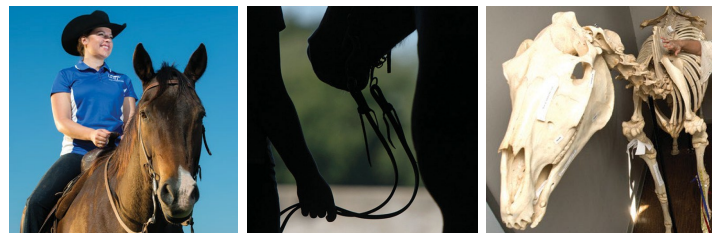


why HORSE SCIENCE?

WHY SHOULD YOU MAJOR IN HORSE SCIENCE AT MTSU?

What careers are available? Most people consider obvious horse careers: horse trainer, riding instructor, groom, barn manager, veterinarian, farrier—careers requiring hands-on work with horses every day, but there are many other opportunities. There are 7.2 million horses in the United States (American Horse Council, 2018). The horse industry contributes \$120 billion annually to the gross domestic product with over 5 million people involved as owners, service providers, employees, volunteers, and tens of millions of spectators enjoy horse events annually. The U.S. horse industry supports 1.7 million full-time-equivalent jobs. Many of those jobs do not include hands-on daily work with horses but instead provide horse industry services. Potential horse industry careers include the following:

- **Journalist** for the major horse publications (breed or discipline-specific magazines); photographer, videographer
- **Sales and marketing** of support supplies: trucks, trailers, fencing, stables, tack and equipment, horse feed, health supplies, riding attire, or a pharmaceutical representative selling products to equine veterinarians and horse owners, realtor specializing in horse properties
- Licensed **horse show officials** including inspectors, judges, horse event facility managers, show stewards, show announcers, and other designated qualified persons
- **Course designer** for horse events (jumping, trail, eventing, combined driving, etc); trailer designer; architect or engineer specializing in equine facilities, coliseums, riding arenas and stables; agricultural engineer; racing steward, timing official, handicapper, racing secretary; arena footing specialist
- **Lawyer** specializing in equine law, liability, equine contracts, environmental law, equine syndication
- **Public relations** for a breed or discipline-specific association, social media marketing; advertising or website designer; breed registry official; bloodstock agent
- **Equine scientist**; equine geneticist; equine exercise physiologist; formulation and testing of equine vaccines; equine behaviorist; equine reproductive physiologist
- Equine nutritionist, **equine feed specialist** or nutrition laboratory technician; forage, hay or pasture specialist
- **Therapist** specializing in therapeutic riding and equine assisted activities and therapies; non-profit manager
- **Financial planner** specializing in equine businesses; credit agent for horse properties; equine insurance agent
- Horse **extension specialist** or extension agent (people who teach best management practices regarding horses to new owners); rangeland management specialist, Bureau of Land Management official; mounted police officer



- University **professor** specializing in horses, riding instructor, equestrian team coach, high school agriculture teacher, 4-H youth program coordinator
- Equine or large animal **veterinarian**; veterinary technician, equine rehabilitation technician, laboratory technician

You may already know the horse career of your choice, or you may still be searching. MTSU's Horse Science Program provides a variety of course experiences that will help you decide, and we provide the tools you need to be successful in the horse industry. With our selection of outstanding lesson horses, an equine clinic and laboratory, indoor arena, jump course, five internationally known faculty, and extracurricular activities to keep you involved and inspired, you are sure to find a good fit in our program.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- The **MTSU Equestrian Team** shows western horsemanship and hunter seat equitation in the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association; 2023 IHSA National Champion Western Team; students have won 20 national championship titles; offers competition opportunities for all levels of riders
- The **MTSU Stock Horse Team** are 3-time American Stock Horse Association National Champions (Division I and II); students have won 25 national championship titles, showing in ranch horse pleasure, trail, reining, and working cow horse
- The **MTSU Horse Judging Team** has a 35-year-history of multiple wins at national intercollegiate horse judging contests
- The **Center of Equine Recovery for Veterans** pairs students learning about Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies with local veterans, using the horse-human relationship as therapy

MTSU School of Agriculture ♦ Horse Science Curriculum

Horsemanship Courses

HORS 2110 • 1 credit, Fall & Spring

Basic Horsemanship

Orientation for students interested in taking horse science courses. Horse control, safe handling, grooming, saddling, mounting, dismounting, riding at walk and trot.

