



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!

Intermediate: Level 1

Room To Ride strongly encourages riders at this level and above to consider investing in a pair of breeches, paddock boots, and half-chaps. These are key pieces of riding attire that will support the student as she/he continues to ride.

- Student can groom horse thoroughly and independently
- Student can tack horse independently
- Student is introduced to good saddle care practices
- Student demonstrates a strong body position
 - Hands are very quiet and forgiving to the horse's mouth
 - Proper arm position while turning
 - Seat position is solid yet relaxed, and in sync with the horse's movement
 - Legs are strong, solid, and quiet; heels are down
- Student can demonstrate a one-rein halt and explain when it should be used
- Student can adjust his/her own stirrup irons while sitting in the saddle
- Student can place his/her feet back into the stirrup irons while at a trot
- Student can steer -- with and without stirrup irons -- around a series of cones at a posting & sitting trot using leg pressure only
- Student can perform all schooling figures at a trot with confidence and precision
- Student can 2-point around the arena (2 laps each direction) while at a trot
- Student consistently trots on the proper diagonal
- Student can ride through advanced trot poles (small cavallettis) demonstrating confidence and proper position (2-point)
- Student consistently demonstrates good arena etiquette
- Student is introduced to cantering on a lunge line

- Student can identify additional bridle parts
- Student can identify additional saddle parts
- Student can identify specific horse colors & markings
- Student can identify the four (4) gaits of a horse

Intermediate: Level 2

- Student can disassemble, clean, and correctly re-assemble a horse bridle
- Student can effectively and intuitively use his/her natural aids (i.e. hands, seat, and/or legs) and any artificial aids (e.g. a riding crop)
- Student demonstrates smooth trot-canter transitions
- Student performs schooling figures at a trot with confidence, precision, and the correct amount of bend from the horse
- Student demonstrates good balance during lunge line exercises at a canter
- Student demonstrates confidence cantering off a lunge line
- Student is introduced to cantering in a half-seat position
- Student is introduced to trail riding
- Student is given a limited introduction to Dressage
 - Must be able to correctly label a Dressage arena
- Student demonstrates balance in a 2-point position without using the neck or mane
- Student is introduced to jumping
 - Can identify specific types of fences
- Student is introduced to half-halting
- Student can identify specific horse breeds
- Student can identify specific anatomical features of a horse

Intermediate: Level 3

- Student can place feet back into stirrup irons while at a canter
- Student performs schooling figures at the canter with confidence and precision
- Student can 2-point around the arena (4 laps each direction)
- Student can canter in half-seat around the arena (2 laps each direction)
- Student can jump small, individual cross poles and small verticals
- Student can demonstrate two (2) of several types of jumping releases
- Student can demonstrate a half-halt and explain why and when it should be used
- Student is introduced to galloping a horse
- Student is introduced to a flying lead change
- Student is introduced to working a horse on the bit and getting impulsion from behind
- Student is introduced to bending/ flexing a horse at the poll
- Student can identify specific horse bits
- Student can identify additional horse anatomical features
- Student can identify additional types of fences