

2024 COURSE CATALOG

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MISSION STATEMENT

Therasage EMC was founded to provide training in the Traditional Equine Massage Therapy. It is the intention of the Institute to be a part of a process that integrates this healing art into the American Veterinary Care System.

GOALS:

- To establish a school for training Professional Equine Massage Therapists.
- To improve educational standards within Equine Holistic Health Training programs.
- To provide quality of education in Equine Massage Therapy.
- To educate people to become Professional Equine Massage Therapists.



A WORD ABOUT THERASAGE EMC By Greg Gage, Instructor.

My concept of what equine massage therapy should be revolves around the horse as a whole. I don't believe in teaching "bits & pieces" of equine massage without a solid basis. I have combined many unique methods of hands-on stretches, touch therapy, massage, and exercise mechanics with in-depth anatomy to create an outstanding program. When strategically combined, our methods complete a beneficial system of equine therapy.

I take special pride in our certification program, and I am proud of the equine massage techniques, bodywork, reconditioning and business strategies I teach. Therasage EMC is a unique certification program unsurpassed by any other. Learning is made simple by effective and individualized teaching methods of applying touch therapy and massage to the horse. I will teach you how to apply an individual massage to fit the individual horse, and how to evaluate its conditioning/exercise program, and its physical and emotional needs.

At Therasage EMC, I am dedicated to you. I believe it is my job to help you meet your goal of obtaining the highest degree of knowledge as a professional equine sports massage therapist practitioner. You will acquire necessary learning tools and training techniques.

MASSAGE HISTORY

Despite what some people claim, massage is not new to the equine industry. This wonderful therapy has been used on humans, horses, and other animals for thousands of years. The ancient Chinese used massage on both animals and people as early as 3000 B.C. The Hopi Indians used massage on their horses as well as other valuable breeding animals.

Regardless of who developed this first hands-on therapy, equine therapeutic massage has gained extreme popularity to help horses obtain a higher level of health, wellness, and athletic capabilities.

THERASAGE EMC PROGRAM LENGTH

The Therasage EMC Certification Program requires a total of 40 hours. The professional program runs Thursday thru Sunday, 10 hours daily of in-class/hands-on educational instruction with 2 hours of take home material. This class structure provides Therasage students with maximum convenience and lower cost than other programs which require the course to be spread over two weeks. SMILES Therapeutic Riding Center classes - Tuesday thru Friday; Whispering Willow Farms - Thursday thru Sunday.



COURSE CURRICULUM

Therasage EMC curriculum is based on an educational, progressive, and direct approach to learning. You will receive the Therasage EMC Therapy Manual, charts, and diagrams, as well as numerous supplemental worksheet/hand-outs. You will obtain in-depth instruction on the location, function, and kinesiology of the major muscles, and receive additional materials in class.

As a Certified Human Massage Therapist, I spend time on the application and principles of massage therapy on humans to give our students a full understanding of the benefits of massage and how it feel to the horse. I do, however, concentrate the greatest emphasis on strokes and techniques applied to the horse.

I place a strong emphasis on palpation and compression strokes to help you develop a "superior sense of touch". Unlike humans, the equine client cannot always tell you where it hurts or what the problem is. I help you develop a feel which helps you refine your therapeutic touch.

My Program offers additional discussions and lectures on movement evaluations and assessments, range of motion assessments, conformation and how it applies to muscular stress and structural damage.

CURRICULUM & CLASS TIMES

- 2 hrs. Introduction to Massage
- 3 hrs. Professional Ethics
- 5 hrs. Equine Anatomy
- 5 hrs. Business Marketing
- 20 hrs. Massage Techniques
- 3 hrs. Stretching/Tendon Ligament Techniques
- 2 hrs. Introduction to Advance Equine Modalities

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Greg Gage, lead instructor, has 31 years of massage experience and 23 years of extensive knowledge, experience and superior skills in equine massage, bodywork, reconditioning, and leg work. Greg is a certified and licensed human massage therapist as well, and has worked for national health care systems, his own private practice, and on many competitive athletes. He as studied and completed various seminars including principles of hoof balancing, proper saddle fitting, herbology, gait abnormalities, and reflexology. Memberships include International Massage Association (IMA), and American Bodyworks Massage Professionals (ABMP).



