

# MU Animal Science Division

## Equine Program – Course Offerings



The educational goal of the Animal Science Equine Science Program is to give students an integrated experience in the equine industry to better prepare them for equine related careers. This program serves approximately 200 undergraduate students each year. The MU Equine Teaching Facility at South Farm has housed the campus' Quarter Horse breeding program for 55 years. Each horse serves double duty as both a producer and an educator. By using our breeding program as the cornerstone of all our courses, students learn to base management decisions on their foundation courses in nutrition, physiology and genetics.

Undergraduate students in the Equine Program are involved with Mizzou's equine breeding program each step of the way - conception, foaling, training and marketing - in coordination with courses taught at the MU Equine Teaching Facility. Each November students in the program produce the MU Online Horse Auction & Fundraiser to cap off their integrated educational experience. Our auction provides students with valuable real-world experiences, such as training horses and developing professional communication with potential buyers. All horses sold in our student-produced MU Online Horse Auction & Fundraiser are produced in the program.

The MU Equine Teaching Facility is completely student operated, with 60-70 undergraduate equine practicum students and volunteers devoting their time each semester to care for our horses. Along with caring for the herd, all feeders participate in mastering various equine skills that are needed to work and be involved in the animal industry. Students from all backgrounds are accepted into this program, with 80% of those volunteering having limited or no previous equine experience.

For More Information Visit: *Marci J. Crosby Equine Instructor, Animal Science*  
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### **Check Us Out Online!**

<http://horses.missouri.edu>  
[www.facebook.com/MUEquine](http://www.facebook.com/MUEquine)

#### **AS 3085 (Fall, Spring & Summer): Equine Practicum – 1 or 2 credits**

- Suggested pre or co-requisite: AS 1065
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- This course provides opportunities for students to interact with our horse herd and learn about day-to-day care of our horses. All feeders have the opportunity to participate in monthly demonstrations and hands-on learning of various equine topics. New feeders at the Equine Teaching Facility are required to complete this course during their first semester of involvement.
- Course Objectives:
  - Identify general health and well-being of individual horses.
  - Recognize early onset of illness or lameness.
  - Understand basic feeding, housing, and daily care of horses.
  - Demonstrate the ability to handle and feed horses in a safe manner.
  - Identify individual horses by colors and markings.
  - Demonstrate ability to check a horse's vital signs to assess health.

## **Horse Farm Volunteers – Available during Fall, Spring, and Summer**

- Prerequisite: AS 3085 (must apply - fall & summer due early May; spring due early December)
- Students do not have to sign up for a class, but may choose to earn special problems credit (AS 2085 or AS 3085) by arrangement with Marci Crosby.
- We encourage continued involvement at our Equine Teaching Facility through our volunteer program. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain further experience in horse care and general maintenance, or for students to get their “horse fix”. Returning feeders are encouraged to take a leadership role by serving as a lead feeder on your shift. All feeders have the opportunity to participate in monthly demonstrations and hands-on learning of various equine topics.
- Student will gain experience working with young stock, managing a breeding herd, and providing general care to horses. Besides taking care of daily feeding, turn-out, and grooming, volunteers are notified of veterinary and farrier appointments and are encouraged to attend.
- Additional volunteer opportunities by semester:
  - SPRING: assist in foal watch for mares and attend semen collection and AI procedures
  - FALL: learn about handling of young stock and help with MU Online Horse Auction
  - SUMMER: hands-on experience with training of newborn foals

## **AS 2135 (Fall): Equine Selection and Evaluation – 2 credits**

- Suggested pre or co-requisite: AS 1065
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- This course discusses selecting a horse for a particular purpose and evaluating their conformation. Topics cover anatomy, conformation, movement, overview of horse competitions, and selling / buying a horse.
- Course Objectives:
  - Demonstrate an understanding of selection terminology.
  - Identify quality horses & evaluate conformation as it relates to soundness.
  - Select a suitable horse for personal use.
  - Recognize desirable characteristics for various disciplines and breeds.
  - Present rationale for judging and ranking a group of horses.
  - List means and techniques of marketing.

## **AS 2195 (Fall): Equine Facility Management & Marketing – 3 credits**

- Prerequisites: Instructor Consent (must apply)
- Suggested pre or co-requisite: AS 2135
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- *You may not take this course at the same time as Equine Behavior & Training.*
- Topics cover hands on barn management and care, handling young stock, taking sale photos and marketing sale horses. This class organizes and runs our MU Horse Auction Preview in November and manages the Equine Teaching Facility during the fall semester.
- Course Objectives:
  - Apply knowledge about animal handling in a real world management situation.
  - Develop an understanding of equine nutrition & care as it relates to management.
  - Demonstrate ability to safely handle a variety of horses.
  - Identify means and techniques of marketing horses.
  - Develop familiarity with bloodlines, training, and other attributes and how they relate to successful marketing.

### **AS 4977 (Spring): Horse Production – 3 credits**

- Prerequisites: AS 1065, 2175, and 3212
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
- Topics cover upper level equine anatomy, nutrition, reproduction, physiology, behavior and disease. Each of these topics is combined to cover equine management practices, while considering each of these topics and the science behind our management decisions.
- Course Objectives:
  - Evaluate and critique selection criteria for breeding horses.
  - Describe the anatomy of the equine hooves and legs as they relate to locomotion, soundness, and unsoundness.
  - Describe and evaluate common domestic equine reproductive methods.
  - Develop effective feeding and health programs for various classes of horses.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of equine management practices.

### **AS 2095 (Fall): Equine Behavior and Training – 3 credits**

- Prerequisites: AS 1065, Instructor Consent (must apply)
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - Preference given to upper classmen
- You may not take this course at the same time as Equine Barn Mgt & Marketing.
- Topics cover behavior as it relates to training. Each student is assigned a project horse to train for the semester. These horses are then sold in our MU Online Horse Auction in November.
- Course Objectives:
  - Describe and explain basic animal behavior modification through use of positive and negative reinforcement and shaping.
  - Develop an individual training program to enhance a horse's value, athletic potential and inherent abilities in a natural progressive way.
  - Apply classical, practical and proven equine training techniques to a project animal for achievement of safe non-traumatic learning for the horse and trainer.
  - Critically evaluate training methods used and advocated by others in a thoughtful constructive manner.
  - Develop and maintain a professional animal training journal.
  - Present a horse to be judged or evaluated by a potential buyer.

### **AS 4387 (Spring): Equine Breeding Management – 5 credits**

- Prerequisites: AS 2175, 4314 and Instructor Consent (must apply)
- NO EQUINE EXPERIENCE NECESSARY - Preference given to upper classmen
- Topics covers topics including artificial insemination, foaling, estrus detection, stallion collect, semen evaluation, and handling newborn foals. This class manages the Equine Teaching Facility breeding herd during the spring semester and is in charge of all foaling and breeding activities.
- Course Objectives:
  - Identify major anatomical features of the mare and stallion reproductive tract and relate the structure to its function.
  - Describe the major reproductive and endocrine pathways in the mare and stallion.
  - Understand the estrous cycle and its components, and how this relates to estrous manipulation.
  - Incorporate an understanding of reproductive physiology and behavior to develop management techniques for a successful breeding operation.
  - Demonstrate ability to properly tease mares, collect a stallion, process semen, and artificially inseminate mares.
  - Identify and monitor signs of impending parturition in the mare and successful care for mare and foal during the post-partum period.
  - Demonstrate ability to safely handle a variety of horses.