



PATH Intl.
**Equine Specialist in Mental Health
and Learning Certification Program**
Handbook



PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Program Handbook Table of Contents

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

- **THE PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING CRITERIA BOOKLET**
- **THE PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES BOOKLET**

NOTE: THESE BOOKLETS ARE UPDATED ANNUALLY AT THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. PRIOR TO SUBMITTING A PORTFOLIO, PLEASE VISIT THE ESMHL CERTIFICATION WEBPAGE TO CONFIRM YOU ARE REFERENCING THE MOST RECENT POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PAPERWORK.



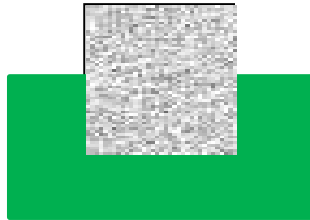
MISSION

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

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The PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Application Process

We are thrilled you are interested in pursuing the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification! We look forward to helping you achieve your certification goals.

VOCATIONAL PROFILE OF AN EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING

A PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL) ensures the safety and well-being of the equine participating in equine-facilitated mental health and learning sessions. She/he serves as the equine expert during equine/human interactions. The ESMHL works with mental health or education providers delivering services, incorporating equines in their practice, within the scope of their profession. An ESMHL must be knowledgeable in horsemanship and understands how to collaborate with a mental health therapist and/or educator to best meet the client's needs and keep the lesson safe. ESMHLs also have a general knowledge of mental health and education processes.

ESMHLs have a thorough understanding of the ways equine behavior affect human responses and evaluate the role of the equine during the mental health or education sessions they supervise. The ESMHL maintains responsibility for the equine, assesses the equine's response to any interactions, and prohibits or stops any activity that compromises the well-being of the equine. She/he ensures that equine interactions within the session are safe.

STEPS TO CERTIFICATION:

Step 1: Application Phase

Complete an on-site equine specialist in mental health and learning workshop and horsemanship skills test* at a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center.

* Completion of only the workshop and skills test does NOT result in certification being awarded. Read on for additional steps in the certification process.

Criteria to register for an on-site equine specialist in mental health and learning workshop and/or horsemanship skills test:

- 1) 21 years of age or older
- 2) Current PATH Intl. member
- 3) Current adult & child CPR and first aid certifications

Step 2: Portfolio Submission

Within two years of completing an on-site equine specialist in mental health and learning workshop and one year following successful completion of the horsemanship skills test, candidates may submit their certification application and portfolio to PATH Intl.

Step 3: Online Exams

Following acceptance of their portfolio, candidates will be enrolled in the online PATH Intl. Standards Course and equine specialist in mental health and learning exams. Successful completion of the exams is required for certification to be awarded.

Step 4: Certification issued by PATH Intl.

Within 45 days of earning passing scores on the online exams, candidates will receive confirmation from PATH Intl. via mail that Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification has been awarded.

Application Phase

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Be a PATH Intl. member
- Obtain adult & child CPR and first aid certifications
(100% online courses are accepted)
- Submit accommodation request (if applicable)
- Attend a PATH Intl. on-site Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning workshop
(valid for two years)
- Complete Horsemanship Skills Test
(valid for one year)

Portfolio Submission

1) Documentation of:

- Current PATH Intl. Membership
- Current adult & child CPR and first aid certifications
- Certificate of completion for PATH Intl. ESMHL workshop
(max of two years old)
- PATH Intl. Horsemanship Skills Test evaluation
(max of one year old)
- Signed PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics

2) One reference from each:

- An educator or mental health professional
- An equine professional

3) Documentation of hours of experience:

- 20 hours of hands-on education in equine behavior and/or management
- 60 hours of experience actively participating in EAAT and/or traditional therapy activities

NOTE: This diagram is intended to be a general checklist/overview of the application and certification process. Please thoroughly review this booklet for details on each component within the process.

Online Exams

Upon confirmation portfolio has been accepted:

- Complete the online PATH Intl. Standards course and exam
- Complete the online PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning exam

**PATH Intl.
ESMHL status**

Renew Annually



THE PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING WORKSHOP

Equine specialist workshops are three days long and are offered at a variety of different PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers. Most centers run the workshop followed by a Horsemanship Skills Test. All workshops will be listed in *PATH Intl. eNews* and on the events calendar on the PATH Intl. website. Check the calendar frequently for updates. Anyone who wishes to become involved in mental health or learning programs can attend a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist workshop.

