

HORSEMANSHIP CURRICULUM:

BLUE LEVEL

The **Blue Horsemanship Level** is an advanced beginner level, designed to help students make the transition from passenger to thinking rider.

This Level encourages students to ride on the flat with attention to detail and an awareness of the horse's balance, while giving them the skills necessary to ride safely in the open and over obstacles.

WHO IS BLUE LEVEL FOR?

-  **Students in regular group or private lessons** who have completed the **Red, Yellow and Green Horsemanship Levels**.
-  **Lessees or horse owners** who want to practice riding independently between lessons.
-  **Riders who aspire** to jump, barrel race, trail ride, and/or compete in obstacle challenges such as Western trail.
-  **Riders preparing** for their first entry-level dressage, Western dressage or eventing competition.
-  **Confident, ambitious students who are ready to learn more challenging riding skills** and are willing to Level Up their commitment to fitness both in and out of the saddle!

WHAT DOES BLUE LEVEL TEACH?

-  **Mounted exercises** for developing an independent seat.
-  **No-stirrup work** at all three gaits.
-  **Awareness of bend and balance**, including posting diagonals and leads, at the walk and jog/trot.
-  **Riding in a dressage arena** with the goal of riding an accurate Intro C (English) or Basic (Western) Level dressage test.
-  **Balance and control outside of the arena**, including slow gaits in an open space and natural trail obstacles.
-  **English riders** begin serious **jumping** over grids and courses no more than 2' high.
-  **Western riders** learn to ride the **barrel pattern at the lope** and **arena obstacles**.

Blue Level is a bridge between beginner and intermediate riding.

Students apply the skills learned in previous Levels as they tackle bigger challenges and gain confidence in their own abilities.

This Level also introduces a shift in focus: students begin to consider the horse's balance and movement, not just their own performance. While **Blue Level** riders may not yet be able to demonstrate the working gaits and degree of bend expected in a competitive dressage test, they *can* ride with accuracy, rhythm and harmony, setting the stage for more advanced work that benefits the horse as well as the rider.

