

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Working with horses is, in many cases, a tactile, physical occupation. While textbook knowledge is important for learning some concepts, actual experience is necessary for students to gain a number of skills with horses. That's why the schools and programs included in this section are so helpful for those aspiring to make life with horses a career. These programs educate and equip through classroom sessions and time spent working with living, breathing horses, preparing students for their chosen occupations in the equine industry.

Graham School for Livestock Men and Women

Since 1909, Graham School for Livestock Men and Women in Garnett, Kansas, has offered hands-on experience and education in managing cattle to ranchers, future ranchers, dairymen and veterinary students. The five-day program runs once a month, year-round. Students learn about working with animals both in the classroom and on the ranch. Topics covered include pregnancy testing, artificial insemination, calf delivery, vaccinating procedures and more. Graduates receive a certificate of attendance and valuable knowledge and experience gleaned from instructors with a lifetime of ranching experience and education. grahamschoolforcattlemen.com



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Wyoming School of Horseshoeing

The Wyoming School of Horseshoeing in Cheyenne, Wyoming, offers three horseshoeing courses on principles of safety as a farrier. Students range from do-it-yourself horse owners to aspiring farriers. Thanks to a hands-on approach and a variety of horses to utilize during the eight-week course, students leave ready for a career working with horses, built on a strong foundation of science and practical learning. The school has up-to-date equipment, forging stations and tools, as well as a modern classroom learning environment. Free housing and a meal plan are included in tuition. wyomingschoolofhorseshoeing.com



University of Montana Western

Located in Dillon, Montana, the University of Montana Western implements an innovative experiential approach to working with horses called Experience One (X1). Montana Western is the only public university in the United States offering this unique block scheduling program where students take one course at a time for 18 days, then start the next. It is America's only college offering a four-year bachelor's degree in natural horsemanship. Plans include bachelor's and associate's degrees in natural horsemanship complemented by optional areas, such as management, psychology, science and instruction. Other degree plans focus on business administration, equine studies and equine management. umwestern.edu.



Feather River College Equine Studies

Nestled in the Sierra Nevada in Quincy, California, Feather River College offers an intensive, hands-on approach for students preparing for a career in the horse or cattle industry. Areas of focus for bachelor's and associate's degrees include ranch and equine management, horse training, rodeo, pack skills and agriculture. Students in the program experience everything from working with foals to producing a horse sale. Feather River College hosts clinics with notable clinicians, and its rodeo team is nationally ranked. frc.edu/equinestudies



Central Wyoming College

Central Wyoming College in Riverton, Wyoming, offers degrees in equine management and equine sciences, as well as certificates in management, farrier science, teaching, riding, and equine training in English and Western disciplines. Students can go on to careers in fields such as equine nutrition, horse training, riding instruction, broodmare management, equine event production, equine sales and farrier work. The college now has a ranch horse team and offers boarding for student horses at the equine facility. cwc.edu/equine



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