

# PATH Intl. Continuing Education Update

## Effective January 1, 2016

In alignment with PATH Intl. Strategic Plan objectives of quality assurance and excellence in credentialing, we have revised the continuing education requirements for annual instructor compliance. By adopting continuing education requirements parallel to those of comparable professional therapeutic certifications, we ensure that PATH Intl. credentials are respected and valued, placing PATH Intl. certified professionals at the forefront of the EAAT industry.

The revisions effective January 1, 2016, focus on knowledge of disabilities and instruction techniques. Active participation in disability education events, peer-to-peer coaching, instructional evaluation and self-reflection, and applicable continuing education hours will foster the professional development of PATH Intl. Certified Professionals on many levels.

**Until January 1, 2016, PATH Intl. instructors may choose to submit either the 2014 compliance form OR the 2015 compliance form. Please note that you will be required to meet the compliance requirements exactly as they are stated on the compliance form you submit.**

### CEU Guidelines on the PATH Intl. Website

Guidelines for what types of activities are accepted for each component of continuing education and the corresponding subcategories can be located at:

<http://www.pathintl.org/resources-education/education/continuing-education>

The updated requirements break the 20 hours of continuing education into 2 components, each with subcategories.

- **Core Requirements:**

- Minimum 6 hours of disability education
- Minimum 2 hours of receiving lessons or coaching OR attending a clinic relevant to EACH certification held

- **Additional Continuing Education Activities include:**

- Formally organized educational events
- Individual professional activities
- Professional conferences/meetings
- Academic or outcomes-based EAAT research
- Educational webinars and videos
- Receiving lessons and/or evaluation for skill mastery
- Providing or receiving coaching (as defined in the guidelines)
- Volunteering for PATH Intl., Special Olympics, Paralympics



**PATH**  
INTERNATIONAL

Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

### Instructor Compliance Continuing Education Requirements

- > 20 total hours must be submitted
- > A minimum of 6 hours of disability education must be submitted
- > A minimum of 2 hours of lessons, coaching or clinics relevant to EACH certification held must be submitted
- > Membership dues paid
- > Current First Aid and Adult & Child CPR certifications (documentation of these may be requested at the discretion of PATH Intl.)

### Inside this update:

Core Requirements	2
Disability Education	2
Certification Relevant Hours	2
Additional Continuing Education Activities	3
2015 Instructor Compliance Form	4

## Continuing Education Core Requirements

### Disability Education (DE)

**Minimum of 6 hours**

Disability education (DE) is defined as educational activities that provide the student with greater understanding of the physical, social, cognitive and behavioral impacts experienced by individuals with disabilities, mental health disorders or emotional trauma. The education received should help the instructor understand how to communicate with and more effectively instruct a wide range of EAAT participants in order to increase the efficacy of the learning environment.

The objective of acceptable DE activities must be to provide the student with greater awareness and knowledge of how to thoughtfully interact with and instruct individuals with disabilities, mental health disorders or emotional trauma. Activities may include conferences, meetings, symposiums, educational clinics, eLearning courses and webinars.

Examples of appropriate topics are, but not limited to:

- Composition and origin of disorders and disabilities
- How components of disorders and disabilities interact and manifest
- Biomechanical considerations when working with individuals with physical disabilities
- Teaching techniques for Special Education Providers
- Occupational therapy, physical therapy or speech language pathology
- Mental health disorders and conditions
- Working with veterans
- Conscientious instruction for individuals with impairments
- People first language

#### Did You Know?

Several of the conference sessions at the PATH Intl. Regional and Annual conferences satisfy the disability education component. Please refer to your conference program to learn which sessions apply to the disability education component.

### Certification Relevant Hours (CE)

**Minimum of 2 hours for EACH certification held**

This component of continuing education is designed to encourage continued self-reflection of instructional skills and horsemanship.

#### **Master, Advanced and Registered Riding Instructors**

- Receive 2 hours of riding lessons OR mounted or unmounted coaching  
**OR**
- Attend a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques

#### **Driving Instructors**

- Receive 2 hours of driving lessons OR coaching (put to or ground driving)  
**OR**
- Attend a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques

#### **Interactive Vaulting Instructors**

- Receive 2 hours of vaulting lessons OR mounted or unmounted coaching  
**OR**
- Attend a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques

#### **Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL)**

- Receive 2 hours of unmounted lessons on ground work skills and/or horse behavior  
**OR**
- Attend a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques

#### Did You Know?

Coaching is defined as participating in hands-on exercises to strengthen areas of focus pertaining to the EAAT industry to increase professional competence. A coach must be a compliant PATH Intl. Certified Professional with 5+ years involvement in the EAAT industry.

## **Additional Continuing Education Activities**

Continuing education (CE) activities submitted to fulfill the minimum of 20 hours should involve active participation and/or reflect pursuit of professional development.

Relevant activities include, but are not limited to:

### **Formally organized educational events**

- Equine welfare, management, behavior or skill clinics
- Attending or auditing PATH Intl. workshops
- PATH Intl. Annual Conference Horse Expo
- Higher Education courses that provide a greater understanding of persons with disabilities (socially, cognitively, behaviorally, etc.) and human behavior
- College level anatomy, physiology and biomechanics courses

### **Individual professional activities**

- Writing and submitting papers, articles or materials for publication (includes PATH Intl. materials)
- Presenting on topics or research related to EAAT at professional conferences, symposiums, clinics and panel discussions
- Instructing PATH Intl. workshops (NOTE for Evaluators: each workshop may only be counted ONCE for EITHER your instructor compliance OR your evaluator compliance)
- Retaking PATH Intl. Online Courses/Exams

### **Professional conferences**

- Attending conferences, symposiums and panel presentations with the objective of gaining knowledge pertaining to the EAAT industry

### **Providing or receiving coaching (max of 4 hours in addition to core requirements)**

- Participating in hands-on exercises to strengthen areas of focus pertaining to the EAAT industry to increase professional competence
- Coach must be a compliant PATH Intl. Certified Professional with 5+ years involvement in the EAAT industry.
- Student must be a compliant PATH Intl. Certified Professional with fewer years of experience than the coach
- Includes instructor candidate mentoring ONLY for Mentors who have completed the PATH Intl. Mentor Training course

### **Educational webinars and videos**

- PATH Intl. 2014 Annual Conference online videos
- PATH Intl. Educational Webinars
- Webinars offered by professional equine and/or disability-related associations and clinicians

### **Academic or Outcomes based EAAT research**

- Participation in and development or analysis of research pertaining to the EAAT field (name of research institution must be provided).

