

Practicum Level Descriptions

Winter 2022

English Beginner: Hunt seat equitation is ridden in a forward seat with an English saddle. For those who have never ridden before or have very limited riding experience, less than 3 months. Riders will learn how to groom, tack, and mount horse. Walking, steering, and equitation exercises to strengthen leg position. Trot work securing posting and diagonals, sitting trot, and jumping position.

Western Beginner: Western riding teaches riders concepts of neck reining and is ridden in a saddle with a horn. For those who have never ridden before or have very limited riding experience, less than 3 months. Riders will learn how to groom, tack, and mount horse. Walking, steering, and equitation exercises to strengthen leg position. Jog work, both sitting and posting.

Western Intermediate: For riders who have experience at the lope. This group is for riders that want to work on improving position and control. Exercises that will be worked on are transitions, lateral work, arena figures, no stirrup work and obstacles.

Advanced Beginner: For riders that have little experience in the canter and are ready to start developing canter work. Riders must know diagonals and have a secure lower leg position. This group will work on arena figures, poll work, and lunge lessons.

Intermediate 1: Can walk, trot, and canter safely in a group, knows leads and diagonals, ready to start jumping. Riders will work on jumping position, sitting trot, transitions, no stirrup work, lunge line lessons, and cross rails.

Intermediate 2: Riders have experience with course work and have solid jumping fundamentals, jumping at least 2'3". This group is for riders that want to become more competitive in the show ring and work on seeing distances and equitation. Lesson will include no stirrup work, lunge line lessons, gymnastics, jumping courses, switching horses, and trail obstacles.

Advanced: Riders with experience course work at 2'9". Will be becoming familiar with complicated courses with a higher level of difficulty and sophistication. Ability to ride green horses and jump without stirrups. Working to further develop finesse and control of the horse. Lessons will include no-stirrup work, transitions, lateral work, lunge line lessons, gymnastics, courses, and trail obstacles.

Dressage Lower Level: Riders should be confident at the walk and trot, working towards confidence in the canter. The rider will be introduced to the sport of dressage, dressage terminology and theory. Beginning concepts of connection and balance with an emphasis on equitation. Instruction includes lunge lessons, arena figures, transitions, and introduction of lateral work. Students ride introductory-level tests to improve their accuracy and skills.

Polo Fundamentals I: For riders at an Intermediate or Advanced Level who can maintain control of their horse at the walk, trot and canter, and comfortable on different levels of horses. This class focuses on the introduction to fundamental polo skills, for those with riding experience but no polo experience.

Polo Fundamentals II: For riders at an Intermediate or Advanced Level who can maintain control of their horse at the walk, trot and canter, and comfortable on different levels of horses. Riders should have either already taken the Polo Fundamentals I course or have equivalent previous polo experience. This class focuses on the building upon existing fundamental polo skills and applying these skills into a game setting.