

Practicum Level Descriptions

Fall 2021

Beginner: 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.

Advanced Beginner: For riders who have walk and trot established, are able to tell their diagonal and are starting canter. Walk, trot, and canter exercises to develop rider's seat and strengthening the leg position by practicing transition work, cavaletti, dressage figures, and lunge line lessons.

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 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.

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.

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 Intro and Training level dressage exercises using the dressage training scale to improve the connection to the horse through the seat and developing the canter.

Dressage Training Level: For those riders who can comfortable walk, trot, and canter. Riders will work on Training level dressage exercises using the dressage training scale to improve the connection to the horse through the seat.

Dressage First Level: For those riders who have ridden Dressage before and want to advanced their lateral work. Riders will work on their seat, lateral movements, and collection.

Western Beginner: 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: For riders that can walk and jog and are ready to advance loping skills. Riders will work on riding off of the seat with long reins. Riders will do no stirrup work, lunge line lessons, patterns, and trail.

Western Advanced: Advanced riders that can comfortable walk, jog, and lope on any horse. Riders will work on fine tune there aids and learn to be an educated rider. Riders will do no stirrup work, drop reins and ride off of the seat, lunge lessons, patterns, trail, and reining maneuvers.

Polo Fundamentals I: For riders at an Advanced Beginner Level or above who can maintain control of their horse at the walk and trot and knows their diagonals. This class focuses on the introduction to fundamental polo skills.

Polo Fundamentals II: For riders at an Intermediate and Advanced Level who can maintain control of their horse at the walk, trot and canter. This class focuses on applying fundamental polo 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 there horse independently. This class focuses on fundamental trail skills and will riding in the UConn forest.

Team Descriptions

Equestrian Team: Tryouts available to rate and make selection choices. Team members will be selected based on skill, level, equitation, and sportsmanship. In addition riders will switch horses and be evaluated on both horses and a short written evaluation of each riders performance in the form of a judges card will be available for review by all participates. Tryouts to be held in show attire. Practices will work on exercises in forward seat riding to advanced skills and equitation. Team members will be required to attend all practices, shows, meetings, and team events.

Dressage Team: The dressage team tryouts this year will include all returning members as well as any new riders that would like to participate. One date will be Intro and Lower level tryouts and one date will be Upper and First level tryouts. Horses will be assigned in a way to best assess rider skill independent of horse's ability. Team lessons will support the continued development of dressage skills, knowledge, and confidence in the show ring. In addition to overall improvement of riding skills, there will be a focus on strategies to help riders get the most out of test riding in a show situation.

Western Team: Tryouts are to determine the riders riding ability and placement for the team. Practices are to work on horsemanship position along with riding with control and making a connection with the horse. Practices are also to help riders become more confident and stronger while riding. Shows are to demonstrate what we have worked on in practices and create new goals and work on our faults to help improve.

Varsity Polo: For riders at an advanced level who can maintain control of their horse at all speeds, can demonstrate control of their mallet on the near side and offside and has an understanding of the rules. This Team focuses on further development of advanced riding techniques, mallet skills, and game strategies. The team shall mainly compete against other teams in the Northeast region during their regular season, and will participate in the tournament season in the spring. Tryouts required.

Morgan Drill Team: This team works on pattern riding as team, riding with music, and themed demonstrations to promote UConn's Morgan horses. Must be at the advanced beginner level or higher in any discipline to tryout.