR HEROES LOGO

Centers may use the PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes logo as long as the center:

• Is a center in good standing with PATH Intl. (fully compliant and membership dues up-to-date)
• Has developed or is in the process of developing for presentation within the next 12 months a PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes program serving military veterans and wounded service personnel

Guidelines for use of the Equine Services for Heroes logo:

• PATH Intl. centers may acquire an electronic version of the logo from the Equine Services for Heroes webpage at www.pathintl.org
• PATH Intl. centers may not use any pictures on the PATH Intl. website associated with the PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes program without express written permission from the PATH Intl. office.
• When using the PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes logo, no alterations should be made to the logo.
• Individual PATH Intl. members may not use the Equine Services for Heroes logo without explicit, written permission from PATH Intl.
• The logo components must not be touching or overlaid onto other text or artwork.
• The PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes logo is the property of PATH Intl. Any violations in its required use are strictly prohibited and use privileges may be revoked.