The objective of the equine specialist workshop is for participants to develop an understanding of the importance of a trusting relationship and open communication between professionals. The workshop:

- Provides specialized training for experienced equestrians, instructors or mental health professionals and educators who are interested in equine-facilitated mental health and education programs. The workshop will not count toward a certification for anyone except an equine specialist.
- Is taught by a mental health professional and an equine specialist, using a combination of lectures, demonstrations, role-plays and hands-on exercises with equines.
- Focuses on the specific role of the equine handler (equine specialist) when assisting or collaborating with the mental health counselor or educator in designing safe, mutually respectful and effective activities to enhance participant outcomes, determining specific equine handling methods as well as understanding students with mental health and/or learning issues.
- Teaches participants how to create and maintain a therapeutic and educational environment, including a review of current PATH Intl. standards as they relate to equine-facilitated psychotherapy programs.
- Includes demonstrations and exercises to increase awareness of equine behavior and how the behavior might enhance or endanger those in a therapy session.
- Emphasizes keeping the equines and all participants in the session safe at all times.
- Gives particular attention to assessing the equine's response to student behaviors and needs.
- Facilitates the collaboration between the mental health professional/educator and the equine specialist.
- Gives participants the opportunity to look at treatment plans with a health professional and develop lesson plans based on client goals.

The workshop learning goals are for attendees to be able to:

- Create a therapeutic environment
- Understand equine care and management and ethical treatment of the equine-facilitated mental health and/or learning equine
- Understand how to maintain the association's code of ethics and standards, including the ethical treatment of the equine
- Design appropriate exercises based on the IEP (individual education plan) or mental health treatment plan
- Collaborate with other members of the team (mental health or education professional and the equine) to meet treatment goals or the individual education plan goals.

TOPICS COVERED AT THE WORKSHOP

Day 1:

Welcome
PATH Intl. information
Mental health team
HIPAA and confidentiality
Relationship exercise
Equine behavior and management
Death of a program animal
Abuse of animals and aggression

Day 2:

Partner vs. tool
Riding lesson vs. meeting therapy goal or education plan
Equine behavior and ethical treatment of equines
Ethical parameters
Design lesson plans
Group work
Reporting and discussion

Day 3:

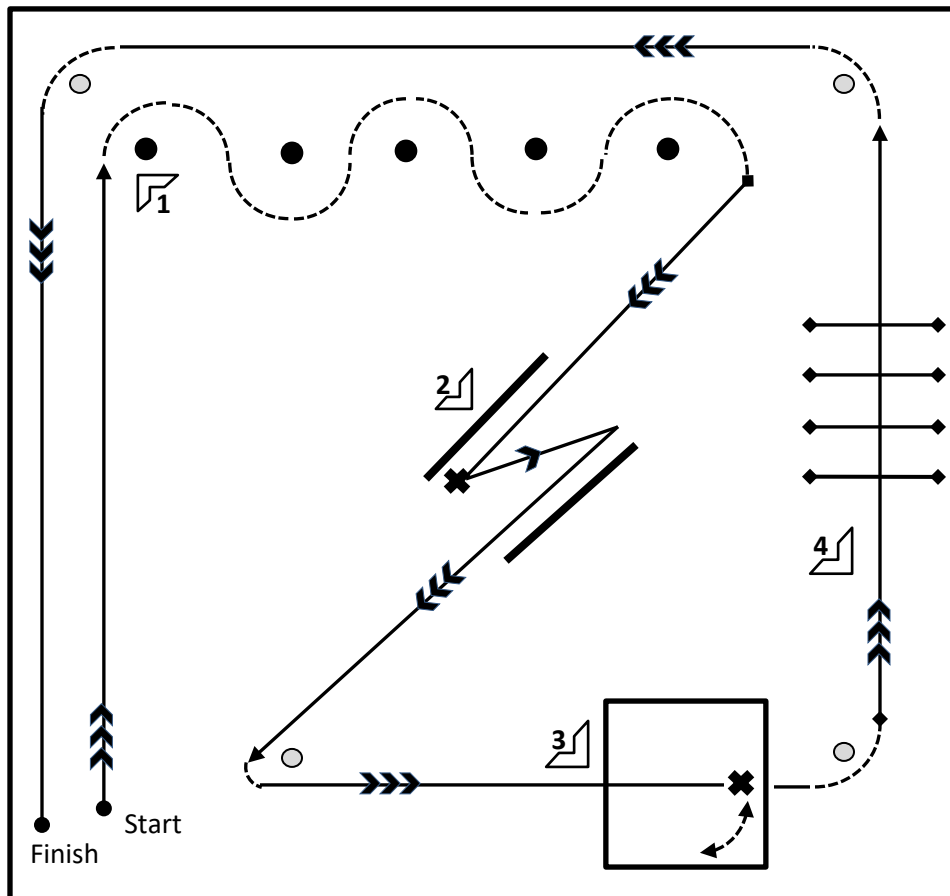
Define partnership
Collaboration
Exercise role-play
Processing and final reflection
Criteria for skills test

NOTE: The workshop does NOT include time leading equines or practicing the horsemanship skills test. Candidates should either come to the workshop already prepared for the skills test OR plan to take the skills test at a later date once they are prepared.

PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING

HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS TEST OBSTACLE COURSE

The horsemanship skills test is an assessment of candidates' ability to establish a connection with an equine to effectively read and respond to the equine while leading them through an obstacle course. Please refer to the ESMHL horsemanship criteria on page 7 to gain a full understanding of what is evaluated for this test.



Note: This pattern will be completed leading an equine at the walk.

- 1

- Enter arena, close and secure gate
 - Proceed at a walk to cones
 - Serpentine the cones
 - Proceed right across the diagonal at a walk
- 2

- Stop in chute
 - Back three steps
 - Proceed at a walk across diagonal, turn left at cone, proceed into box
- 3

- Stop in box
 - 1/4 turn right, stop
 - 1/4 turn left, stop
- 4

- Proceed at a walk and turn left at cone
 - Proceed over cavaletti (leader may walk to the side of cavaletti)
 - Proceed at walk around cones, along the rail, back to gate
 - Exit gate

PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST IN MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING HORSEMANSHIP CRITERIA

Candidates should possess mastery of all skills within this list in order to be successful on the horsemanship skills test. Previous experience handling a variety of equines is essential to success, as is knowledge of equine behavior, body language and senses.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Verbal greeting is given to equine
- 1.2 Demonstrate appropriate method of approach
- 1.3 Quiet, effective, timely approach especially if horse has rear end facing person

2. Haltering

- 2.1 Demonstrate proper placement of halter on equine
 - Candidate does not stand in front of the equine; stands on the left side of the equine
 - Halter is placed on the equine correctly, not too tight or too loose
- 2.2 Demonstrate caution around equine's eyes and ears
- 2.3 Demonstrate safe method of securing the equine while in the stall/paddock
- 2.4 Demonstrate safe space position in stall/paddock

3. Exiting and Entering Stall/Paddock

- 3.1 Demonstrate spacing for both leader and equine during exit/enter of stall or paddock
 - Open stall or paddock door completely when exiting/entering
- 3.2 Demonstrate appropriate release of equine
- 3.3 Demonstrate method of maintaining visual observation of equine while exiting stall
- 3.4 Close gate to paddock or stall door only if center/situation requires it
- 3.5 Leader leaves stall before or with the equine
- 3.6 Turn equine toward the front of stall/paddock prior to release
- 3.7 Security while releasing the equine, gate or stall door closed prior to release/catch

4. Leading

- 4.1 Demonstrate method of holding lead with both hands (unless praising or cueing equine)
- 4.2 Demonstrate method of holding lead in a folded or figure 8 manner
- 4.3 Demonstrate correct position of leader at halt, walk and turn
- 4.4 Demonstrate proper hand placement on lead rope, not grabbing buckle of lead rope or halter
- 4.5 Rhythm of active walk is maintained throughout testing and in serpentine
- 4.6 Demonstrate smooth, timely transitions
- 4.7 Demonstrate wide, smooth turns

- 4.8 Leader does not contribute to horse stress level (throwing head up, pulling up)
 - 4.9 Leader promotes straightness of equine when backing up
 - Equine's head is not bent or being pulled toward the leader
 - 4.10 Organization, effective use of aids and body position shown during ¼ turn in box
 - 4.11 Demonstrate correct position leading over cavaletti
- ### **5. Aids**
- 5.1 Demonstrate use of clear voice aids with different inflection for upward and downward transitions
 - 5.2 Demonstrate tone of voice that influences equine
 - 5.3 Demonstrate ability to read equine's mood and respond
 - 5.4 Demonstrate body language according to equine behavior
 - 5.5 Walk with eyes forward and head up except when going over poles or cavaletti
 - 5.6 Demonstrate use of aids: voice, body and energy sticks
 - 5.7 Demonstrate use of touch aid when appropriate
 - 5.8 Demonstration of praise/appreciation for work done by equine
- ### **6. Safety**
- 6.1 Close gate when entering working ring/arena
 - 6.2 Overall safety
 - 6.3 Planned carefully and safely conducted
- ### **7. Automatic Failures**
- 7.1 Abrupt or rough handling of equine
 - 7.2 Lead rope allowed to drag on the ground
 - 7.3 Lead rope draped over shoulder
 - 7.4 Lead rope tightly wrapped around hand
 - 7.5 Halter put on backwards or incorrectly positioned on equine
 - 7.6 Failure to close gate when entering working ring/arena
 - 7.7 Consistently dropping lead rope
 - 7.8 Kneeling on the ground
 - 7.9 Approaching equine from blind spot

REGISTERING FOR A PATH INTL. ESMHL WORKSHOP AND HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS TEST

- Visit the PATH Intl. events calendar to locate a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop to attend. Register directly with the host site for all workshops and skills tests. Registration fees are determined solely by the host site; please contact the host site for pricing information.
- A candidate may attend the workshop and immediately proceed to the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test at the conclusion of the workshop. Please review the equine specialist criteria and the skills test requirements carefully in order to properly prepare to test.
- If you have already attended the workshop and only need to complete the horsemanship skills test, please notify the host site.

