

CLASSICAL ACADEMY OF ARMS

CLASSICAL FENCER KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Copyright 2017 by Walter G. Green III. All rights reserved.

The Classical Academy of Arms believes that training in fencing should be centered on the technical and tactical needs of the student participating in classical fencing. The Academy has established the following list of knowledges, skills, and abilities as a baseline of capabilities for individual success as a classical fencer. As such it forms the basis for trainers' work in teaching and training classical fencers. Knowledges, skills, and abilities in this list should be interpreted in the context of the weapon, period, school, and Master used as the foundation for instruction. Not all skills will be applicable to every school, and it is possible that proper execution of the technique in some schools may require skills not addressed by this list.

1. Knowledge
 - A. Knowledge of the history of fencing
 - B. Knowledge of the various schools of fencing of the classical period
 - C. Knowledge of the target area.
 - D. Knowledge of right of way or priority.
 - E. Knowledge of distance and its uses
 - F. Knowledge of the characteristics of the weapon.
 - G. Knowledge of the classification of fencing actions and the characteristics of those actions.
 - H. Knowledge of the rules of fencing applicable to the weapon the fencer fences and consistent with the period and school the fencer studies.
 - I. Knowledge of the theory of fencing the weapon the fencer studies.
 - J. Knowledge of the customs and courtesies of the salle.
 - K. Knowledge of safety constraints in fencing.
 - L. Knowledge of the inspection, cleaning, and maintenance of weapons, personal equipment, and uniform of the fencer.
2. Skills
 - A. Skill to assume a preparatory position
 - B. Skill to perform a salute
 - C. Skill to assume the guard positions of the school

- D. Skill to perform footwork as required to open, close, or maintain distance
- E. Skill to perform footwork to attack, renew, and recover from an attack.
- F. Skill to engage and change engagement
- G. Skill to perform simple attacks.
- H. Skill to perform simple parries, lateral, semi-circular, diagonal, circular, and change.
- I. Skill to perform compound attacks.
- J. Skill to perform attacks on the blade.
- K. Skill to perform takings of the blade.
- L. Skill to perform composed parries.
- M. Skill to perform ceding and flying parries.
- N. Skill to perform direct, indirect, and compound ripostes.
- O. Skill to angulate as appropriate in attacks and ripostes.
- P. Skill to perform renewals of the attack.
- Q. Skill to perform counteroffensive actions
- R. Skill to perform countertime actions
- S. Skill to perform actions to defeat countertime actions
- T. Skill to perform the grand salute

3. Abilities

- A. Ability to present at the lesson in correct uniform with appropriate equipment, all clean and in good repair.
- B. Ability to take a group lesson
- C. Ability to take an individual lesson.
- D. Ability to assess opponents' capabilities, techniques, and tactics.
- E. Ability to conduct reconnaissance actions
- F. Ability to plan and execute, first, second, third, and fourth intention actions
- G. Ability to apply tactical principles in the bout
- H. Ability to adapt to changes in the tactics of the opponent.

- I. Ability to assess successes and failures and identify courses of action to improve performance.
- J. Ability to serve as a judge for bouts
- K. Ability to serve as a timekeeper
- L. Ability to serve as a scorekeeper
- M. Ability to serve as president of the jury
- N. Ability to serve as a member of the bout committee for an individual competition conducted by pools or direct elimination.
- O. Ability to serve as a member of the bout committee for a team competition conducted by pools or direct elimination.