Riding Instructor Safety and Basic Knowledge Exam 2023

The Riding Instructor Safety and Basic Knowledge Exam must be passed prior to teaching mounted students as an apprentice, or being reinstated, or getting licensed to teach in Massachusetts through another approved certifying entity such as PATH International, Certified Horsemanship Association, or another country's equestrian governing authority.

The Department of Agricultural Resources oversees the equestrian programs for the Commonwealth and administers this exam. During Covid19 disruptions we offer both online and limited seating in-person exams. Passing either one is sufficient, but both will contain two parts: a discussion about safety and potential injuries; and a set of similar questions designed to examine your knowledge of many equestrian related concepts, including, but not limited to riding theory, safety, horse health, physiology, anatomy, and our related laws and regulations.

In-person exams will generally be offered every other week on Mondays, but seating is strictly limited so you must be confirmed to attend. Online exams will use Microsoft Teams and be scheduled individually on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. For exam date on the application, you can write ASAP or the desired Month you prefer and either TEAMS or In-Person to indicate the method, if you have a preference. You will have an opportunity to sign up to either method later so don't worry if you want to change your mind. It's just to help us understand demand.

Applications must be received by the 20th to be scheduled for the following round of exams in the upcoming month. Around the 23rd to 28th of the month you will receive a scheduling email with dates and time slots available for testing for both in-person and online exams. Online exams may have a group exam discussion component on a separate date than your individual exam. Participation in that group discussion will shorten the time it takes to do the individual portion and its fun and informative. In-person exams will begin with that group discussion. Exam slots do fill up quickly so do respond to scheduling emails in the first day or two once you've received it.