All workshop and skills test fees are paid directly to the host site. PATH Intl. does not handle or provide refunds. Please make sure you are aware of the host site's refund policy prior to registering.

Proof of successful completion of both the workshop and skills test is required for a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning certification. Completion of the workshop and skills test does NOT result in certification being awarded. Additional steps are required to fulfill the certification program requirements.

PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

The following are suggested materials for certification preparation:

PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation manual (current edition). Hard copies and CDs are available from PATH Intl. (800) 369-7433 or www.pathintl.org. The manual is also available for download in the Members Only section of the PATH Intl. website.

Equine Specialist Workshop Student Manual. This manual is given to every candidate who attends the workshop

PATH Intl. Instructor Educational Guide, 2019 Edition. Available from PATH Intl. (800) 369-7433 or www.pathintl.org.

CHA Composite Horsemanship Manual. Available from CHA (800) 399-0138 or www.cha-ahse.org.

101 Arena Exercises, Cherry Hill. Available from Story Communications, Inc. (800) 441-5700.

Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior, Temple Grandin and Catherine Johnson. Available at www.amazon.com.

The Body Language of Horses, Bonnie Ledbetter and Tom Ainslie. Available at www.amazon.com.

Understanding Horses, Garda Langley. Available at www.amazon.com.

ACCOMMODATIONS

An accommodation is an adjustment or an adaptation of a component or components of the ESMHL certification process in order to meet the special needs of a candidate.

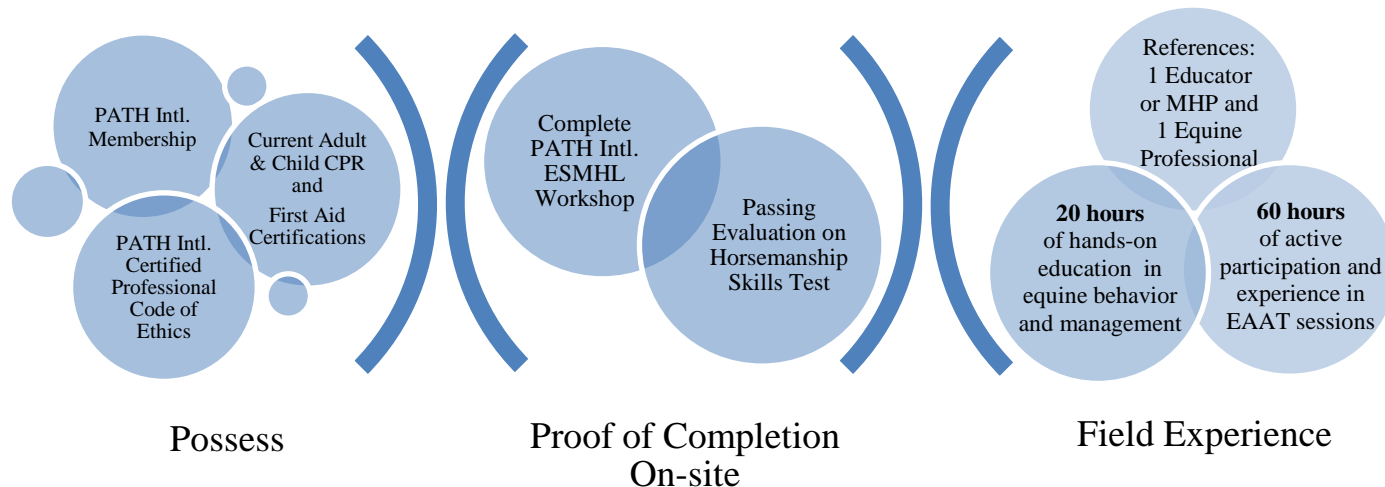
Reasonable accommodations may be granted to qualified individuals with known disabilities, unless doing so would result in a fundamental change to the certification criteria, create an undue hardship or cause a direct threat to health or safety.

Requests for an accommodation to any part of the process must be made in writing by the candidate and submitted to PATH Intl. All requests for accommodation must be accompanied by a letter from a physician (with letterhead and physician's handwritten signature) verifying the diagnosis and defining the candidate's limitations to help PATH Intl. determine appropriate, reasonable accommodations on an individual basis. Please visit our website at <http://www.pathintl.org/40-resources/certification/936-accommodations> to obtain the Reasonable Accommodation Policies and Procedures instructional booklet for the necessary forms.