### **Receiving lessons and/or evaluation for skill mastery (max of 4 hours)**

- Receiving lessons from a qualified instructor or professional to strengthen a specific riding/driving/vaulting/instruction/ground work skill
- Teaching evaluation by a PATH Intl. Certified Professional with 5+ years therapeutic instruction experience

### **Volunteering for PATH Intl.**

- Horseshow judging for a PATH Intl. Member Center, the Special Olympics or Paralympics
- Attending a PATH Intl. Member Center volunteer training

### **Did You Know?**

In addition to on-site workshops and online exams, PATH Intl. offers additional opportunities to earn continuing education hours.

- Recordings of many of the 2014 PATH Intl. Conference sessions are available for purchase. If you missed the conference in San Diego, you can still experience the fantastic presentations on numerous topics! Visit the website at: <http://www.pathintl.org/path-intl-conferences/2014-conference-videos>.
- Check out our webinar schedule at <http://www.pathintl.org/resources-education/webinars> to learn what's coming up. If you are interested in a webinar that has already taken place, replays of many of the webinars can still be purchased via the online store.



## Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International CERTIFICATION COMPLIANCE FORM

PATH Intl. Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PATH Intl. Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

To maintain compliance as a PATH Intl. Certified Professional, *when submitting your annual membership dues*, you must also submit:

- **Documentation of a minimum of 20 continuing education hours (clock hours) obtained during the previous 12 months to include core requirements of:**
  - Minimum of **6 hours** of disability education (DE). Visit the CEU Guidelines webpage to learn what applies as disability education.
  - Minimum of **2 hours** relevant to each certification held (CE):
    - Master, Advanced and Registered Riding Instructors – **Receive** 2 hours of: Riding lessons OR Mounted or unmounted coaching; OR **Attend** a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques
    - Driving Instructors – **Receive** 2 hours of: Driving lessons OR Coaching (put to or ground driving); OR **Attend** a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques
    - Interactive Vaulting Instructors – **Receive** 2 hours of: Vaulting lessons OR Mounted or unmounted coaching; OR **Attend** a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques
    - Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL) – **Receive** 2 hours of unmounted lessons on ground work skills and/or horse behavior; OR **Attend** a clinic with an emphasis on instruction/teaching techniques

**Continuing education (CE) activities submitted to fulfill the minimum of 20 hours should involve active participation and/or reflect pursuit of professional development. Relevant activities include:**

- Formally organized educational events
- Individual professional activities
- Professional conferences/meetings
- Academic or Outcomes based EAAT research
- Educational webinars and videos
- Receiving lessons and/or evaluation for skill mastery
- Providing or receiving coaching (as defined in the guidelines)
- Volunteering for PATH Intl., Special Olympics, Paralympics

Visit the PATH Intl. CEU Guidelines webpage at

<http://www.pathintl.org/resources-education/education/continuing-education>

for explanation of the above categories and clarification regarding accepted and not accepted CEU activities.

Activities that fall under the following categories (but not limited to) WILL NOT be accepted for continuing education:

- CPR and/or First Aid Training
- Recreational riding
- Exercise classes
- Day-to-day job activities
- Observing or providing therapeutic sessions or riding lessons
- General Horse Expo or Fair attendance

Complete the following portion of this form and submit it along with your membership payment to the PATH Intl. office.

**You are responsible for keeping a copy of this form for your records.**

All information submitted on this form is subject to further review by PATH Intl.

I am a PATH Intl. Certified [list certification(s)] : \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ My PATH Intl. Instructor Membership is current OR my dues are included with this form. My PATH Intl. member # is: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I have verified that my coaching was provided by a CURRENT PATH Intl. Certified Instructor (if applicable)
- ☐ I have completed a total of **20 hours** of combined continuing education and disability education as follows:

**CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE), DISABILITY EDUCATION (DE), ETC. (Please attach a separate sheet if necessary):**

Event/Activity:	Location/Institution/Coach/Research Supervisor:	Date (mo/year)	CE or DE	# of Hours
(example) 2014 PATH Intl. Annual Conference & Meeting	San Diego, CA	11/14	DE	8

NOTE: Documentation of current Adult & Child CPR and First Aid certifications may be requested at the discretion of PATH Intl.

**Total # of Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

*I hereby state that all information listed within or submitted with this form is considered true and accurate. I have read, fully understand and will uphold the PATH Intl. Code of Ethics\* at all times and agree to maintain compliance with all mandatory and applicable standards listed in the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International Standards for Certification & Accreditation.*

(\*Code of Ethics is located on the PATH Intl. website, [www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org), and in the Standards for Certification and Accreditation Manual.)

Print Name

Signature

Date

Submit to Kim Hall at [khall@pathintl.org](mailto:khall@pathintl.org) or mail to PATH Intl. • P.O. Box 33150 Denver, CO 80233 • Fax: 303-252-4610 • Phone: 1-800-369-7433

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