

Technical Standards for Entrance into the Virginia Intermont College Equine Studies Program

In order to be successful in the Equine Studies Program, Riding, and Vocational courses at Virginia Intermont College, all students must meet the following requirements from the time they enroll in the program or classes until they have completed the course work or program of study.

- Students must wear footwear designed specifically for riding in English tack. The footwear must completely enclose the foot and have at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch heel.
- Students must wear helmets that are ASTM/SEI certified. Helmets must have verification that they hold such certification (generally marked inside the helmet by a stamp, tag or sticker or is listed on the SEI web site as a certified helmet).
- Students must be able to understand and readily respond to audio cues while on horseback.
- Students must be able to understand instruction without having to make visual contact with the instructor or take their eyes off the course.
- Students must be able to determine the distance between them and any jumps or obstacles in a course.
- Students must be able to judge the distance between themselves and the other horses in the ring.
- Students must be able to effectively warn other riders of their approach or position in the ring.
- Students must be able to easily and safely mount a horse either with the proper use of an approved mounting block, or from the ground without assistance.
- Students must be able to easily bend at the hip and rise into the standard half-seat position for at least four complete revolutions of a 200 foot by 100 foot arena.
- Students must be able to perform all movements required in the standard emergency dismount.

- Students must be able to ride astride in all mounted classes and assume standard positions required by whichever form of riding they are undertaking (hunter equitation, dressage or eventing).
- Students must be able to perform all tasks either in the saddle or on the ground without losing balance, falling or becoming dizzy, light-headed or faint.
- Students must be able to ride around an arena at the posting trot for four complete revolutions of a 200 foot by 100 foot arena without becoming winded, dizzy, lightheaded or faint.
- Students must be able to bend over and lift a horse's hoof and hold it long enough to allow proper examination or cleaning of the hoof.
- Students must be able to hold and properly control standard grooming equipment including but not limited to: curry combs, hard and soft brushes, sweat scrapers, mane and tail combs, braiding equipment, hoof pick, etc.
- Students must be able to lift a full bucket of water from the ground to shoulder level and carry the bucket at least 50 feet.
- Students must not be pregnant while participating in mounted classes or while working directly with, or in the vicinity of, horses.
- Students must be able to safely put a halter or bridle on a horse without assistance.
- Students must be able to climb a hayloft ladder without becoming dizzy, faint, light-headed, unbalanced, or falling.
- Students must be able to regularly work in an environment where dust, hay, and grasses are prevalent and cannot be controlled nor reduced.