

Practicum Level Descriptions

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, games, and lunge line lessons.

Intermediate 1: Can walk, trot, and canter safely in a group, known leads and diagonals, has done some jumping and ready to begin small courses up to 2 feet. Riders will work on jumping position, sitting trot, transitions, no stirrup work, lunge line lessons, gymnastics, courses, and trail.

Intermediate 2: Riders have experience with course work and have solid jumping fundamentals, jumping at least 2'6". This group is for riders that want to be competitive in the show ring and work on seeing distances and equitation. This group will be doing primarily course work and no stirrups. Lesson may also include lunge line lessons, gymnastics, games, switching horses, and trail.

Advanced: Riders with experience course work at 3 feet. Must be 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, games, 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.

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 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 no stirrup work, lunge line lessons, games, and trail.

Trail: For riders at an Intermediate Level or above who can maintain control of their horse at the walk, trot and canter. This class focuses on the fundamental trail skills.

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.

Advanced: 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 class focuses on further development of advanced riding techniques, mallet skills, and game strategies.

Polo Skills Workshop: For current polo practicum participants that wish to hone skills learned in their weekly lessons. This will be an unstructured, but supervised, one hour ride where individuals can focus on a particular skill(s) they want to further develop. Participants will be assigned a horse each week and advanced polo riders and/or staff will be providing tips and advice. Open to Polo Fundamental I through Advanced riders.

Morgan Drill Team: New members must have permission to sign up from the coach. This team works on pattern riding as team, riding with music, and themed demonstrations to promote UConn's Morgan horses. Must be at the intermediate 1 level in any discipline to join.