Accommodation requests will be reviewed by PATH Intl. on an individual basis to determine appropriate, reasonable accommodations. Please allow up to 60 days to receive accommodation request results in all cases.* For more information please contact PATH Intl.

**PATH Intl. and affiliated centers are not responsible for refunding candidate registration fees or travel expenses in the event that an accommodation request is submitted with insufficient processing time.*

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Application Portfolio Components



PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Please do not submit your portfolio to PATH Intl. until you have attended the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning workshop, successfully completed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test and gathered all items listed below.

Payment for the portfolio fee must be received before your portfolio will be reviewed. Incomplete portfolios and/or illegible forms will not be accepted. Subsequent submissions may be subject to additional portfolio fees being assessed.

YOUR PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE:

- 1) A **copy of current** PATH Intl. membership card
- 2) A **copy of current** adult & child CPR and first aid certifications
- 3) **Signed copy** of the PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics
- 4) **Proof of completion** of a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop (valid for two years)
- 5) **Proof of a passing evaluation** for the PATH Intl. ESMHL Practical Horsemanship Skills Test (valid for one year)
- 6) **Two completed reference forms** from professionals in the field who have directly observed and supervised you in an EAAT setting (see enclosed forms), one each from:
 - a) an educator or mental health professional
 - b) an equine professional
- 7) **80 total clock hours** of relevant education and experience comprised of:
 - ✓ **20 clock hours*** of education in equine behavior and management with a maximum of 10 hours at any single event or training. All hours reported must consist of active learning of equine behavior and management concepts from a reputable source.
 - ✓ **60 clock hours*** of active participation and experience in EAAT sessions at a PATH Intl. center and/or under the supervision of a PATH Intl. Certified Professional. All hours reported must consist of active participation in the activities documented.

Portfolios may be submitted as **hardcopies via mail or scanned and emailed to esmhlportfolio@pathintl.org.**
The portfolio fee is due at the time of submission.

Faxing is *not* recommended. Incomplete portfolios and/or illegible forms will not be accepted.

Allow 45 business days for processing of your portfolio and enrollment in the online exams.

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) **A copy of current** PATH Intl. membership card. Your membership must be up-to-date and active on the date you submit your portfolio.
- 2) **A copy of current** adult & child CPR and first aid certifications. These certifications should have been earned via a reputable organization. Online certification courses are considered acceptable.
- 3) **Signed copy of the PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics.** All certification candidates and instructors must agree to abide by the PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics to earn and maintain PATH Intl. certification. See pages 13-15.
- 4) **Proof of completion** of a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Workshop. A copy of your workshop certificate of completion should be provided. Note that each certificate of completion is valid for two years. If you possess a certificate of completion that will be more than two years old on the date you submit your portfolio, the workshop will need to be repeated so that a valid certificate can be provided to meet portfolio requirements.
- 5) **Proof of a passing evaluation** for the PATH Intl. ESMHL Practical Horsemanship Skills Test. A copy of your horsemanship skills test evaluation should be provided. Note that all PATH Intl. evaluations are valid for one year. If you possess an evaluation that will be more than one year old on the date you submit your portfolio, you will need to repeat the skills test and obtain a new evaluation in order to meet portfolio requirements.
- 6) **Two completed reference forms** from professionals in the field who have directly observed and supervised in a professional setting (see enclosed forms), one from each:
 - a. An educator or mental health professional
 - b. An equine professional
- 7) **80 total clock hours** of relevant education and experience comprised of:
 - ✓ **20 clock hours** hands-on education on equine behavior and/or management. This requirement is designed to ensure knowledge of equine behavior and senses as well as best practices in handling and care. Hours must be active learning of equine behavior and management concepts from a reputable source.

Video or webinar based education may be counted only if supplemented by a hands-on component/activity or evaluation. General day-to-day equine care and/or equine ownership does not count. Hours may include PATH Intl. regional or national event activities, EPONA, EAGALA, AIA, natural horsemanship clinics, etc. A maximum of 10 hours may be counted per event or training.

- ✓ **60 total clock hours** of active participation and experience in EAAT sessions to be accomplished one of the two options below:

OPTION 1

60 clock hours working or volunteering at a PATH Intl. equine-facilitated psychotherapy or equine-assisted learning program at a PATH Intl. center and/or under the supervision of a PATH Intl. Certified Professional. The candidate must have actively participated in every session/activity documented.

OR

OPTION 2

30 clock hours working or volunteering in a PATH Intl. program offering equine-assisted activities and therapies (i.e. therapeutic riding, driving, interactive vaulting, hippotherapy, EAL, EFP, etc.) at a PATH Intl. center and/or under the supervision of a PATH Intl. Certified Professional.

