



Equestrian riding is an activity requiring tremendous skill and talent. Through COR, we at Room To Ride have condensed these skills into a logical format to track the student's progress and allow the student to set goals towards what she/he wants to achieve. Below, is a list of skills that each rider must know and be able to demonstrate in order to pass his/her respective level and advance to the next level. Furthermore, as horse riding builds upon skills previously learned, some skills may appear randomly on future exams.

Exams are divided into two sections: written and riding. Written tests will be taken at Room To Ride. Riding tests will be performed on the horse of the student's choice. Skills listed below may be tested on either or both forms of testing. In order to advance to the next level, students must pass both written and riding portions with a combined score of 70% or better. Good luck!

Beginner: Level 1

- Student safely interacts with horses. This includes:
 - Placing his/her hand on horse's rear when passing behind a horse
 - Making quiet, calm, & slow movements while around horse
- Student safely interacts with horses. This EXCLUDES:
 - Making sudden and fast movements while around horse
 - Yelling, running, or any forms of "horse-play" on and around a horse
- Student demonstrates good, basic body positioning:
 - Good foot placement in stirrup irons
 - Ear, shoulder, seat, & heel form a straight line
 - Heels down, shoulders back, & eyes looking forward
- Student demonstrates good hand position when holding the reins:
 - Thumbs are up, and hands are closed firmly around the reins
- Student demonstrates good balance while performing lunge line exercises at the walk
- Student can independently steer a horse around several cones using the reins
 - Gently pulling the appropriate rein while giving with the opposite rein
- Student can independently perform halt-walk/ walk-halt transitions
- Student can independently walk around the arena without being on a lunge line
- Student demonstrates good mounting & dismounting technique
- Student can perform "Around-the-World" (a game) on a stopped horse
- Student is introduced to trotting (posting & sitting) on a lunge line
- Student can distinguish between a Western and English saddle
- Student can identify specific horse grooming tools

Beginner: Level 2

- Student can groom horse in the proper order, and uses the appropriate grooming tool during each step
- Student can halter horse and lead it safely & confidently through a series of obstacles
- Student can identify and recall the name of the saddle they commonly use
- Student can tack their horse, placing the saddle pad and saddle in the correct order
 - Some assistance may be permitted for students unable to physically tack a horse, but who can still identify the correct order in which the tack should be placed
- Student demonstrates improved body position, requiring fewer reminders
 - Student's hands are noticeably quieter (even at the trot)
 - Student's legs are quieter and more stable
 - Student's heels are down
- Student demonstrates good balance while performing lunge line exercises at the trot
 - Can prevent an egg from falling from a wooden spoon (2 laps)
- Student can place his/her feet back into the stirrup irons while at a walk (no assistance or use of student's hands is permitted)
- Student can ride over a series of ground poles while at a walk
- Student is introduced to several, basic schooling figures
- Student is introduced to riding in a 2-point position
- Student is introduced to the concept of a "trot diagonal"
- Student consistently remembers to run up the stirrup irons after dismounting
- Student can identify several, specific horse expressions/ forms of communication
- Student can identify several, basic parts of a bridle
- Student can identify several, basic parts of a saddle

Beginner: Level 3

- Student demonstrates confidence while interacting safely around a horse
- Student demonstrates improved leg position
 - Can prevent money from falling from between their legs while at the trot (2 laps)
- Student can demonstrate an emergency dismount and explain when it would be used
- Student demonstrates smooth walk-trot transitions
- Student can perform a posting and sitting trot (1 lap each direction) while off lunge line
- Student demonstrates confidence & precision while performing schooling figures at a walk
- Student can 2-point around the arena (1 lap each direction) while at a walk
- Student trots more consistently on the correct diagonal
- Student can ride over a series of trot poles with confidence
 - Can also ride over trot poles in 2-point position
- Student can identify horse blind spots
- Student can explain the function of a saddle cashel pad
- Student can identify additional parts of a saddle
- Student is familiar with good arena etiquette practices