



PATH Intl. Registered Riding Instructor Criteria



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ADDITIONAL BOOKLETS REGARDING CERTIFICATION (VISIT www.pathintl.org TO DOWNLOAD)

- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED RIDING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION APPLICATION BOOKLET**
- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED RIDING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION BOOKLET**
- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED RIDING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**
- **ANNUAL INSTRUCTOR COMPLIANCE**
- **THE PATH INTL. REGISTERED RIDING INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION GLOSSARY**



MISSION

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

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Registered Instructor Criteria

A PATH Intl. Certified 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 that are criteria to be taught to students.

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, kicking, and 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, and 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, and 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:
 - 1) behavior change
 - 2) colic
 - 3) good health
 - 4) laminitis
 - 5) rabies
 - 6) ringworm
 - 7) thrush
 - 8) weight loss
 - 9) heat stroke
 - 10) stress
 - 11) dental problems
 - 12) infectious diseases
- 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:
- 1) curry comb
 - 2) hard brush or dandy
 - 3) soft brush or body
 - 4) hoof pick
 - 5) mane or tail comb
 - 6) shedding blade
 - 7) sponges
 - 8) 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:
- 1) bridle path
 - 2) fetlock
 - 3) muzzle

RE 8.0 Tack and Tacking

- RE. 8.1 Identify and know the purpose, use and function of:
- 1) bits: snaffle and curb
 - 2) bitless bridles
 - 3) bridles
 - 4) saddles: English and western
 - 5) saddle pads
 - 6) bareback pads
 - 7) adaptive equipment
 - 8) breastplates and collars
 - 9) safety stirrups
 - 10) safety helmets
 - 11) 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:
- 1) type of saddle and bridle
 - 2) how saddle affects rider position
 - 3) how bridle and saddle affect horse
 - 4) 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:
- 1) walk
 - 2) trot or jog

- 3) canter or lope

RE 10.0 Selection and Training

- RE. 10.1 Explain the characteristics of an EAAT horse.
- RE. 10.2 Know how to train a horse to accept:
- 1) leaders and sidewalkers
 - 2) ambulation aids
 - 3) mounting ramps and blocks
 - 4) game equipment
 - 5) mounting procedures
- RE. 10.3 Recognize the need for a conditioning and maintenance program for therapeutic riding horses, including:
- 1) lungeing
 - 2) schooling
 - 3) record keeping

RH - HORSEMANSHIP

RH 1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety

- RH.1.1 Know and demonstrate the following:
- 1) haltering and leading
 - 2) tying and safety knot
 - 3) grooming and tacking
 - 4) proper riding attire

RH 2.0 Mounting and Dismounting

- RH. 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

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:
- 1) walk—free walk and working walk
 - 2) trot (sitting) or jog
 - 3) trot—posting
 - 4) canter or lope
 - 5) two-point at the walk and trot or jog
 - 6) walk and sitting trot or jog without stirrups
 - 7) rein-back
- RH. 3.3 Know and demonstrate shortening and lengthening reins.

RH 4.0 Gaits

RH. 4.1 Know and demonstrate:

- 1) walk—free walk and working walk
- 2) canter or lope on correct lead
- 3) trot or jog—sitting
- 4) rein-back
- 5) trot—posting on correct diagonal
- 6) 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:

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

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

RH 5.0 Aids

RH. 5.1 Know and demonstrate the following natural aids:

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

RH. 5.2 Identify and know the purpose of spurs.

RH. 5.3 Know and demonstrate the appropriate use of the crop, an artificial aid.

RH. 5.4 Know and demonstrate the following rein aids:

- 1) leading/opening
- 2) neck rein
- 3) direct rein

RH. 5.5 Know and demonstrate 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

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:

- 1) change of rein

2) half circles

3) circles

4) serpentine

5) 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 lunge a horse.

RI - INSTRUCTION

RI 1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety

RI. 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
- 6) 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:

- 1) behavior
- 2) movement quality
- 3) temperament
- 4) height
- 5) size

RI. 1.4 Instruct 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:

- 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

RI 3.0 Position

RI. 3.1 Instruct correct position at the:

- 1) halt
- 2) canter or lope
- 3) walk—free and working walk
- 4) two-point at walk and trot
- 5) trot (sitting) or jog
- 6) rein-back
- 7) trot—posting

RI. 3.2 Instruct lengthening and shortening of reins.

RI 4.0 Gaits

RI. 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

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:

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

RI 5.0 Aids

RI. 5.1 Instruct the following natural aids

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

RI. 5.2 Instruct the appropriate use of the crop, an artificial aid.

RI. 5.3 Instruct the following rein aids:

- 1) leading/opening
- 2) neck rein
- 3) direct rein

RI. 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

RI 6.0 Ring Figures

RI. 6.1 Instruct the following ring figures:

- 1) change the rein
- 2) figure eight
- 3) circles

4) 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 certification and accreditation process.

RT. 1.4 Know PATH Intl. Instructor Certification Program.

RT. 1.5 Know and practice emergency procedures, including:

- 1) know and demonstrate an emergency dismount
- 2) know how to respond to an incident

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 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 Lessons Plans

RT. 3.1 Assess rider skills and determine goals and objectives for each individual rider.

RT. 3.2 Develop a lesson plan that includes:

- 1) a riding skill
- 2) a measurable objective related to the stated riding skill

RT. 3.3 Incorporate lesson activities suitable to the objective in the lesson plan.

RT 4.0 Teaching

- RT. 4.1 Know and demonstrate teaching skills applicable to the registered instructor level, including:
- 1) teaching a riding skill
 - 2) safe and effective mounting and dismounting procedures
 - 3) flexibility and adaptability in pursuit of stated teaching objectives
 - 4) teaching to the level of students' emotional learning, physical and cognitive ability
 - 5) fair and consistent in applying standards of behavior
 - 6) genuine interest in each student
 - 7) progress toward independence
 - 8) effective use of volunteers
 - 9) appropriate games and exercises
 - 10) appropriate praise
 - 11) adapts and corrects equipment
 - 12) provides whats, hows, whys
 - 13) flexibility of teaching techniques
 - 14) posture corrections
 - 15) progression of equitation skills
 - 16) rapport
 - 17) teaches at individual rider's level
 - 18) teaching environment
 - 19) giving clear and concise instructions
 - 20) control of class
 - 21) ring presence
 - 22) safe spacing and procedures
- RT. 4.2 Possess instructor attributes, including:
- 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) 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:
- 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
- RT. 5.4 Identify dysfunctional behavior

RD – DISABILITIES

RD 1.0 Human Anatomy

- RD. 1.1 Identify parts of the human skeleton including:
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1) clavicle | 5) pelvis | 9) vertebrae |
| 2) humerus | 6) ulna | 10) fibula |
| 3) tibia | 7) femur | 11) scapula |
| 4) cranium | 8) radius | |
- RD. 1.2 Know the following movement terminology:
- 1) abduction
 - 2) extension
 - 3) rotation
 - 4) adduction
 - 5) 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 riders' disabilities 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 who 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 and postural alignment.
- RD. 2.8 Know and demonstrate good body mechanics during mounting and dismounting.