WHAT IS EQUINE SPORTS MASSAGE?

Equine Sports Massage is therapeutic application of professional sports massage techniques used on human athletes applied to the equine athlete. Sports massage is helpful when muscle tissue becomes knotted and tight from over-stretching and overuse. If a muscle cannot fully release or contract, the horse is incapable of moving properly. If a muscle cannot fully release or contract, the horse is incapable of moving properly. In the end, the horse is subjected to pain, restriction of motion, and an obvious decrease in fitness. The immune system decreases, circulation becomes impaired, and healing cannot take place appropriately. The horse may be pushed to an unobtainable level resulting in an unnecessary injury.

WHY SPORTS MASSAGE?

Sports massage has been proven effective for increased endurance, enhanced performance levels, injury prevention as well as for recovery for human and equine athletes alike. The sports massage techniques accomplish this by reducing muscular fatigue, increasing circulation, reducing stress and tension, increasing synovial fluids, and boosting the immune system.

According to documentation form the Tufts University of Veterinary Medicine, the most common cause of poor performance by the horse stems from musculoskeletal problems. Equine sports massage addresses this problem directly, and helps enable the horse to function at a healthier level.

BENEFITS OF SPORTS MASSAGE

- Increased red cell counts
- Improves blood and lymph circulation
- Releases muscles from spasm
- Reduces stress and tension
- Improves range of motion
- Increases synovial fluid in the joints
- Reduces anxiety and fatigue
- May increase speed of the natural healing process
- Enhances muscle balance
- Helps prevent injury



REGULATIONS CONCERNING EQUINE MASSAGE

Presently, there are no Federal or State regulations regarding Equine Sports Massage. Individuals state regulatory guidelines may come into effect in the future since the practice of Equine Sports Massage continues to advance. Therasage EMC works with national equine organizations and veterinarians throughout the country to help set the standards for this field. I am confident that the Therasage Equine Massage Certification Program will meet or exceed future standards.

MARKET OUTLOOK

There is a high demand market for equine massage therapists. Because massage aids in injury prevention and provides many health promoting qualities, numerous horse owners/ trainers have incorporated in into their horse's overall health car regimen. Horses of all driving/riding disciplines all over the world are in need of this service.

Considering the increasing understanding of some of the adverse reactions to invasive surgical techniques and the debilitating long term effects of constant drug use, horse owners/trainers are seeking out alternative non-invasive approaches to horse health problems. There is a growing demand for professional Certified Equine Massage Therapists: by completing my program you will help meet that demand! Therasage graduates are well-recognized by veterinarians, licensed chiropractor

INCOME POTENTIAL & EMPLOYMENT

Although prices may differ slightly in certain areas, Massages last approximately 60 minutes and fees range between \$60.⁰⁰ and \$100.⁰⁰. Shorter massage of pre and post event; generally take 20 minutes, and range in price between \$15 to \$25. Graduates of Therasage can expect to recoup their program investment by massaging as few as 25 horses, at the rate of 4 horses per day, which can be accomplished as soon as one week.

Although successful completion of Therasage Equine Massage Certification provides certification, Therasage EMC does not guarantee employment in the technical field for which students have been trained. Student referrals to prospective employers are not based on direct contact with the employer regarding current job openings.



ACADEMIC POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Academic Standards, Satisfactory Progress, & Grading System: Satisfactory Progress is dependent on three factors – adequate grades, good attendance and attitude. All students are required to maintain a minimum average of (C) 70 % in all subjects in order to successfully complete the program. The instructor will notify any student who is not performing satisfactory at mid term. Grades for tests are received by student the same day tests are taken. Unsuccessful progress reports will be given to students at risk of failure so they can upgrade their class progress. Students will get a Final Grade report as standard.

Grading system policy:

- A: 90-100..... 4.0
- **B:** 80-89 3.0
- **C:** 70-79......2.0
- F: Failing (below 70) and/or 1 or more absences.
- W: Student has withdrawn from course. No Credit is given from a course which a student has withdrawn.

