

Practicum Level Descriptions

English Beginner: For those who have never ridden before or have 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.

Advanced Beginner: Riders will ride English working on posting, jumping position, and developing the canter. For riders that have completed 12 weeks of beginner riding.

Intermediate 1: Can walk, trot, and canter safely in a group, known 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 2'6". This group is for riders that want to become more competitive in the show ring, work on seeing distances, equitation, and to further develop finesse and control of the horse. Lessons will include no stirrup work, lateral work, lunge line lessons, gymnastics, jumping courses, switching horses, and trail.

Advanced: Riders with experience course work at 2'9". Will be becoming familiar with complicated courses with a higher level of difficulty and sophistication. Able to ride green horses and jump without stirrups. 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.

Advanced Flat Work: For advanced riders that want to fine tune their skills, with an emphasis on using the Dressage Training Scale to improve horses gaits and maneuverability. Riders will work on cavaletti, lateral movements, no stirrup work, hill work, and a variety of collection exercises. Riders will have their choice of discipline and can use English or Western saddle and a snaffle bit.

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 sitting and posting.

Western Intermediate: Is for riders that can 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.

Dressage Intro: For those riders who have completed a beginner riding course. They can comfortably mount, walk, trot, post and know diagonals. Riders will work on introductory level dressage exercises using the dressage training scale to improve the connection to the horse through the seat.

Dressage Upper Level: Riders should be confident at the walk, trot and canter. Training level concepts of suppleness, connection, balance and rhythm. Instruction includes refinement of the dressage seat, basic gaits and paces within the gaits, transitions, arena figures, simple changes through the trot, turn on the forehands and leg yields, and cavaletti. Students ride training 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 polo fundamentals, mallet skills, and refining riding into polo riding skills. This is for those with riding experience but no or little 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 to hone individual skill, mallet skills, learn accuracy and develop polo riding skills.

Intermediate Polo: For riders at an Intermediate or Advanced Level who have developed their polo riding skills, and comfortable on different levels of horses. Riders should have either already taken the Polo Fundamentals II course or have equivalent polo experience. This class is for players that would like to develop better tactics that will lead to better strategy and applying these skills into a game setting

Trail: For riders at an Intermediate level or above who can maintain control of their horse at the walk, trot, and canter. Riders must be able to mount their horse independently. This class focuses on basic trail skills and will ride in the UConn Forest.

Introduction to Western Dressage: For students interested in riding USEF Western Dressage at Intro and basic level. It combines western traditions of the horse and rider with Classical Dressage training. Western Dressage begins at Intro level (walk/jog) encouraging correct gymnastic training with the goal of having a horse that becomes more balanced, supple and easy to ride as the levels progress. Riders use western tack and must be able to Walk/Jog/Lope. The class will cover how to ride tests as well as training concepts to teach both horse and rider the skills needed to progress up the levels.

Intermediate Ground Poles: For students interested in ground pole exercises to help develop confidence in their seat and aids to further their riding both in flatwork and over fences. Must be comfortable riding over multiple poles in succession. Pole exercises walk, trot and canter. This is not a jumping class and is open to Dressage, Eventing and hunt seat riders. Riders may choose between hunt and dressage tack.