Explore your passion for the horse by choosing a program that balances sound scientific training with hands-on practical experience.

Explore your future.

Colorado State University
Equine Sciences
EXPERIENCE
your
EDUCATION

There’s something different about the Equine Sciences Program at Colorado State University
– different and special enough that students from across the country and around the world choose to study and experience what it offers.

More importantly, many graduates go on to speak highly of its benefits and thrive in equine-related careers that span the length and breadth of the entire horse industry. You can be one of them.

Colorado State was the first land-grant university to offer a bachelor’s degree in Equine Sciences – and we just keep getting better. Enrollment in this major has steadily increased since 1986, and now boasts nearly 400 undergraduates.

The Equine Sciences curriculum is innately flexible, allowing for the balance of a rigorous biological science program, practical hands-on experience, and valuable business electives.

Equine-specific areas covered include:
- Nutrition
- Reproduction
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Disease Management
- Genetics
- Behavior
- Training
- Equine and Stable Management
- Sales and Event Management
- Horse Judging
- Packing and Outfitting
- Therapeutic Riding
- Exercise Physiology
- Riding Instructor Training
- Industry Seminars
- And More

Majors and Minors
The equine industry is ever-changing. Practical courses, coupled with business and foundation science classes, give CSU Equine Science majors a huge advantage when beginning their horse-related careers.

“The CSU Equine Science program allowed me to get hands-on experience on top of classroom knowledge, and that opened up incredible opportunities for me before I’d even graduated! There is no substitute for practicing the techniques learned in the classroom, and CSU makes sure all students know the practical aspects of working with horses before they leave.”
– Tara Leibensperger
Equine Science majors can pursue a minor in business administration—40 percent choose to do so. Others may decide to complete pre-veterinary medicine requirements.

Students also can increase rigor by applying to be part of the Honors Undergraduate Research Scholars program (HURS). Each year, roughly 10% of Equine Sciences students are accepted into the HURS program which is designed for high-performing students who want to be involved in independent research.

The Faculty
The interdisciplinary nature of CSU’s Equine Sciences program is enhanced by a collaboration of faculty and instructors from the Colleges of:

• Agricultural Sciences
• Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Equine Sciences has a faculty recognized internationally for involvement in virtually all aspects of the horse industry, and for pioneering research in reproduction, genetics, lameness, nutrition, disease management, orthopedics, exercise physiology, and occupational therapy.

In addition, instructors have first-hand experience in the areas of therapeutic riding, packing and outfitting, horse training, judging, event and sale management, and more, to share with you.

Experience the Horse
Passion for horses is evident in all areas of the Equine Sciences program. With as many as 400 horses on site, involved in teaching, research, or both, there is almost always something horse-related going on.

Approximately 300 of those horses are available at the nearby Equine Reproduction laboratory (ERL) for use in the commercial breeding program, research activities, and laboratory teaching.

Other horses are available for the numerous equine applied courses the Equine Science program has to offer.
Hands-on Horses

Each year, well-known ranches send approximately 35 two- and three-year-old geldings and fillies to be trained by students under the watchful eyes of training professionals.

This activity culminates in the spring with the Legends of Ranching Performance Horse Sale, featuring the young horses and some older, finished ranch horses. The sale is planned and managed by the students, and profits from the event go back into the Equine Sciences program – as we continue to grow educational opportunities for our students.

Horse Facilities

The hub of CSU’s Equine Sciences program is the B.W. Pickett Equine Teaching and Research Center, located west of the central campus at the Foothills Campus. Its main building area has a football field-sized indoor arena, seating for 2,000, concession stands, faculty offices, a student lounge, classrooms, conference room.

Nearby is the Adams-Atkinson Arena with another indoor arena, 36 stalls, offices, a veterinary treatment area, tack and storage rooms, grooming racks, farrier stations, and a classroom with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment and an arena-viewing area. It also has a ramp and mechanical lift used to help people with disabilities mount their horses for therapeutic riding sessions.

Next door is the Legends of Ranching Barn, with 30 stalls and special instructional space. The facility also has an outdoor arena, round pens, sheds and paddocks.

To the north is the Equine Reproduction Laboratory (ERL) where research is conducted on mare and stallion management, hormonal therapy, embryo transfer and vitrification, superovulation, oocyte collection and maturation, and more.

“The hands on curriculum and engaging and supportive faculty inspire me to achieve great things in the industry.”