STUDENT CONDUCT: The following are criteria for evaluating student conduct.

- Attitude among students and staff
- Participation in class
- Willingness to accept correction
- Adherence to dress code

HOLIDAYS AND VACATION

New Years - January 1, 2024 Easter – March 31, 2024 Memorial Day – May 27, 2024 4th of July – July 4, 2024 Labor Day – September 2, 2024 Thanksgiving – November 28, 2024 Christmas – December 24 & 25, 2024



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused and Unexcused Absences: Excused absences (illness, death of family members, etc. requires verbal contact with Therasage Staff and must be made up at the next available Wisconsin class. Unexcused absences (i.e., absences that were taken without prior notice to staff) and for those absent for more than one class without otherwise providing any type of notice to staff are deemed to have constructively withdrawn from the program. Extreme lateness will result in a record of missing class. Absences due to illness of the student or illness of a student's family must be made up within 60 days of the class completion date.

A student has the right to appeal a dismissal action. The student must submit an Appeal Dismissal letter to the instructor within 30 days of dismissal. If the student fails to submit the appeal by the deadline, the student waives all future rights to appeal the dismissal action. The student will be notified of the outcome of their appeal in writing within ten business days after receipt of the appeal letter.

Upon re-enrollment, the student will self-monitor progress, grades, and schedule a meeting with the instructor at the first sign of difficulty with course material, issues within the class. If the student does not pass the certification, or withdraws from any class, the student will be dismissed again.

Tardiness: Given the nature of Therasage EMC education, Therasage EMC can dismiss any student without an excused absence that misses any portion of the four-day class due to a failure to complete the required certification requirements. Tardiness means being late 15 minutes. Anything longer than that will be considered a missed class. Two tardies results in a student being required to make up time at end of the day.

Leave-of-Absence Request: Should a student request a leave of absence they must do so in writing to the administration. a leave of absence will be granted upon request for no more than a sixty-day period unless the leave of absence is requested because of the student's medically determinable condition. In this case the student must provide the school with a written recommendation from a physician for a leave of absence longer than sixty days. Students that fail to return from scheduled leave of absences will be subject to having their enrollment in the program terminated. If a student wishes to re-enter the program, he/she will have to re-enroll under the terms of the current enrollment agreement. Therasage EMC will maintain students earned hours and grades for a period of two years. After the two year period, the students must apply for re-admission and will be entitled to the credits previously earned based upon written or practical examinations. Leave of absence for military duty will always be granted. Same re-enrollment policies apply.

Make-Up Policy:

If a student is in risk of failure of the course due to an excused absence they may make up class material that will comply with the requirement of the course. They may also make up class time or the Final Exam practicum portion by video tape or observation with written permission from administration.



Attendance Dismissal, Appeal, and Readmittance Policy:

All students enrolled in Therasage Equine Massage Certification must have at least 100 hours of prior hands-on equine experience. Students must be able to halter, pick hooves, lunge, and have complete confidence when handling the horse on their own. Students found to be lacking or having misrepresented their experience are asked to drop the class and volunteer at an equine facility or equivalent prior to re-enrolling.

Academic Dismissal: Grounds for immediate dismissal include misrepresenting prior horse-handling experience, inability to perform the instructed massage sequence, or the mishandling of a horse at any time. If a student fails to complete the program successfully, Therasage EMC offers the student 60 days to retest the written test of the certification and/or the practical test by video or physically at a Therasage host facility.

Academic Dismissal Appeal: Students wanting to appeal a dismissal for academic reasons must submit in writing their appeal and discuss the appeal with the instructor, who must document the appeal for records. The student must submit an Appeal Dismissal letter to the instructor within 30 days of dismissal. If the student fails to submit the appeal by the deadline, the student waives all future rights to appeal the dismissal action. The student will be notified of the outcome of their appeal in writing within ten business days after receipt of the appeal letter.

