

Becoming a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Your CTRI Certification Journey at EquiCenter

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor (CTRI)! EquiCenter is proud to be a supportive training ground for the next generation of industry professionals. We're excited to guide and champion you through every step of this rewarding journey. Below you'll find an overview of our CTRI certification process, the topics we cover, and how to get started today.

The CTRI Certification Process at EquiCenter

1 Application

Download, complete, and submit the EquiCenter CTRI program application to begin your certification journey.

Reach out to Sam at sschaubroeck@equicenterny.org to get your application.

2 Riding & Teaching Baseline Assessment

Once your application is submitted, you'll complete an initial assessment to evaluate your current riding and teaching skills.

3 Practical & Hands-On Experience

Gain real-world experience under the supervision of our experienced team:

- Observe a dedicated block of lessons with an assigned mentor.
- Learn the fundamentals of comprehensive lesson planning, mounting, and dismounting.
- Gradually take over specific portions of a lesson (such as the warm-up or cool-down).
- Progress to teaching full lessons to accumulate your required instructional hours.

4 Teaching for Video Submission

As you build confidence, you'll begin practice teaching specifically tailored for your official PATH Intl. video submission.

Complete your formal PATH Intl. application, then accumulate your required **25 teaching hours**, broken down as follows:

12 hrs Private lessons

13 hrs Semi-private lessons, including 3 hours with three volunteers per student

Once your hours are complete, record and submit your final teaching video for review.

→ [Review the PATH Intl. Video Prep & Self-Assessment Guide](#)

5 Final Exam

Study and successfully complete the official PATH Intl. online final examination to earn your certification.

→ [Download the PATH Intl. CTRI Candidate Handbook](#)

Training Topics Covered

Our comprehensive curriculum ensures you feel confident, safe, and highly skilled in the arena. Throughout your time at EquiCenter, we will deeply explore:

Rider Care	Intake & Assessment, Posture & Alignment, and Cognitive & Physical Disabilities.
Equine Management	Horse Selection & Movement, and Specialized Equipment.
Instructional Skills	Teaching Techniques, Lesson Planning (Goals & Objectives), Skill Progression, Task Analysis, and the "What's, How's, and Why's" of Instruction.
Arena Management	Mounting & Dismounting, and effectively managing Volunteers.

Mentorship at EquiCenter

One of the greatest benefits of training at EquiCenter is the depth of our team. You'll have the unique opportunity to work alongside multiple mentors — each bringing a distinct teaching style, creative problem-solving strategies, and invaluable industry tips to enhance your education.

Sam	Sara	Lindsay	Katie	Debi	Molly
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What to Expect During Mentored Lessons

- **Shadowing:** You'll observe a specific lesson at least three times, standing in the center of the ring to ask questions and gain real-time insight.
- **Scaffolded Learning:** You'll gradually take on small lesson components, starting with short warm-up stretches, and progressively build up to teaching entire lessons.
- **Unwavering Support:** At no point will you be left alone or placed in a situation where you feel uncomfortable. If you ever feel overwhelmed, let us know immediately — we're here to support you!

Ready to Take the Next Step?

- Attend your upcoming orientation (details provided upon application review).
- Start tracking your hours! Begin logging any hours you've already spent assisting in lessons, and sign up for additional volunteer opportunities to meet your hands-on experience requirements.

Questions?

We know navigating certification involves a lot of moving parts, but you don't have to do it alone. We're here to guide you every step of the way to ensure your success. Don't hesitate to reach out to our team at any time!