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 stands; 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; students have won 18 national championship titles; competition opportunities for all levels of riders

- **The MTSU Stock Horse Team** are two-time Division II American Stock Horse Association national champions, showing in ranch horse pleasure, trail, reining, and working cow horse

- **The MTSU Horse Judging Team** has a 35-year-history of wins at 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
### 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**
  - **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 gait 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**
  - **Equine Nutrition and Feeding**
  - Equine digestion, nutrient utilization, feeds and feeding management, fuels for performance, and diseases with a nutritional component.
- **HORS 3460 • 3 credits, Fall**
  - **Horse Production**
  - Scientific principles in horse production and management, including nutrition, exercise physiology, reproduction, growth, age, and cost of responsible ownership.
- **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.

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**MTSU School of Agriculture ♦ Horse Science Curriculum**

For questions, contact Dr. Rhonda Hoffman, Horse Science Director. 
Rhonda.Hoffman@mtsu.edu.