HORS 2400 • 3 credits, Fall & Spring

Fundamentals of Horsemanship

Behavior, philosophy, and language for communicating with equine athletes; walk, trot, and canter control; balance and coordination; use of equipment. (2110 or proficiency pre-req)

HORS 3400 • 3 credits, Fall

Horsemanship–Equitation

Understanding, recognizing and producing lateral control in the horse. Lateral exercises, developing balance and body control, track, gait, pace, impulsion, rhythm. (2400 pre-req)

HORS 4400 • 3 credits, Spring

Advanced Horsemanship–Equitation

Coordination and refinement of skills from previous courses. Understanding, recognizing, and producing longitudinal flexion in the horse. Collection, extension, stride control. (3400 pre-req)

HORS 4450 • 3 credits, Spring

Techniques of Teaching Horsemanship

Communication, evaluation, and presentation skills for teaching horsemanship. (4400 pre-req)

HORS 4460 • 4 credits, Fall

Behavior and Training of Horses

Psychology, theory, and practice of horse behavior modification and training. Students assigned a project horse. (4400 pre-req)

HORS 4470 • 3 credits, Fall

Advanced Western Competition

Preparation, rules, and scoring for students competing in western horse show events, e.g., reining, trail, ranch riding, cow horse.

Horse Science and Management Courses

HORS 1110 • 3 credits, Fall & Spring

Introduction to Horse Care & Use

Survey of basic equine care, breeds, use, management, and behavior.

HORS 2480 • 3 credits, Fall

Equine Evaluation and Selection

Conformation and gaits of the horse as related to selecting and judging horses for production, recreation, and sport.

HORS 3040 • 3 credits, Fall

Stable Management

Business aspects of horse facility management and ownership. Practical approach to managing horses, facility care, and responsible horse ownership.

HORS 3300 • 3 credits, Spring

Equine Health

Horse health issues, routine health maintenance, infectious diseases, medications, dentistry, lameness, neurological diseases, colic, parasites, ophthalmology, dermatology, reproduction, geriatrics, and alternative therapies.

HORS 3410 • 3 credits, Fall

Horse Breeds and Genetics

Principles of horse genetics, polygenic control of coat color, genetic abnormalities, selection of desired traits. Contributions of horse breeds in the U.S. horse industry.

HORS 3430 • 3 credits, Spring

Horse Production

Scientific principles in horse production and management, including nutrition, exercise physiology, reproduction, growth, age, and cost of responsible ownership.

HORS 4040 • 3 credits, Spring–Even years

Equine Event and Facility Management

Fundamentals of managing equine and livestock events and facilities, with active participation in preparing and running equine events on campus.

HORS 4090 • 3 credits, Fall

Equine Reproduction and Breeding

Reproductive anatomy and physiology of the stallion and mare as they relate to modern breeding practices. Vocational training in semen handling, artificial insemination, and neonatal care.

HORS 4170 • 3 credits, semester varies

Equine Industry

An intensive look at current issues facing the U.S. and international horse industry. Analysis of horse industry careers, preparation for obtaining a career or establishing an equine business.

HORS 4440 • 3 credits, Spring

Equine Nutrition and Feeding

Equine digestion, nutrient utilization, feeds and feeding management, fuels for performance, and diseases with a nutritional component.

HORS 4540 • 3 credits, Fall

HORS 4545 • 3 credits, Spring

Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies I and II

Focuses on the horse–human bond as it relates to equine-assisted activities and therapies for people with disabilities. Management of a therapeutic program and instructor certification reviewed.

HORS 4550 • 3 credits, Spring

Equine Exercise Physiology

Physical, physiological, metabolic, and mental adaptation to athletic training, exercise metabolism, thermoregulation, biomechanics of movement, footing, and practical applications of training and conditioning.

HORS 4580 • 3 credits, Fall

Advanced Judging of Horses

Systems of judging for current horse show disciplines and exercises for students who aspire to become professional judges or exhibitors. Preparation for participation in collegiate horse judging contests or becoming a judge.

I AM *true* **BLUE**

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TENNESSEE**
STATE UNIVERSITY

For questions, contact **Dr. Rhonda Hoffman, Horse Science Director.**
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