



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION MEMBERSHIP

ADVANCED LEVEL CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

This is the second level of certification. A PATH Intl. **Advanced Level Certified Instructor** is knowledgeable in horsemanship and understands disabilities and their relationship to therapeutic riding. This instructor is able to conduct safe, challenging and therapeutically effective lessons to individuals with disabilities. He/she is able to demonstrate instruction that shows progression in riding skills in safe, challenging lessons. PATH Intl. has developed criteria which outline the skills and knowledge an instructor must possess in order to achieve certification at the PATH Intl. advanced level.

PATH Intl. Advanced Level Instructor Criteria

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

AE EQUINE MANAGEMENT

AE.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards

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

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

- _____ AE.2.1 Identify and describe a horse by
- 1) Age
 - 2) Color and markings
 - 3) Breed characteristics
 - 4) Height and weight
- _____ AE.2.2 Know the parts of the horse

AE.3.0 Horse Senses and Behavior

- _____ AE.3.1 Know the characteristics of the senses of the horse
- _____ AE.3.2 Know the characteristics of horse behavior
- _____ AE.3.3 Know how the senses of the horse and horse behavior affect the safety of the riding setting.
- _____ AE.3.4 Identify and know the causes and management of stable vices including:
- 1) Cribbing
 - 2) Weaving
 - 3) Biting and kicking
 - 4) Wood chewing



AE.4.0 Feeds and Feeding

- _____ AE.4.1 Know feed requirements of the horse including:
- 1) Hay
 - 2) Salt and minerals
 - 3) Grain
 - 4) Supplements
 - 5) Water
 - 6) Feeding intervals
- _____ AE.4.2 Recognize signs of poor quality feed
- _____ AE.4.3 Identify and describe different types of forages and feeds
- _____ AE.4.4 Know the pros and cons of different types of feeds

AE.5.0 Stable Management

- _____ AE.5.1 Identify appropriate protection for horses including:
- 1) Fly masks and bonnets
 - 2) Shelter
 - 3) Fly repellants
- _____ AE.5.2 Know horse manure handling methods for sanitary conditions of stall and turn out areas
- _____ AE.5.3 Identify bedding materials
- _____ AE.5.4 Identify potential stall and fencing hazards
- _____ AE.5.5 Identify pest concerns
- _____ AE.5.6 Identify and know the use of blankets, sheets, coolers, and turnout rugs
- _____ AE.5.7 Identify and know how to apply the following boots and bandages:
- 1) Bell, splint, and ankle boots
 - 2) Shipping
 - 3) Easy boots
 - 4) Standing / support
 - 5) Exercise

AE.6.0 Health and Sickness

- _____ AE.6.1 Know and recognize the signs of:
- 1) Abscesses
 - 2) Good health
 - 3) Scratches
 - 4) Azoturia
 - 5) Influenza
 - 6) Thrush
 - 7) Behavior change
 - 8) Laminitis
 - 9) Tetanus
 - 10) Choke
 - 11) Lice
 - 12) Ticks
 - 13) Colic
 - 14) Rabies



- 15) Weight loss
- 16) Dehydration
- 17) Rain rot
- 18) Distemper (strangles)
- 19) Ring worm

_____AE.6.2	Know and recognize when a horse is unsound
_____AE.6.3	Identify normal ranges and how to take TPR (temperature, pulse, respiration)
_____AE.6.4	Describe, schedule and maintain records for deworming, vaccination, hoof and teeth care programs
_____AE.6.5	Know first aid treatment for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Proud flesh2) Sprains, strains, bruises3) Shock4) Wounds
_____AE.6.6	Identify types of shoes
_____AE.6.7	Identify characteristics of a correctly or incorrectly shod foot

AE.7.0 Grooming

_____AE.7.1	Identify and explain the use of grooming tools including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Curry comb2) Mane or tail comb3) Hard brush / dandy4) Shedding blade5) Soft brush / body6) Sponges7) Hoof pick8) Sweat scraper
_____AE.7.2	Know how to give a horse a routine, fungicide, liniment, and medicated bath
_____AE.7.3	Know how to cool down a horse following a work session including the use of liniments
_____AE.7.4	Know how to clip a horse for maintenance including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Bridle path2) Muzzle3) Fetlock Identify and know the purpose of the following clips: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Blanket clip2) Hunter clip3) Body clip4) Trace clip