– John Barker
The close proximity of the ERL allows for the mutual use of equipment, personnel, classrooms, and laboratory space.

Down the road is the world-renowned CSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital, where animals of many species are treated. Research is conducted involving a multitude of projects, including equine joint investigations and horse rehabilitation at the well-respected Equine Orthopedic Research Center.

**Experience Competition – and Fun**

Clubs and teams enhance the experiences of Equine Sciences students by expanding their education, increasing their collegiate and professional contacts, and providing fun recreational activities. Other students benefit, too, as most of the groups are open to any CSU student from any major.

**Experience the Industry**

Each year, professionals from all across the horse industry are brought to CSU as guest lecturers and often conduct seminars through the Equine Sciences Capstone class.

Active and vital horse-related club and team opportunities at CSU include:

- National-winning Horse Judging Teams
- Nationally-ranked Polo Teams and Club
- Rodeo Team and Club
- Versatility Ranch Horse Team and Club
- Equine Science Stewards
- English Riding Club
- Block & Bridle Club
- Collegiate Horseman’s Association
- Mountain Riders Horse Club
Top trainers also are invited to give clinics and assist students who are involved in the horse training labs. And, these professionals come back year after year because they believe in the program and bear witness to its success.

Internships
Internships provide educational opportunities that cannot be duplicated on campus. Furthermore, an internship helps determine if a specific career area is right for you.

Most internships are done during the second half of a student’s college career – during his or her junior or senior years, or in the summer between the third and fourth year. Some internships are best suited to begin after classwork is complete.

Best of all, through an internship’s networking and experience opportunities, many students are offered jobs after completing their internships.

Experience the World
Colorado State University is proud to offer students the opportunity to learn through its Office of International Programs, located in Laurel Hall.

Education abroad options include countries such as New Zealand, Ireland, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Scotland, Australia, Canada, and many more.

Experience the Future
Students attend Colorado State University first and foremost to learn as much as possible about their area of study and about the world. A very close second involves preparation for their careers and gainful employment.

The distilled wisdom of our faculty, staff, and experience tells us there is a clear path to improving the odds of landing a fulfilling job in the equine industry.

Most of our students – 84 percent – did not grow up on a farm or ranch, yet they have successfully navigated the equine world.

Keys to landing a job include: taking a top quality internship or two; building a network of industry professionals; and being active in clubs and/or teams.

Many students come to CSU with aspirations of eventually attending veterinary or graduate school. Through advising and mentoring, we work hard to make sure our students are adequately prepared to pursue these options upon completion of a degree in Equine Sciences.

“During my internship, I was the dirtiest and sleepiest I have ever been in my life, but loved every minute of it! The experiences I had and the contacts I made are invaluable. Just another great thing about being a RAM!”
– Logan Bennett
Equine Science Employers
Some of the businesses and associations that employ CSU Equine Sciences graduates include:
- Breed associations
- Competition or discipline organizations
- Publishing companies
- Event management companies
- Racetracks
- Ranches
- Breeding and/or training farms
- Reproductive centers
- Horse equipment companies
- Feed companies
- Veterinary practices
- Sales Prep companies
- Colleges and universities
- Entertainment venues
- Clothing and apparel
- Livestock identification companies

Home of Ram Pride
Fort Collins is a friendly and safe community of about 145,000 people. Our small city has ranked No. 1 in “America’s Best Places to Live,” published by Money magazine. You will find:
- A vibrant and historic downtown, called Old Town, offering unique shopping, live music, farmers markets, restaurants, and night life.
- Fort Collins boasts more than 280 miles of designated running trails and bikeways through town.
- The great outdoors! Just a few minutes from campus, you will find countless natural trails and other ideal sites for horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, fishing, kayaking. Skiing and snowboarding are popular at nearly two dozen resorts within three hours of Fort Collins.
- There are more than 25 boarding facilities available in the greater Fort Collins area.
- The big-city entertainment and cultural offerings of Denver, just a short jaunt away.
- More than 300 days of “Colorful Colorado” sunshine each year, with the Rocky Mountains towering out your back door!
Colorado State University provides momentum for an equine industry brimming with potential and building on a passion to accelerate your future. It’s time to explore and experience. Explore who you are, and experience where your passion will take you. At Colorado State we are dedicated to you, because we are dedicated to Training Tomorrow’s Leaders.