

Therapeutic Riding Instructor Certification at Centenary

Thank you so much for your interest in our NARHA-approved therapeutic riding instructor certification program. To complete this program you will need to commute to Centenary's Equine Center twice a week for two semesters. There is no residential option for a 5-6 week short course.

You do NOT need to be a full time student at the College: you can take ONLY these courses as a part time "official audit" student. *See below for more information on this option.*

The program consists of four courses: two academic classes (EST 317 – 318) held on either Monday or Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 9 pm, and two practicum classes (EST 417 – 418) held at our NARHA accredited center, Therapeutic Riding At Centenary (TRAC).

These courses together take a full academic year. If you are not already enrolled at Centenary, you will become a part time student at Centenary College – necessary for insurance reasons – and will be considered an "official audit" student. This means that you will not receive an official grade for the courses, but it also means that the cost is half that of regular part time studies. For 2007-8, the total cost is \$2,225, excluding text books.

By the completion of the program, you will have taught 25 hours of therapeutic riding lessons, supervised by a NARHA certified instructor. You will receive in depth instruction about disabilities and how to adapt your knowledge of horsemanship and instruction to the therapeutic situation and, as they say, much more! To become certified, you will take the NARHA riding skills mounted test and the on-line NARHA open book instructor examination and NARHA standards test.

Prerequisites:

To go all the way to certification at Centenary, you should be a competent intermediate level rider in either English or Western style. You should be able to assess a horse for suitability including mounted evaluation, and design a schooling plan to keep horses fit and well mannered for their jobs. Your knowledge of stable management and horsemanship should be equivalent to that of Pony Club C level, and you should be able to recognize and suggest treatment options for the common ailments and soundness problems faced by the average horse. Experience instructing riders without disabilities is a plus, but not required.

If your riding skills and equestrian background are not at this level, you are welcome to take the academic classes and volunteer for TRAC – but will not be able to proceed to certification. We will be happy to mentor you until your skills are improved and then you will go through the NARHA On-Site Certification program – described on their website: www.narha.org

The sequence of classes begins in September – if you are interested in applying, please let us know. Registration information is sent out during the summer.

On a personal note: therapeutic riding has been my passion and delight for over 30 years: I want to welcome you to this wonderful field, and wish you all success in your future career! Don't hesitate to get back to me with any questions you may have.

And plan to visit us at the Centenary Equestrian Center. The address is 47 Califon Road, Long Valley NJ.
Directions can be found at: <http://www.centenarycollege.edu/cms/index.php?id=1501&MP=1501-1503>

With best wishes,

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