

Why Study Equine Science at Western Kentucky University?

Students learn through hands-on opportunities at the WKU Agricultural Research and Education Center, just a 10 minute drive from main campus. We believe that learning is best done by doing, therefore students have the opportunity to put the teachings into practice at the Equestrian Unit. Student are engaged in activities focusing on equine veterinary medicine and therapy, facility management, and horse training. The program is designed to be tailored to individual career goals through personalized experiences with the horses. Students assist with routine chiropractic and farrier care and participate in riding lessons and horse shows. Students gain important skills and training for a variety of equestrian careers.

What Facilities does the Equine Program have to Offer?

Students learn about horses in a state-of-the-art, 40-stall Equestrian stable outfitted with a classroom, laboratory, graduate student office, and tack rooms. This facility opened in 2017 for horse and student use. Riding classes are held in the large 300 x 100 indoor riding arena. The Equestrian Unit offers a 25-stall rental barn for horse shows and equine events. The rental facility will be available for student boarding in the near future.

University horses are housed on over 50 acers of pasture surrounding the Equestrian Unit and these horses are managed by the full-time equine technician and part-time undergraduate equine student workers. For more information about the equestrian facilities or to apply for a part-time job as an equine student worker, contact Miss Beverly Gartland at Beverly.Gartland@wku.edu.

What is Unique about WKU Equine?

Western Kentucky University is one of the few schools in the nation to have horseback riding curriculum that is low-cost to the student. Students have the added benefit of hands-on experience with horses in small class sizes. Undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to pursue faculty-mentored research projects. Students can present their research findings at regional, national and international conferences. Students participate in equine clubs in both the English and Western disciplines. Networking opportunities are always available with industry professionals at horse shows and horse sales at the L.D. Brown Exposition Center. For more information about opportunities for students in education, research, and clubs, please contact Dr. Jennifer Gill at Jennifer.Gill@wku.edu.