Conditions for Readmittance include the ability to prove the student received prior equine experience and can demonstrate through the proper equine care: able to halter, pick hooves, lunge, and have complete confidence when handling the horse on their own. Therasage EMC offers the student 60 days to retest the written test of the certification and/or the practical test by video or physically at a Therasage host facility. The student is also required in his appeal to have a secondary witness confirming the student has met the prerequisites to enroll in the program.

Length of Academic Probation: A Student is placed on Probation for 60 days.

Student Complaint Policy:

If a student has a complaint about policy or procedure, the student is to submit in writing this complaint to the Program Director. All complaints will be dealt with by the director quickly and to the benefit of the schools efficient and ethical functions. If student complaints are not satisfactorily resolved with the Therasage Instructor, the student can escalate the complaint to the following:

Department of Safety and Professional Services

Educational Approval Program, P.O. Box 8366, 4822 Madison Yards Way, Madison, WI 53705; www.dsps.wi.gov; dspseap@wisconsin.gov; (608) 266-1996.



Admissions and Entrance Requirements

Class dates and times are pending confirmation from host facilities. Once these dates and times are finalized and available, students may locate them on the Therasage EMC website at: www.therasageemc.com All students enrolled in Therasage Equine Massage Certification must have at least 100 hours of prior hands-on equine experience. Students must be able to halter, pick hooves, lunge, and have complete confidence when handling the horse on their own.

Student Records:

Under Wis. Admin. Code § SPS 407.02, Therasage retains the following records for six years from a student's graduation or last date of attendance:

- Enrollment agreement and documentation relating to student payments;
- Student information including attendance reports, progress records, grades, student address, etc.;
- Date student completed the program and/or was terminated from the program and the reason thereof; and
- Student grievances and subsequent resolutions. *add student grievances and resolutions are kept on file for 6 years, then electronically
- Electronic student transcripts are retained indefinitely

Academic Probation, Dismissal and Readmittance:

All students enrolled in Therasage Equine Massage Certification must have at least 100 hours of prior hands-on equine experience. Students must be able to halter, pick hooves, lunge, and have complete confidence when handling the horse on their own. Students found to be lacking or having misrepresented their experience are asked to drop the class and volunteer at an equine facility or equivalent prior to re-enrolling.

Any student who receives a non-passing grade may submit a video tape of the final massage/stretching sequence to be evaluated/graded by the Director.





GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

School Self-Evaluation Process: A successful curriculum requires all involved in Therasage Equine Massage Certification to continually learn and be open to change and innovation. Through self-evaluation we identify our curriculum's strengths and the changes needed to produce better outcomes for our students. In other words, process and program improvement tactics. Therasage EMC utilizes several methods of self-evaluation to improve its curriculum.

Therasage EMC instructor attends different competition events to keep updated on new modalities, constantly coordinating with horse professionals and past and existing horse owners. As lead instructor, Greg Gage works with various veterinarians on best practices in relation to injuries. Therasage EMC regularly strategizes on current programs, asking itself, 'how good are we now?' in order to identify our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and the impact on our students. Next, in order for Therasage EMC to set priorities for improvement, it strategizes around the question of, 'how good can we be?' taking into consideration capacity, company culture, and program development.

Lastly, The Therasage EMC Graduate Facebook page also allows students to maintain connection to other professionals in order to continue learning and facilitate the sharing of information.

Termination Policy

The continued enrollment of any student is dependent upon regular attendance, proper and ethical conduct and achievement of passing grades.

Any one of the following is sufficient cause for dismissal: Irregular attendance as defined under excused and unexcused absences, neglect of work and class requirements, failure to comply with established procedures and policy, failure to meet financial agreements or misrepresentation by providing false information or falsified documents to Therasage EMC and any conduct unbecoming of a professional as listed under Code of Professional Conduct.

If a student is dismissed they may after 1 year re-apply with written appeal by the student to the director and written affidavit by another professional why this student should be considered for re-admittance. Only the Director can accept a re-admittance appeal. Therasage EMC reserves the right to maintain high standards for the students but aims to allow all to grow and correct past problems whatever they may be.

Change of Institute Policies

Therasage EMC reserves the right to change policy, tuition, and fees, including cancellation of any program at the Institute. All registered students will receive prior written notice of at least 30 days.