AE.8.0 Tack and Tacking

_____AE.8.1	Identify and know the purpose, use, and function of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Bits: snaffle, curb, kimberwicke, pelham2) Breast plates and collars3) Bit less bridles
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- 4) Long lines
 - 5) Bridles
 - 6) Martingales
 - 7) Saddles: English and Western
 - 8) Safety stirrups
 - 9) Saddle pads
 - 10) Safety helmets
 - 11) Bareback pads
 - 12) Side reins
 - 13) Adaptive equipment
 - 14) Surcingle
- _____AE.8.2 Know the parts of english and western saddles and bridles
- _____AE.8.3 Know how to tack a horse
- _____AE.8.4 Select and evaluate equipment needs for riders and horses including:
- 1) Type of saddle and bridle
 - 2) How saddle affects rider position
 - 3) How bridle and saddle affects horse
 - 4) Adaptive equipment
 - 5) Long line and lunging equipment
- _____AE.8.5 Know how to fit tack to horses and riders
- _____AE.8.6 Know how to educate team, including riders and volunteers, in the use of the equipment
- _____AE.8.7 Know and demonstrate tack cleaning, care, and maintenance

AE.9.0 Unsoundness' and Blemishes / Form to Function

- _____AE.9.1 Recognize the difference between a blemish and unsoundness. Describe and locate the following blemishes and unsoundness':
- 1) Bog and bone spavins
 - 2) Laminitis
 - 3) Side bone
 - 4) Bowed tendons
 - 5) Navicular
 - 6) Shoe boil
 - 7) Capped hocks and elbows
 - 8) Parrot mouth
 - 9) Splints
 - 10) Contracted heels
 - 11) Quarter crack
 - 12) Thoroughpins
 - 13) Curbs
 - 14) Ringbone
 - 15) Wind puffs
 - 16) Heaves
 - 17) Roaring



- _____AE.9.2 Identify and describe the foot falls and beats of the:
- 1) Walk
 - 2) Canter / lope
 - 3) Trot/ jog
 - 4) Hand gallop
- _____AE.9.3 Describe and demonstrate tempo, rhythm, impulsion, tracking up
- _____AE.9.4 Describe the effects of tempo, rhythm, impulsion, and tracking up on the rider
- _____AE.9.5 Recognize common conformation faults of the horse

AE.10.0 Selection and Training

- _____AE.10.1 Explain the characteristics of a therapy horse
- _____AE.10.2 Know how to train a horse to accept:
- 1) Leaders and side walkers
 - 2) Ambulation aids
 - 3) Mounting ramps and blocks
 - 4) Game equipment
 - 5) Mounting procedures
- _____AE.10.3 Design, implement, and recognize the individual needs for a conditioning, schooling, and maintenance program for therapeutic riding horses including:
- 1) Schooling
 - 2) Suppling
 - 3) Lunging
 - 4) Record keeping
- _____AE.10.4 Know how conditioning relates to performance
- _____AE.10.5 Identify conformation faults and how they affect the function of the therapeutic riding horse
- _____AE.10.6 Recognize common conformation faults of the horse

AH. HORSEMANSHIP

AH.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety

- _____AH.1.1 Know and demonstrate the following:
- 1) Haltering and leading
 - 2) Tying and safety knot
 - 3) Grooming and tacking
 - 4) Proper riding attire

AH.2.0 Mounting and Dismounting

- _____AH.2.1 Know and demonstrate:
- 1) Mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block / ramp
 - 2) How to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
 - 3) An equipment check prior to mounting
 - 4) Stirrup adjustment prior to mounting



AH.3.0 Position

_____AH.3.1

Know and demonstrate correct position at the:

- 1) Walk-free walk and working walk
- 2) Trot or jog-sitting
- 3) Trot-posting
- 4) Canter or lope
- 5) Two point at the walk, trot/ jog, and canter/ lope
- 6) Walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot, canter/ lope without stirrups
- 7) Two point at the walk and trot or jog without stirrups
- 8) Reinback
- 9) Hand gallop

_____AH.3.2

Know and demonstrate shortening and lengthening reins

AH.4.0 Gaits

_____AH.4.1

Know and demonstrate:

- 1) Walk-free walk and working walk
- 2) Trot or jog-sitting
- 3) Trot-posting on correct diagonal
- 4) Canter or lope on correct lead
- 5) Reinback
- 6) Change of diagonals at the trot
- 7) Lengthening and shortening at the walk and trot/ jog
- 8) Hand gallop

_____AH.4.2

Know and demonstrate different degrees of contact for all gaits

_____AH.4.3

Know and demonstrate straightness of the horse during all gaits

_____AH.4.4

Know and demonstrate the following transitions:

- 1) Walk to trot/jog
- 2) Canter/lope to walk
- 3) Walk to canter/lope
- 4) Canter/lope to trot/jog
- 5) Trot/jog to canter/lope
- 6) Canter/lope to halt
- 7) Trot/jog to walk
- 8) Walk to halt
- 9) Trot/jog to halt

AH.5.0 Aids

_____AH5.1

Know and demonstrate the following natural aids:

- 1) Hands
- 2) Voice
- 3) Legs
- 4) Weight
- 5) Seat

_____AH.5.2

Identify and know the purpose of draw reins



_____AH.5.3	Know and demonstrate appropriate use of the following artificial aids: 1) Crop 2) Side reins 3) Martingales 4) Spurs
_____AH.5.4	Know and demonstrate the following rein aids: 1) Direct 2) Neck rein 3) Leading / opening 4) Pulley rein 5) Indirect rein
_____AH.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
<u>AH.6.0 Movements</u>	
_____AH.6.1	Know and demonstrate the following lateral movements: 1) Turn on the forehand 2) Leg yield at the walk and trot or jog 3) Side pass 4) Bending a horse through corners and ring figures 5) Pivots / turn on haunches
_____AH.6.2	Know and demonstrate half halts
_____AH.6.3	Recognize a horse that is on the bit
_____AH.6.4	Know and demonstrate simple change of lead
<u>AH.7.0 Ring Figures</u>	
_____AH.7.1	Know and demonstrate the following ring figures: 1) Change of rein 2) Half circle in reverse 3) Circles 4) Serpentine 5) Figure eights 6) Spirals 7) Half circles
<u>AH.8.0 Exercises and Games</u>	
_____AH.8.1	Know and demonstrate mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot / jog and canter /lope
_____AH.8.2	Know and demonstrate riding without stirrups at the walk and sitting trot / jog, posting trot, canter /lope, two point
_____AH.8.3	Know and demonstrate ground poles at walk, sitting trot/ jog, posting trot and two point
_____AH.8.4	Know and demonstrate design and set up of obstacle course
_____AH.8.5	Know and demonstrate proper spacing of ground poles



- _____AH.8.6 Know and demonstrate how to lunge a horse
- _____AH.8.7 Know and demonstrate suppling exercises for the horse

AI. INSTRUCTION

AI.1.0 Horsemanship Preparation and Safety

- _____AI.1.1 Instruct the following:
 - 1) Grooming and tacking
 - 2) Tying and safety knot
 - 3) Haltering and leading
 - 4) Proper riding attire
 - 5) Proper spacing when leading or riding in a group
- _____AI.1.2 Orient student to facility, stable rules, and safety rules
- _____AI.1.3 Select horse for individual riders according to:
 - 1) Behavior
 - 2) Movement quality
 - 3) Temperament
 - 4) Height
 - 5) Size
- _____AI.1.4 Instruct a group lesson of three or more mounted riders
- _____AI.1.5 Know and implement PATH Intl. Standards and their interpretation regarding lesson area

AI.2.0 Mounts and Dismounts

- _____AI.2.1 Instruct the following:
 - 1) Mounting and dismounting from ground or mounting block
 - 2) How to assist a rider during mounting and dismounting
 - 3) Equipment check prior to mounting
 - 4) Stirrup adjustment prior to mounting
 - 5) Independent, partially assisted, fully assisted mounts from the ground, block, and ramp

AI.3.0 Position

- _____AI.3.1 Instruct correct position at the:
 - 1) Halt
 - 2) Canter or lope
 - 3) Walk-free and working walk
 - 4) Two point at walk, trot, canter
 - 5) Trot or jog-sitting
 - 6) Rein back
 - 7) Trot-posting
 - 8) Walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot without stirrups
- _____AI.3.2 Instruct lengthening and shortening of reins



AI.4.0 Gaits

_____AI.4.1

Instruct:

- 1) Walk-free walk and working walk
- 2) Trot (sitting) or jog
- 3) Trot-posting on correct diagonal
- 4) Canter or lope on correct lead
- 5) Change of diagonals at the trot
- 6) Rein back
- 7) Change of diagonals at the trot
- 8) Lengthening and shortening at the walk and trot/jog
- 9) Hand gallop

_____AI.4.2

Instruct different degrees of contact at all gaits

_____AI.4.3

Instruct straightness of the horse at all gaits

_____AI.4.4

Instruct the following transitions:

- 1) Walk to halt
- 2) Trot/jog to halt
- 3) Walk to trot/jog
- 4) Trot/jog to walk
- 5) Walk to trot/jog to canter/lope
- 6) Canter/lope to walk
- 7) Walk to canter/lope
- 8) Canter/lope to trot/jog
- 9) Trot/jog to canter/lope
- 10) Canter/lope to halt

