

EQUINE SCIENCE, CERTIFICATE (641)

About Our Program

This certificate is designed for a student who wants a shorter education path into the equine industry or is just looking to take specific courses to gain critical knowledge for their individual work with horses. All courses within this certificate feed directly into the following certificates or Associate of Applied Science degree: Equine Massage Certificate, Riding Instructor Certificate, Stable Manager Certificate, or an Associate of Applied Science in Equine Science. Within about one year of study this certificate will prepare students for a basic career in the Equine field.

Current employees or facility owners in the horse industry may find it beneficial to gain further knowledge and experience by completing separate courses leading to this certificate and thereby have their equine skills documented.

Nature of Work and Employment

Careers in the equine industry vary in nature and requirements. There are positions requiring considerable versatility, such as within a small privately owned facility with only a few employees. Other positions are more specialized and are generally found in large, complex operations. This General Equine Certificate may lead to a career as a groom, a stable worker, or an equine feed or nutrition specialist.

Special Considerations

The certificate includes instruction both in theory and practice. There are courses that include classroom instruction and field trips. Courses such as Horse Handling I, Equine Health Care I, and Horse Shoeing are held solely at a stable to provide the student with as much direct contact with the equine environment as possible. The certificate also includes 150 hours of workplace experience to further ensure the practical aspect of working with horses. The academic courses include basic computer and business communication skills for day-to-day work in an equine environment.

Requirements

First Semester		Hours
INFT 180	Intro to Information Systems ¹	3
EQUI 107	Equine Health Care I	2
EQUI 117	Equine Physiology	3
EQUI 125	Horse Handler First Aid	1
EQUI 127	Horse Handling I	2
Hours		11
Second Semester		
EQUI 103	Equine Evaluation	2
EQUI 115	Equine Nutrition	3
EQUI 131	Horse Shoeing	1
OCED 290	Workplace Experience ¹	2
PHYD 121	Physical Fitness I	0.5-2
Select one of the following:		3
BUSN 141	Business Communications ¹	
ENGL 121	Rhetoric and Composition I ¹	
COMM 101	Technical Communications ¹	
Hours		11.5-13
Total Hours		22.5-24

¹ Course has a prerequisite. See course description.

Program Outcomes

- Equine Health Management: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to assess, manage, and promote the health and well-being of horses, including basic veterinary care, nutrition, disease prevention, and emergency response procedures.
- Equine Training and Behavior: Graduates will have introductory knowledge in equine training techniques, recognizing behavioral issues, and applying safe, effective methods for training horses in various disciplines, fostering a positive relationship between horses and handlers.

Program Contacts

Call Highland at 815-235-6121 for the following program contacts:

- Dr. Matt Magee, Dean of Agriculture, Business & Technology
- Vicki Schulz, Student Advisor/Transfer Coordinator