

# Getting Certified

By

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I decided to become certified instructor for many different reasons, and even though this is not exactly an easy process, I am glad that I did it, and I recommend anyone that is teaching to also consider going through the certification process. To anyone that is considering going through the ICP and wanting to have a positive experience, I recommend keeping an open mind, and to be able to accept constructive feedback, as the faculty members are going to be very honest in what they have to say. I felt that I had a positive experience, and that it has really strengthened my overall performance as an instructor. Becoming a certified instructor has clarified my strengths, but has also shown me the areas that I need to improve. It was also nice to interact with many different trainers, to see and understand their perspectives, and to see how they might word things differently. I would like to thank the GDCTA for providing the grants and opportunities for their members. With the help of the GDCTA, they have helped make my instructor certification possible!

This past year I was one of several recipients that were awarded a training grant from the GDCTA. Even though receiving instruction from other top professionals in our sport can be quite educational, I decided to utilize my grant winnings in a different way. I feel that as a professional, or anyone that is teaching someone else, it is critical to ensure the individual meets an appropriate standard to be teaching. That being said, I have been working towards becoming a certified instructor through the US Eventing's, Instructors' Certification Program (ICP). To become certified, it can be quite a long, expensive, but educational and 'eye opening' experience. The individual is required to attend, and pass, two workshops, before they can be eligible to be assessed by members of the ICP faculty. There are also other requirements that must be met, before one can complete their certification, such as a background check, obtaining CPR certification, and recommendations from other professionals, to name a few. I specifically applied my winnings to the cost of the workshops I was required to attend.

During this process, I worked mostly with Brian Sabo and Mary D'Arcy. Both of these professionals were wonderful to work with, and had lots of great information and constructive feedback for the trainer. I feel that at home, or in a familiar environment, trainers can get a bit stale, or too comfortable in their teaching, so by going through this process it was a great reminder of safety precautions, and how to keep one's teaching up to standard; from the correct use of terms, to where it is most appropriate to stand in the arena when movements are performed, to how the lesson should appropriately progress, are just a few things that are most likely going to be discussed. I felt the entire faculty I interacted with was very fair in their assessments, and I very much felt that they were all there to be as helpful as possible; they really wanted the trainer to succeed.