AI.5.0 Aids

_____AI.5.1

Instruct the following natural aids:

- 1) Hands
- 2) Voice
- 3) Legs
- 4) Weight
- 5) Seat

_____AI.5.2

Instruct the appropriate use of the following artificial aids:

- 1) Crop
- 2) Martingales
- 3) Spurs

_____AI.5.3

Instruct the following rein aids:

- 1) Leading / opening
- 2) Indirect
- 3) Direct
- 4) Neck rein

_____AI.5.4

Instruct the following leg aids:

- 1) Both legs at the same time
- 2) Leg at the girth
- 3) Alternating leg aids
- 4) Leg behind the girth



AI.6.0 Movements

- _____ AI.6.1 Instruct the following lateral movements:
1) Turn on the forehand
2) Bending a horse through corners and ring figures
- _____ AI.6.2 Instruct half halts
- _____ AI.6.3 Instruct simple change of lead

AI.7.0 Ring Figures

- _____ AI.7.1 Instruct the following ring figures:
1) Change the rein
2) Half circles
3) Circles
4) Half circle in reverse
5) Figure eight
6) Serpentes

AI.8.0 Exercises and Games

- _____ AI.8.1 Instruct mounted rider exercises at the walk and trot or jog
- _____ AI.8.2 Instruct riding without stirrups at the walk and sitting trot, posting trot, canter or lope
- _____ AI.8.3 Instruct riding over ground poles at walk, sitting trot or jog, posting trot and two points
- _____ AI.8.4 Instruct riders through an obstacle course
- _____ AI.8.5 Utilize appropriate games in the riding setting
- _____ AI.8.6 Instruct a rider on a lunge line

AI.9.0 Ground and Stable Lessons

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

AT TEACHING METHODOLOGY

AT.1.0 PATH Intl. Standards and Information

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

AT.2.0 Record Keeping

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



_____AT.2.2	Interpret student forms and apply the information to the riding setting
_____AT.2.3	Write and maintain progress notes on riders
_____AT.2.4	Complete incident report as needed
_____AT.2.5	Comply with confidentiality requirements regarding students
_____AT.2.6	Process rider forms

AT.3.0 Lesson Plans

_____AT.3.1	Assess the rider's skills and determine goals and objectives for each individual rider
_____AT.3.2	Develop a lesson plan to achieve the goals and objectives
_____AT.3.3	Choose activities and skills suitable for the objective of the lesson
_____AT.3.4	Know the definition of an IEP (Individual Education Plan)
_____AT.3.5	Demonstrate organization in the lesson sequence that promotes progression

AT.4.0 Teaching

_____AT.4.1	Know and demonstrate teaching skills applicable to the advanced instructor level, to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Safe and effective mounting and dismounting procedures2) Flexibility and adaptability in pursuit of stated teaching objectives3) Teaches to level of students physical and cognitive ability4) Fair and consistent in applying standards of behavior5) Shows genuine interest in each students6) Progress towards independence7) Effective use of volunteers8) Appropriate games and exercises9) Appropriate praise10) Adapts and corrects equipment11) Provide what's, how's, whys12) Flexibility of teaching techniques13) Posture corrections14) Progression of equitation skills15) Rapport16) Teaches at individual rider's level17) Teaching environment18) Gives clear and concise instructions19) Control of class20) Ring presence
_____AT.4.2	Possess instructor attributes, to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Common sense2) Professionalism3) Ethical4) Punctual5) 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

_____AT.4.3 Meet annual continuing education requirements for the advanced instructor

AT.5.0 Methods

_____AT.5.1 Know and address the different learning styles of riders including:
1) Auditory 2) Kinesthetic
3) Visual

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

_____AT.5.3 Develop the instructional team to include the role of:
1) Instructor
2) Support professionals
3) Therapist
4) Teamwork concepts

_____AT.5.4 Identify and manage dysfunctional behaviors

_____AT.5.5 Provide initial and ongoing team training

_____AT.5.6 Work with instructional team (instructors, therapists, volunteers, students, families, and care providers) including:
1) Develop rapport
2) Provide direction to leader and sidewalkers during lesson
3) Assign volunteers to riders
4) Provide feedback to team members
5) Reward team members

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

_____AT.5.8 Know and implement the following teaching techniques:
1) Cueing
2) Repetition
3) Modeling
4) Prompting

_____AT.5.9 Know and implement the following teaching prompts and cues:
1) Gradual guidance
2) Tactile
3) Hand over hand
4) Verbal
5) Independent
6) Visual

