



4: Knowledge & requirements for the *Vorfechter* grade

Context and goals

Collegium in Armis currently has 4 grades which describe a student's achievements, knowledge and practical skills base within the medieval and Renaissance *Kunst des Fechtens* (*Art of Fencing*) with the longsword. The grades are:

- *Neuling* (Novice)
- *Fechter* (Fencer)
- *Freifechter* (Free Fencer)
- *Vorfechter* (Provost).

All students who join the school and continue training beyond an initial probationary period become a *Neuling* by default. *Fechter* is the first grade with a testing requirement, *Freifechter* the second, *Vorfechter* the third. The *Vorfechter* grade establishes measurable standards and provides each student a path of structured progression with clear and attainable goals.

Minimum requirements

To be awarded the grade of *Vorfechter*, a candidate:

- has been attending classes regularly for a minimum of 6 years as a *Freifechter*
- Possesses and maintains the necessary equipment in good condition
- Satisfies the requirements and achievements below during an examination.

Knowledge and skills

Key knowledge areas and skills are drawn from the sources known as *Hanko Doebringer*, *Sigmund Ringeck*, *Peter von Danzig*, *Peter Falkner* and *Joachim Meyer*, with additional input from other relevant sources where useful. A candidate testing for this grade must demonstrate all items below to the satisfaction of the examiner/s.

Privileges and responsibilities

A *Vorfechter* holds all the privileges and responsibilities of a *Freifechter*. The primary responsibility of a *Vorfechter* is teaching, and a *Vorfechter* is expected to coach students at *Neuling*, *Fechter* and *Freifechter* levels and lead classes unassisted. In addition, a *Vorfechter* takes a primary role in research, interpretation, running and promoting the school. A *Vorfechter* also has the right to open and run a separate *Collegium in Armis* branch school.

Assessing candidates

Each distinct item is assessed as 'competent' (tick) or 'not yet competent' (cross) marks. Candidates require competent assessments for all items to pass the overall examination. Examiners may prompt the candidate for a corrected or extended response (including more information or further demonstration) within reason.

1. Possess & maintain suitable equipment for practice		Result
1.1	Candidate possesses and maintains their equipment as per the <i>Freifechter</i> grade	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.2	Candidate possesses and maintains a sharp steel longsword for test cutting practice	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.3	Candidate's equipment is inspected for cleanliness, safety & suitability for practice	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Possess formal physical education or coaching qualifications		Result
2.1	Candidate holds a recognised coaching certificate or equivalent physical education qualification	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Demonstrate a thorough commitment to health & safety		Result
3.1	Candidate holds a current, recognised first aid certification in Queensland (e.g. "Apply First Aid")	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. History of coaching experience		Result
4.1	Candidate has led a minimum of 50 full classes at <i>Collegium in Armis</i> , instructing a variety of students	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Demonstrate knowledge and coaching ability before the examination panel		Result
5.1	Lead a fencing class, instructing a group of students of varying experience, before a panel of examiners	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.2	Instruct students in a set of <i>Liechtenauer</i> derived longsword techniques of the panel's choosing	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	Conduct a coached bout with a student, using the bout to coach the student in an aspect of longsword	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.4	Candidate displays an exemplary grasp of theory, practical skill and the ability to lead a fencing class	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Submit an academic thesis on a relevant historical fencing topic		Result
6.1	Candidate submits an academic thesis to the examination panel on a relevant historical fencing topic The thesis presents original research contributing new insights to the field and is of publishable quality.	<input type="checkbox"/>