

Equine Program



Oklahoma State University has a long-standing tradition of excellence and involvement in the equine industry. The institution is committed to preparing students to have both an understanding of the science behind the species and a practical understanding of what it takes to work with them.

While there is not a formalized degree plan offered, the OSU Department of Animal and Food Sciences recognizes the importance of providing a quality learning experience focused on horses. Students have an opportunity to gain hands-on experience at the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center, as well as participate in courses taught by award-winning faculty and staff. This combination provides an inclusive learning environment for students of all backgrounds and skill levels. In addition, the strong alumni and professional network students have access to enables them to interact with and learn from key players in the industry.

▶ *Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center*

The 40-acre facility maintains a quarter horse production herd of more than 30 horses. Students can spend time working with mares, foals and stallions to emulate real-world scenarios they will see in the industry. The brand new teaching facility offers additional classroom and meeting space. There are five horse stalls, including a foaling stall. Students can watch the foaling stall through a one-way window situated in a comfortable observation room. A small indoor arena offers students protection from the elements while they work horses in various hands-on courses.

Beyond coursework, students have an opportunity to work or intern at the center. These paid positions allow students to apply skills and knowledge learned in class to a working operation. Students aid the herd manager in the general care and maintenance of the horses and grounds.

▶ *Horseman's Association*

The Horseman's Association strives to connect students with the equine industry and showcase unique opportunities to work with horses. The goal of the organization is to provide networking opportunities between students and professionals in the equine field. Students travel to the National Horseman's Convention each spring to experience equine endeavors in different parts of the United States.

▶ *Judging Team*

Collegiate horse judging offers exciting and challenging opportunities for students seeking to further their knowledge of the equine industry and better their professional skills. Students travel across the country to compete in contests and interact with industry professionals. Those who participate on the team gain practical knowledge and hone their decision making and speaking skills. OSU has a rich heritage in the judging world, producing numerous carded judges and successful collegiate and youth coaches.



► Equine-Related Courses

In addition to the general education and specific degree requirements for an animal science degree, students have an opportunity to take many hands-on and lecture-based equine courses. Students work with their faculty academic advisor to incorporate these courses into their plan of study.

Advanced Spring and Fall Equine Evaluation

Two evaluation classes designed to complement one another are available for students wishing to be on the competitive fall judging team. The spring class is available for students wishing to gain more knowledge of all disciplines and learn industry standards. This class also provides the foundation to transition to the competitive judging team, known as the advanced equine evaluation class. The fall class deepens the understanding of all show disciplines, scoring systems and progression of competitive oral reasons.

Equine Behavior and Handling

Students work with horses on the ground and learn safe handling practices, basic equine science, health concepts and behavior. Students are exposed to various ages, genders and types of horses and gain valuable experience working with them in an interactive environment.

Equine Training Methods

Students are assigned a long-yearling and taught how to properly handle, groom, trim feet, lunge, saddle and bridle the colts and fillies.

Equine Breeding and Foaling

Participants will get practical experience managing and observing pre-partum mares in addition to watching the stages of parturition. Students will be responsible for care of the mare and foal and will work with them for the first weeks of the foal's life. The students also will help check the mare's reproductive cycles, collect stallions and assist with rebreeding the mares.

Equine Sales and Marketing

This class is a great opportunity for students who want to expand their knowledge of professional marketing schemes, including horse descriptions, photography and videography. Additionally, students will work directly with the OSU sale prospects to train them on the ground, under saddle and eventually in the final stages of sales preparation.

Horse Science

The focus of this class is to teach students how to apply scientific principles from their core courses to the equine industry. Students have an opportunity to gain hands-on learning through labs conducted at the Charles and Linda Cline Equine Teaching Center.

Horse Management and Production

This course is designed to provide students with general management information from several disciplines including economics, marketing, behavior, genetics, reproduction, nutrition and exercise physiology.

Equine Enterprise Management

This class teaches business aspects related to management of an equine based enterprise. Students apply both hands-on experience and knowledge gained from core courses to develop business skills applicable to the equine industry.



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