_____AT.5.10 Know, develop, and evaluate a task analysis for a skill

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



AD DISABILITIES

AD.1.0 Human Anatomy

- _____ AD.1.1 Identify parts of the human skeleton
- _____ AD.1.2 Know the terminology related to movement and posture
- _____ AD.1.3 Know the muscles that are important in riding
- _____ AD.1.4 Know parts of the brain

AD.2.0 Disabilities

- _____ AD.2.1 Know precautions and contraindications to therapeutic horsemanship
- _____ AD.2.2 Know definition, causes, characteristics, and teaching techniques for the following disabilities:
 - 1) Amputation
 - 2) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome / Effect
 - 3) Apraxia
 - 4) Hearing Impaired
 - 5) Arthritis
 - 6) Hydrocephalus
 - 7) Asthma
 - 8) Learning Disability
 - 9) Attention Deficit Disorder (with or without hyperactivity)
 - 10) Limb Deficiencies
 - 11) Mental Retardation
 - 12) Autism
 - 13) Multiple Sclerosis
 - 14) Behavior Disorder
 - 15) Muscular Dystrophy
 - 16) Cerebral Palsy
 - 17) Poliomyelitis
 - 18) Cerebral Vascular Accident
 - 19) Scoliosis
 - 20) Developmentally Delayed
 - 21) Seizures
 - 22) Down Syndrome
 - 23) Spina Bifida
 - 24) Dwarfism
 - 25) Spinal Cord Injury
 - 26) Emotionally Disturbed
 - 27) Traumatic Brain Injury
 - 28) Epilepsy
 - 29) Visually Impaired
 - 30) Other disabilities that you may teach
- _____ AD.2.3 Locate information pertaining to all disabilities
- _____ AD.2.4 Self-evaluate instructional capabilities, facility



	environment, horse and personal to determine riders that can be accepted as students
_____AD.2.5	Know the benefits of therapeutic riding
_____AD.2.6	Know the realms of therapeutic riding
_____AD.2.7	Know and demonstrate handling techniques for mounting, dismounting, postural alignment
_____AD.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. Advanced Level Certification.

Criteria to apply:

- Be a current PATH Intl. Higher Education Student member or Registered Instructor member
- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have a minimum of 120 hours instructing riders with disabilities in mounted activities at a current PATH Intl. Member Center (exceptions to teaching hours completed at a PATH Intl. Member Center must be made in writing to the PATH Intl. office)
- Submit riding instructor resume
- Submit personal resume (to include details of horsemanship and therapeutic riding experience)
- Submit PATH Intl. supervising instructor letter of reference
- Submit personal reference
- Submit copy of current Adult/Child CPR and First Aid certification card (front & back)

Advanced Resubmission Policy

No video resubmissions will be accepted.

(Video resubmissions will be considered on an individual basis if a candidate is an international candidate.)

Advanced On-Site Certification Testing. You will be tested on 3 different sections each consisting of different components. The 3 sections are listed below, as well as their components under it.

Section 1: Written Exam	Section 2: Horsemanship	Section 3: Teaching
Adv. Online Exam	Riding	Able-bodied lesson
(proctored in advance)	Stable Management	Cognitive lesson
	Longeing/Lungeing	Physical lesson
	Equine Evaluation	

Fail only one component of a section – retake all components of that section.

Previous results in section are null and void. (i.e. fail cognitive lesson – candidate would need to retake all components under the teaching section: able-bodied, cognitive, and physical.)



Resubmission done through two options:

1) PATH Intl. Approved Training Course – Candidate will contact ATC to set up resubmission. The individual ATC determines fees and scheduling details. ATC is responsible for submitting candidate resubmission results with a \$50 certification fee.

2) On-Site Certification – Resubmission forms and application fee due to host site. The host site and evaluators would arrange additional candidate for horsemanship or teaching resubmission, for scheduling purposes.

If only written exam is needed, a \$35 re-take fee is due to PATH Intl. and the exam can be done offsite.

Fail 2 or more components of a section or fail one component in 2 different sections – retake entire on-site certification. This only includes written exam if you failed the written exam (i.e. failed riding, and cognitive lesson– candidate would need to retake entire on-site again.) Full application fee is due to the host site.

Written Exam

The written exam will be successfully completed in advance to the advanced certification with a proctor present. If the written exam is failed, the exam may be re-taken.

The exam is valid for use at an advanced on-site certification for two years from the date of completion.

For complete details please review the certification booklet on the PATH Intl. website at www.pathintl.org/resources-education/certifications