Employment Assistance

At this current time there is no Employment Assistance Program. Students are responsible from their proved class work knowledge to set up in the community for employment. The Institute will do anything in its power under current conditions to aid in this procedure within reason. Therasage EMC does not provide employment placement. Student referrals to prospective employers are not based on direct contact with the employer regarding current job openings.



Employment services provided by Therasage EMC is offered as an assistance only and not as an assumption of the responsibility for finding the student a job.

Code of Professional Conduct

Therasage EMC is a professional program and all students are expected to act as person-intraining to become certified equine massage therapists. There is a need for mutual respect, honestly and confidentiality. Students may be dismissed from the class for conduct violations.

Conduct Dismissal Appeal. Students wanting to appeal a dismissal for conduct reasons must submit in writing to the instructor who must document the appeal for student records. Dismissal for conduct includes: mishandling of a horse, EEOC violations with fellow students or staff, in-appropriate actions in class, or misrepresenting the program publicly. The student must submit an Appeal Dismissal letter to the instructor within 30 days of dismissal. If the student fails to submit the appeal by the deadline, the student waives all future rights to appeal the dismissal action. The student will be notified of the outcome of their appeal in writing within ten business days after receipt of the appeal letter.

THERASAGE EMC EQUINE SPORTS MASSAGE THERAPY STANDARDS CODE OF ETHICS:

- 1. **Social/Ecological Concern::** Members recognize their intrinsic involvement in the total community of life on theplanet Earth.
- 2. **Professional Conduct:** Therasage members conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner, performing only those services for which they are qualified, and represent their education, certification, professional affiliations and other qualifications honestly. They do not in any way profess to practice medicine unless licensed by their State or country to do so.
- Health History and Referrals: Therasage members keep accurate client records, including profiles of past health history. They discuss any problem areas that may contraindicate use of massage therapy techniques, and refer to appropriate medical professionals when indicated.
- 4. Professional Appearance: Therasage members pay close attention to professional appearance of self and clothing, tools and equipment. They endeavor to provide a relaxing atmosphere, giving attention to reasonable scheduling and clarity about fees.

Communication and Confidentiality:

Therasage members maintain clear and honest communications with their clients, and keep all information, whether medical or personal, strictly confidential.

Intention and Trust:

Therasage members are encouraged to establish and maintain trust in the client relationship and to establish clear boundaries and an atmosphere of safety.



Respect of Clients:

Therasage members respect the client's physical/emotional state and do not abuse clients through actions, words, or silence. They acknowledge the inherent worth and individuality of each horse/horse owner and therefore do not unjustly discriminate against clients or colleagues.

Professional Integrity:

Therasage members present Equine Sports Massage Therapy in a professional and compassionate manner is representing themselves and their practice accurately and ethically. They do not give fraudulent information, nor misrepresent Therasage or themselves to students or clients, nor act in a manner derogatory to the nature and positive intention of Therasage. They conduct their business honestly.

Professional Courtesy:

Therasage members respect the standards set by the various Therasage modalities, and they respect service marks, trademarks, and copyright laws. Professional courtesy includes respecting all ethical professionals in speech, writing or otherwise, and communicating clearly with others.

Professional Excellence:

Therasage members strive for professional excellence through regular assessment of personal and professional strengths and weaknesses, and by continued education and training.





THERASAGE EMC STUDENT RULES OF CONDUCT

- No smoking inside the Therasage barns. Smoking only permitted in student vehicles.
- Each student is responsible for their own belongings.
- At the end of each day, all materials used are to be put away neatly.
- The administrative office is no available for making copies or phone calls.
- Absences: Students are expected to attend all class hours within each class scheduled.
- Mature conduct consistent with business standards is expected of all students. Therasage reserves the right to suspend or dismiss any student who engages in acts such as irresponsible behavior towards another student, client, staff and administration; possession and/or consumption of alcohol or other drugs in any part of the Institute, cheating or failure to respect the rules of Therasage.
- All class periods are expected to begin and end on time and students are expected to be in the classroom ready to begin at the appointed times.
- The Dress Code must be adhered to all times. (See School Dress Code)
- Therasage EMC recycles all recyclable materials.
- Students will take personal responsibility for their own person belongings. Therasage will not be responsible for lost or stolen belongings.
- Treat all animals with respect and kindness
- No student is allowed to ride any horse at the facility
- Non adherence to the student rules of conduct may result in disciplinary action. (See termination policy)

I have read and understand the rules of Therasage EMC, and agree to abide by them.