AND

30 clock hours in the mental health or special education field interactive with individuals with disabilities. Again, the candidate must have actively participated in every session/activity documented.

Additional parameters for education and experience hours:

- Hours may be accumulated at any time in your career.
- Hours submitted must consist of active participation/involvement in sessions/activities, observation does not count.
- Hours reviewing participant/client files or preparing lesson plans and/or equines do not count.
- Equine-facilitated mental health programs that applicants are involved with must demonstrate usual and professional therapeutic practices as evidenced by adherence to applicable PATH Intl. mental health standards.

NOTE: Payment for the portfolio fee must be received before your portfolio will be reviewed.

ONLINE EXAMS

Upon receipt of your completed portfolio, PATH Intl. will enroll you for both the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning online exam and the PATH Intl. Standards Course. Access information for these exams will be delivered via email. **You have 60 days to complete both online exams. Retakes must be purchased in the event of non-passing scores or exam expiration.**

Complete:

- 1) Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Exam (valid for two years)
- 2) Standards Course and Exam (valid for one year)

Please allow 30 to 45 business days to process your results after you have successfully completed the online exams.

**Obtain your PATH Intl.
ESMHL Certificate**

RECOURSE FOR NON-PASSING SCORE ON ANY COMPONENT OF CERTIFICATION:

Non-passing score on the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test:

- Retake the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills Test at a PATH Intl. PAC.
- Complete the remaining requirements within two years of the completion of your equine specialist in mental health and learning workshop.
- Fee is determined by the host site where retake of test is completed.

Non-passing score on the PATH Intl. Standards Exam:

- Retake the exam (\$20 retake fee is required)
 - Complete the remaining requirements for certification within two years from the date of your workshop.

Non-passing score on the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning exam:

- Retake the exam (\$25 retake fee is required)
 - Complete the remaining requirements for certification within two years from the date of your workshop.

PATH INTL. EQUINE SPECIALIST RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

There are many opportunities for an individual to learn about equine behavior and management techniques. In the myriad of names, books, clinics and workshops available, each individual needs to use his or her judgment in determining which person or system works best for a given situation. Take the opportunity to read, listen and observe others around you and this will expand your knowledge. The following is a list of resources that the PATH Intl. ESMHL Certification Subcommittee recommends:

Adventures in Awareness (Barb Rector)
Clinton Anderson
Frank Bell
Dr. Deb Bennett
Buck Brannaman
Trish Broersma
Joseph Callan
Craig Cameron
Carol Coppinger
Chris Cox
Tom Curtain (Ray Hunt)
E3A
EAGALA
EGEA
EPONA
Julie Goodnight
Maurette Hanson
Susanne Haseman
Mandy Hogan
HorseMpower, Inc.
Chris Irwin
Marcy Laver
David Lichman
John and Josh Lyons
Wendy Murdock
Leslie McCullough
Lynn Palm
Pat and Linda Parelli
Carol Parker, Green Chimneys
Gawani Pony Boy
Mark Rashid
Dennis Reese
Monty Roberts
Karen Rolf
Nita Jo Rush
Marilyn Sokolof, PhD, "Unbridled Therapy"
Memree Stuart
Linda Tellington-Jones
Donna West
Linda Wysocki

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Application and Portfolio Submission Checklist

Please type or print clearly in ink. Please use the form provided.

Name: _____ PATH Intl. Member #: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____ Email (required): _____

I hereby affirm that:

I am 21 years of age or older

My PATH Intl. membership is current

I have completed all requirements for my portfolio and have included the portfolio with this application

For my 60 EAAT experience hours, I am selecting: Option 1 Option 2

I completed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning workshop on (date and location):

I passed the PATH Intl. Equine Specialist Horsemanship Skills test on (date and location):

I am ready to take the PATH Intl. Standards exam OR have taken it within the last year

I am ready to take the online PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning exam

I will remit payment of the **\$95 portfolio submission fee** by (check one):

Online invoice via my membership account – by checking this box an online invoice will be created and an email will be sent to the primary email address in your profile when the invoice is available to be paid
(Payable by electronic check (ACH), MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover card)

OR

Paper check payable to PATH Intl. in U.S.D. mailed on: _____
(Date)

OR

Authorizing PATH Intl. to charge my: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ CCV #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____

NOTE: Portfolio may be submitted as a hardcopy via mail or scanned and emailed to esmhlportfolio@pathintl.org. Faxing is *not* recommended.

INCOMPLETE PORTFOLIOS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FULL PORTFOLIO SUBMISSION FEE.





PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics

Approved by PATH Intl. Board of Trustees October 21, 2010

Edited name change to PATH Intl. July 2011

Revisions by the PATH Intl. Credentialing Council November 11, 2017

Implemented July 1, 2019

Preamble

The PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics sets forth ethical principles for all PATH Intl. certified persons.

The practice and preservation of the highest standards of ethical principles and integrity are vital for the responsible implementation of obligations, activities and services provided by PATH Intl. certified persons. All certified persons are responsible for maintaining and promoting these ethical practices. The code of ethics is intended to be used as a guide for promoting and maintaining the highest standards of ethical practice, personal behavior and professional integrity of certified persons.

The guidelines expressed in the code are not to be considered all-inclusive of situations that could evolve under a specific principle, nor is the failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice a denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices. The guidelines are specific statements of minimally acceptable conduct or of prohibitions applicable to all certified persons.

In recognition of the responsibility inherent in the delivery of services provided by equine-assisted activities and therapies, PATH Intl. asks all certified persons to subscribe to the following to the extent permitted by law:

Principle 1

The certified person respects the rights, dignity and well-being of all individuals (human and equine) and promotes well-being for all involved.

Guidelines:

- 1.1 The certified person shall be responsive to, and mutually supportive of, the individuals served, including families, colleagues and associates.
- 1.2 The certified person shall respect the unique nature of each individual and shall be tolerant of, and responsive to, differences. The certified person shall not discriminate based on age, gender, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, social or economic status, sexual orientation, health condition or disability.
- 1.3 The certified person shall follow equal employment opportunity practices in hiring, assigning, promoting, discharging and compensating staff.
- 1.4 The certified person shall maintain in professional confidence participant, volunteer and staff information, observations or evaluations and shall adhere to all legal requirements.
- 1.5 The certified person, in community settings, shall use caution in forming dual or multiple relationships with participants or former participants where there is a risk of a conflict of interest. The certified person, in clinical treatment settings, shall avoid dual relationships when possible. In situations where dual relationships are unavoidable, the certified person shall be responsible for setting clear, appropriate and sensitive boundaries.
- 1.6 The certified person will understand the sensitive nature of physical touch and use it with caution.

Principle 2

The certified person accepts responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment and professional competence.

Guidelines:

- 2.1 The certified person shall accurately represent his/her level of expertise, experience, education and actual practice and provide service only to those individuals he/she can competently serve.
- 2.2 The certified person shall engage in sound business, employment and administrative practices.

- 2.3 The certified person shall maintain certification by complying with all recertification requirements.
- 2.4 The certified person shall recognize and take appropriate action to remedy personal problems and limitations that might cause harm to recipients of service, colleagues or others.
- 2.5 The certified person shall demonstrate objectivity and fairness by interacting with individuals in an impartial manner.
- 2.6 The certified person shall accept responsibility for the exercise of sound judgment when interacting with individuals and animals.
- 2.7 The certified person shall demonstrate openness to, and respect for, other colleagues and professionals.

Principle 3

The certified person shall respect the integrity and well-being of program equines and animals whether owned, leased or borrowed.

Guidelines:

- 3.1 The certified person shall recognize and respect the individual character, nature and physical attributes of each program equine.
- 3.2 The certified person shall encourage safe and respectful human and equine interactions, placing equines in activities suited to their temperament and physical ability.
- 3.3 The certified person shall support the highest standard of care, maintenance and selection for each program equine, understanding and responding to the equine's need for socialization, play, turnout, time off and retirement.
- 3.4 When equines are borrowed or leased, the same high standards of equine respect, care and maintenance shall apply.
- 3.5 The certified person shall cultivate a barn and practice environment that supports personal and professional development and provides a safe environment for persons and equines.

Principle 4

The certified person shall be truthful and fair in representing him- or herself and others.

Guidelines:

- 4.1 The certified person shall be responsible for providing each participant with accurate information regarding programs, services, professional training and credentials, as well as possible benefits, outcomes, expected activities, risks and limitations of the service or program.
- 4.2 The certified person shall use the certification logo and certification marks only in an authorized and approved manner.

Principle 5

The certified person shall seek to expand his/her knowledge base related to the field of equine-assisted activities and therapies.

Guidelines:

- 5.1 The certified person shall maintain the competence requirement by meeting certification renewal requirements (recertification).

Principle 6

The certified person shall honor all financial commitments to participants, personnel, vendors, donors, the certification entity and others.

Guidelines:

- 6.1 The certified person shall negotiate and clarify the fee structure and payment policy prior to the initiation of service, and charge in a responsible and reasonable manner.
- 6.2 The certified person shall not misrepresent in any fashion services rendered or products dispensed.
- 6.3 Certified persons shall remain in good standing with the annual compliance process for certification.

