

# Virginia Intermont College

## List of Equine Studies Materials

As an incoming student of the Equine Studies Program, the faculty would like to take this opportunity to provide information about the tack, attire and equipment that you should be assembling as a future horse professional. Virginia Intermont College offers a supply of saddles, saddle pads, bridles, bits, girths and other equipment for student use, but it would be to your advantage and convenience to begin assembling your materials for college as well as future use.

A close contact saddle is a generic recommendation for each student. Each saddle should be a good fit for the student with correct fittings. A white fitted saddle pad as well as a therapeutic back pad (cashel, gel, etc.) is also required. Additional saddle pads (fitted or square) in conservative colors are also recommended. A personal bridle is recommended with a basic full cheek or D ring snaffle bit along with a standing martingale. Girths should be in good condition. Non-chafe girths/girth covers are required. Students must also have a proper stick and spurs. School horses require leg protection on all four legs while being ridden, so it would be to your advantage to add polos and/or boots to your equipment. Polos, splint boots, galloping boots or open front boots may be used on the horses' front legs. Polos, hind splint boots or ankle boots may be used on the horses' back legs. Dressage and other classes lend themselves to other variations.

Personal riding attire is recommended on the basis of providing a professional appearance as well as meeting safety requirements. Proper headgear, an ASTM/SEI approved helmet, is required as well as proper footwear; paddock boots and/or properly fitting tall boots. Chaps are highly recommended and breeches are required in many riding classes. As students get more involved in the competitions a hunt coat, show shirt and gloves will be required. Intercollegiate, Dressage, ANRC and the International Intercollegiate teams may have further attire requirements. Any riding done at the riding center requires shirts with sleeves. These shirts must be tucked in and riders are also required to wear their hair up in their helmets with hair nets.

Students are required to provide proper care for all of the horses they are using so it is an advantage to acquire a set of personal equipment. A grooming kit should be assembled including a hoof pick, soft and hard brushes, rubber curry, sweat scraper, thrush treatment, fly spray, hoof oil, shampoo, a conditioner, sponge, alcohol, clippers and a mane pulling comb. Tack cleaning supplies such as sponges, soaps and leather conditioners are also recommended. As progress is made with riding and in using many different horses, other equipment such as a variety of bits, standing and shipping bandages, bell boots, a lunge line and braiding supplies will be added to your professional equipment.

Instructors will advise you when additional equipment is needed via a class syllabus or when special equipment is required for a particular horse.

Your equipment may be stored in a personal tack trunk (with lock please) in either the freshman, sophomore/junior, senior or boarder tack rooms located at the riding center. One tack trunk per student is allowed! It is recommended that all equipment is permanently marked and students should investigate getting their tack listed on a homeowner's insurance policy.

All equipment needs can be met at the Virginia Intermont College Riding Center via Collegiate Tack. This tack shop was established to assist Virginia Intermont students with their tack needs. Discounted prices and expert advice are offered while supplying the students with needed tack. Feel free to contact Margaret Jones at (276) 669-8398 for further details.

Horse related items are considered an investment and will be used during your years at Virginia Intermont College. These items will continue to be used after graduation upon entering the horse industry. We do not recommend the most expensive equipment, but do suggest getting good quality products.