Student signature

Date



SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Therasage EMC understands that there must be a balance between the students need for personal expression and the schools need to provide appropriate guidelines for success in the massage therapy profession, along with a comfortable atmosphere for learning. I have devised a dress code that I feel meets the needs.

The dress code policy has the fooling goals: To teach student proper attire for the equine massage therapy profession. To encourage a professional attitude and self respect

Classroom Attire: Students are encouraged to dress comfortably for all classroom activates. Preferably layered clothing due to temperature increase while working, and temperature drop when less physically active, i.e. during lecture.

- Shoes or boots (no sandals) are to be worn in the barn at all times.
- Unacceptable attire includes but is not limited to:
- Low cut tops or shirts
- High cut skirts or dresses
- Jewelry is not recommended (especially rings)
- T-shirts with sexual reference, drugs or offensive messages

Hygiene/Cleanliness: Students need to arrive to class properly bathed, hair clean, with deo-dorant used as necessary. Nails are to be clan, short and trimmed at all times.

SCHOOL ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Application deadline is two (2) weeks prior to first day of class
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age
- Application for Therasage EMC Certification Program must be made to director of administration and must include the following:
- Application for Enrollment form
- A non-refundable \$100.00 application fee

Advanced Standing Status: The current position of our school is that no advanced standing is offered. All classes and curriculum must be taken and attended as offered.

Cancellation and Refund Policy: A student who withdraws or is dismissed after a period of time identified under Wis. Admin. Code § 408.07(3) has passed, but before completing 60% of the potential units of instruction in the current enrollment period, shall be entitled to a pro rata refund, as calculated following, less any amounts owed by the student for current enrollment period, less a one-time application fee of \$100.

Pro rata refund shall be determined as the number of units remaining after the last unit completed by the student, divided by the total number of units in the enrollment period, rounded downward to the nearest ten percent. Pro rata refund is the resulting percent applied to the total tuition and other required costs paid by the student for the current enrollment period. There will be no refund after 60% of the course has been completed. Students will receive their pro rata refund within 40 days after dismissal or notification of withdrawal.



If a student cancels after instruction has begun, a refund of a pro-rated portion of tuition will be returned. cancel this agreement at no penalty less the \$100 application/deposit fee by notifying the director of the program, Greg Gage. If cancellation is requested at least three-days prior to the first of classes, a full refund will be given (less the application fee) within 10 days of notification. Full charge will be imposed.

Cancellation of class by the Instructor will result in a full refund within 10 business days.

Only direct verbal communication with Director of Program, Greg Gage will be considered for alternative to constructive notice of withdrawal in an emergency situation. The director reserves the right to accept or deny the request on a case-by-case basis.

Payment Policy:

Therasage EMC does not permit installment payments. All payments must be made in full prior to the starting of each segment of classes.

LOCATION

The classes are held at two locations: SMILES Therapeutic Riding Center, N2666 Co Rd K, Darien, WI 53114 and Whispering Willow Farms, 21134 W 7 Mile Rd, Franksville, WI 53126. Facilities typically offer a heated barn and indoor arena.

THERASAGE EMC CERTIFICATION COST TUITION AND FEES

Therasage EMC Certification Program is a 40 hour course (lodging not included) \$1,000.⁰⁰ All manuals and handouts are included in the class fee, and are only available through Therasage EMC.

CLOSING

Upon acceptance of your application, you will receive a greeting package with a map to the Therasage facility. We would be more than happy to help you with travel arrangements and local accommodations. You will also receive a "visitor's package" with information on dining, art exhibits, museums, and nearby attractions you may want to visit while you are here.