Preface
The mission of The University of Alabama Equestrian Program is to provide University of Alabama students and special populations access to the opportunities and benefits of equestrian activities. This outreach will occur through a pursuit of academic equine degree programs and classes, IHSA competitive teams and equine assisted therapeutic riding with a research focus on the science of therapeutic riding.

Culture
You are the building blocks to what we hope to be a long standing tradition of excellence in the University of Alabama western Equestrian program. This is a great opportunity and privilege, but also a great responsibility. How you work and live as members of the team will determine the culture of the program for years to come. Let’s be sure we intentionally to build a culture we will be proud of.

Values: (to be filled out first mtg)
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Goals: (to be filled out first mtg)
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TEAM POLICIES
• Team members are here to be students first. Must be a full time student at UA and in good standing with the University. GPA of 2.5 or higher required.
  • Should a rider fall below 2.5 GPA, they will not be permitted to compete until grades come up (but will still be required to attend all meets). Failure to raise grades will eventually result in a dismissal from the team.
• Must be a member of IHSA. Form must be signed and given to coach at first team meeting.
• Team members will be required to purchase a predetermined amount of clothing items from the team’s Spirit Pack, to include a polo and warm up suit.
• Members will also be responsible for providing their own (approved) show clothing beyond what is team provided (show shirts).
• Social media policy: as a member of this team, you are representing the Alabama Equestrian Program and the University of Alabama at all times. Please refrain from posting material on your social media accounts which is in violation of team values and expectations. Failure to comply with representing the team’s standards will result in consequences at the staff’s discretion.
PRACTICES
- Required practices 2-3 times per week, with the exception of health or family emergency. In case of an emergency, team members must notify coach for approved excuse and reschedule their practice time.
- Practice attire is to be comprised of riding appropriate jeans, non-lace up western boots, and a University of Alabama shirt. No tank tops permitted.
- No cell phones during practice.
- Late arrival to practice is unacceptable. Please allow for at least 30 minutes of time before practice to groom and tack up your assigned horse. Allow for at least 30 minutes after practice to properly cool down and care for horse/equipment.

WORKOUTS
Physical conditioning is an important component to an equestrian athlete's regimen. The successful athlete who takes their riding and conditioning seriously will strive to go above and beyond expectations to give themselves even the slightest edge in the competition arena.
- Team members are required to attend 1 workout per week through the recreation center, or have a workout with a trainer.

FACILITY & HORSE CARE EXPECTATIONS
Your facility is a physical representation of your pride in what you do for Alabama Equestrian. The tack room is to be clean and orderly at all times, with equipment properly maintained and cared for.
- If your horse makes a mess while you have it out, you are expected to clean up after yourself.
- Should something arise that a rider thinks may need healthcare attention, they are responsible for bringing it to the coach’s attention.

ALCOHOL/DRUG/ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES POLICY
Because you were selected to be a member of this team and it is a privilege to represent your team and university, and you will abide by the following rules:
- Never wear your team attire to bars or clubs.
- No illegal drug use will be tolerated.
Consequences for violation of alcohol and drug policy are at the discretion of coach and staff. Any illegal activity is possible grounds for suspension or dismissal from the team.

COMPETING AND TEAM TRAVEL
Remember that it is our goal for people to recognize us when we travel and to acknowledge our growing reputation. You, as team members, create that reputation through your words, actions, and choices. There is always someone watching.
- Team members are expected to be at meets regardless of their competition status. No exceptions.
- Team members will be financially responsible for their show clothing, which is to be determined/approved at the coach’s discretion.
- Team members are expected to wear UAET apparel visibly while they are not showing (weather permitting).
- Competition riding slots are not guaranteed to members. We are a team that is composed of some of the very best riders at UA. Showing decisions are not personal. The competition roster is decided on the needs of the team to win any given competition.
- Creating a competitive environment in practice will make every person better, regardless of their status on the team. Allow yourselves and your teammates to push each other toward improvement while continuously respecting each other in our words and actions.
COMMITMENT

High achievement is a team endeavor. I would not expect you to live up to high standards if I did not expect the same of myself. As your coach, I will work as hard as I can to provide you with opportunities to learn and grow both as a rider in the arena and a person outside of the arena. There will be challenges that push you outside of your comfort zone; we do not learn when we are comfortable. However, I will also support, encourage, and fight for you in and out of the arena.

This team is a two way street, you will get out of it only as much effort as you give. To build Alabama's Western Equestrian Team, we need riders and students who are committed to working hard, passionate about the sport, and willing to go above and beyond as teammates. If you believe you are up to this challenge, and ready to be a part of something bigger than yourself, please sign below. This is your contract as a team member to live up to the above expectations of UAET Western Student Athlete.

Printed Name: ____________________________________________         Date: ________________________

Signature: __________________________________________