Principle 7

The certified person shall abide by all applicable PATH Intl. standards and guidelines and all state, local and federal laws.

Principle 8

The certified person shall protect participants, equines, the public and the profession from unethical, incompetent or illegal practice.

Guidelines:

8.1 The certified person accepts the responsibility to report suspect violations of the code of ethics to the PATH Intl. Credentialing Council.



I have read, fully understand and will uphold the PATH Intl. Certified Professional Code of Ethics at all times. Furthermore, I understand that failure to abide by the code of ethics could result in disciplinary proceedings.

BY CHECKING THE BOX BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT I HAVE READ THIS CODE OF ETHICS AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Agree:

Printed Name _____

Member ID # _____

Signature _____ Date _____

PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Application

Reference from Educator or Mental Health Professional

Please type or print clearly in ink

Candidate Name: _____ PATH Intl. Member ID # _____

To the Reference: The above named person is a candidate for certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. The equine specialist should be competent to partner with an educator or mental health professional in providing equine services to students in experiential education or to clients with mental health issues. In preparation for this service, candidates are required to work at least 60 hours in an equine-facilitated mental health or equine-assisted learning program or 30 hours in a mental health/educational setting and 30 hours in a program offering equine-assisted activities and therapies (e.g., therapeutic riding program). You are being asked to validate the candidate's experience and ability for the mental health and/or education component. You should have been provided with a copy of the "PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Criteria" to facilitate your assessment of this candidate.

Reference (mental health professional or educator):

Name: _____ Credentials: _____

Program: _____ Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Work Experience: I hereby certify that the above named candidate worked for a total of _____ hours in a program that provides:

Equine-facilitated psychotherapy or education _____
Initial

OR
Describe mental health or educational service: _____
Initial

Please answer the following on an attached sheet:

1. How long and in what connections have you known the candidate?
2. Evaluate the candidate's performance in your program in regard to understanding client need, providing program services, integrating with other staff, etc.
3. Personal qualities such as intelligence, maturity, emotional stability, sensitivity, resourcefulness, sound judgment and a concern for the well-being of others are important when working with special populations. Please assess the candidate within this context.
4. Please rate the candidate relative to others whom you have known in the same field in recent years:

ITEM	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Ability to maintain safe and therapeutic environment				
Ability to relate to clients/students				
Ability to relate to, and collaborate with, other staff (teamwork)				
Ability to use supervision				
Ability to analyze a problem and formulate a solution				
Ability to partner with mental health professionals				
Works within defined role and within skill level				
Oral communication skills				
Written communication skills				
Maturity				
Self-awareness				
Professionalism				
Knowledge of and adherence to PATH Intl. Code of Ethics				

*For additional comments, please submit a separate sheet of paper. Typed is preferred.

Signature of Reference _____ Date _____



PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Certification Application Reference from an Equine Professional

Please type or print clearly in ink

Candidate Name: _____ PATH Intl. Member ID # _____

To the Reference: The above named person is a candidate for certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. One of the criteria for this certification is comprehensive experience with equines. The Mental Health and Learning Equine Specialist is primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of the participants and the health of the equine involved with mental health clients. You should have been provided with a copy of the "PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning Criteria" to facilitate your assessment of this candidate.

Equine Professional Information:

Name: _____ Are you a PATH Intl. Certified Instructor? Yes No
Program: _____ Position: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Equestrian Credentials/Certifications: _____

By my signature below, I am certifying that the candidate has experience and demonstrated competence in, at minimum, the following horsemanship skills. Additionally, the candidate has the ability to train others in the performance of these skills.

- Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics and senses of the equine.
- Demonstrates knowledge of feed requirements of equines.
- Demonstrates knowledge of stable management, maintaining cleanliness, safety and health for the equine.
- Can recognize common equine health problems and unsoundness.
- Can recognize common stable vices.
- Can competently apply basic equine first aid.
- Can approach, catch and halter an equine safely.
- Can properly fit a helmet.
- Can lead, turn and back an equine safely.
- Can lead an equine in to and out of a stall.
- Understands and demonstrates proper attire for equine activities.
- Can tie an equine at appropriate level and length, with a quick release knot.
- Can competently groom an equine, including picking up and cleaning the feet.
- Can lead an equine at a walk and trot.
- Can lunge an equine at a walk, trot and canter, in both directions.
- Follows safety procedure when turning equine loose.
- Additionally, the candidate is suitable for work with participants who may have mental health issues.
- The candidate has demonstrated common sense, professionalism, cooperation, ethics and the ability to teach others.

I, _____ confirm that _____
Reference (Print Name) *Candidate (Print Name)*

has ample experience to demonstrate competence in horsemanship, the ability to work with others and a history of safe equestrian practices.

Signature of Reference Date: _____ *Signature of Candidate* Date: _____

