



# Advanced Equine Studies

## Course Guide



## Advanced Equine Studies

# Turn your love for horses into a career

Have you always loved horses and wanted to have a career working with them? Do you like caring for animals and ensuring their health and wellbeing is of a high standard? The equine industry is perfect for individuals passionate about the welfare of horses.

Caring for horses can be difficult if you don't understand the way a horse behaves instinctively in the wild compared to when they are domesticated.

This comprehensive course will cover all you need to know about looking after horses and managing a successful equine facility or enterprise.

By combining the professional practices and knowledge of horse care with a deep understanding of equine behaviour, you will be more prepared to handle any situation your horses may face.

**Perfect for people wanting to work with horses or are looking to start their own business in the equine industry.**





## About us

Careers Collectiv is about practical education with a focus on providing courses relevant to real life.

We help you gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to try a new career path, broaden your professional development, start a new business or explore a passion and deepen your understanding in a special interest.

Careers Collectiv was founded by a family who are passionate about providing quality education, accessibility for everyone and the flexibility to work at your own pace and in your own time. They have over a decade of experience in the online education sector after establishing a college specialising in the beauty industry.

### Our teachers

We only use teachers who are active in their specialised industry. Learn from people who have first-hand experience in their subject matter and current industry expertise. Staff come from varied backgrounds with teaching and vocational experience from universities and vocational colleges.

Courses provide flexible options for different career pathways, self-improvement, professional development and general adult education.

**We give our students the skills, tools and structure to learn in real life situations without compromising on academic excellence.**



### Recognition



All Careers Collectiv courses come with a certificate of attainment upon completion.

Our courses are accredited with the International Approval and Registration Centre (IARC), a non-profit association providing a quality control system for education programs and courses in international education.



# Advanced Equine Studies

**Learn how to breed, groom and care for horses with this advanced course.**

Gain an understanding of professional practices and techniques to successfully breed, raise and groom horses for your business needs. This course will teach you everything you need to know about looking after and managing the health and condition of horses in different situations, including travelling and competing in events.

You will also learn about the equine industry more broadly, the management of equine events, facilities and stables, as well as behavioural and breeding issues you may encounter.

## Who is the course for?

This course is designed for students with no previous experience working with and caring for horses. It is also an ideal course for individuals looking to gain employer recognition on their resume, increase job prospects or start their own business in the equine industry.



5 modules



500 hours

## This course has 5 main core modules

- Horse Care I
- Horse Care II
- Horse Care III
- Equine Behaviour
- Breeding Horses





Learn from experts in their field who guide you to see, do, think and experience learning on your own terms and at your own pace.

## A well rounded learning experience

Advanced Equine Studies dives deeper into topics such as a horses' influence and motivations, communication and socialising, genetics, reproductive, training and behavioural problems.

If you're a horse owner or you work with horses, you will know that understanding how a horse thinks, and why it is behaving or acting a certain way is valuable in its training and development.

This course will help you determine whether these equine actions are considered normal and you will be able to use your skills and knowledge in horse health and wellbeing to enhance the quality of life of the horses in your care.

No matter what your level of experience this course will have you skilled and confident to care for horses or gain employment in the many different roles available in the equine industry.

## Assignments

Each lesson in your course modules culminate in an assignment which is submitted online, marked by the school's tutors and returned to you with suggestions and feedback.

## Career prospects

This course opens up many different opportunities in the equine industry.

### Where could you work?

- Horse Breeder
- Horse Owner
- Horse Trainer
- Agistment Manager
- Stable Manager
- Horse Groomer
- Equine Vet Assistant
- Boarding Stable Owner
- Broodmare Manager
- Equine Pedigree Analyst
- Horse Farm Manager
- Hot Walker
- Exercise Rider
- Jockey
- Racehorse Trainer
- Racetrack Outrider
- Riding Instructor
- Racetrack Starter
- Racing Steward

# Course modules

## Horse Care I

### 1 Horse psychology and handling

- The early horse
- Survival mechanisms of the early horse
- The modern horse - behaviour and memory
- Using psychology to handle horses
- Catching and leading horses
- Fitting the bridle and saddle
- Tying up a horse
- Safety rules

### 2 Buying a horse

- Temperament
- Size
- Weight carrying ability
- Age
- Equine dentition and ageing
- Glossary of terms
- Dentition diagrams and detailed explanation
- Colour and markings
- Breeds

### 3 Conformation

- The shape of the skeleton
- Body proportions and parts
- Conformation problems
- How to describe confirmation

### 4 The digestive system and principles of feeding and watering

- The digestive System
- The alimentary canal
- The Stomach
- The small intestine
- The large intestine
- Absorption of food
- Groups of food nutrients
- Composition of some common horse feeds
- The principles of watering
- The principles of feeding
- Feeding concentrates and roughages
- Feeding groups of horses at one time

### 5 Grass kept horse and pasture management

- Advantages and disadvantages of working off grass
- Paddock size and minimum area needed
- Types of fencing
- The water supply

- Shelter
- Fodder trees
- General management of the grass-kept horse
- Management in summer
- Management in winter
- Exercise
- Grooming the grass-kept horse
- Conservation of the land
- Keeping horses at grass on small areas
- Roughing off and turning a horse out

### 6 Grooming

- The skin - epidermis, dermis, the coat
- How the skin regulates body temperature
- Reasons for grooming
- Grooming tools and techniques - strapping, sponging, brushing
- Using a stable rubber, dealing with stable stains on grey coats
- Oiling the feet
- Quartering
- Setting Fair/Brushing off
- Washing the mane and tail
- Washing the sheath
- Shampooing the horse

### 7 Industry Applications

- Resources
- Writing resumes - employment readiness
- Competition horses (overview) - event horse, dressage horse, show jumper, endurance
- Educating Horses
- Breeding
- Farm planning
- Short term operations
- Farm business structures
- Quality management systems
- Whole farm planning
- Preparing a farm business
- Managing risk
- Sensitivity analysis
- Financial management
- Record keeping
- Finance sources
- Setting up a small business



## Horse Care II

### 1 Feeds

- Roughage
- Concentrates
- Roots
- Green feeds and succulents
- Tempters and tonics
- Salts
- Feeding for special purposes

### 2 Stabling

- Three ways to keep horses
- Combined systems
- Stalls
- Stables/looseboxes
- Barns
- Stable layout
- Feed rooms
- Tack rooms
- The medicine chest
- Stable routine
- Stable tricks and vices

### 3 Bedding and Mucking Out

- Reasons for bedding
- Bedding qualities
- Bedding types
- Choosing a system
- Tools needed for mucking out
- Mucking out
- Bedding down
- Managing the bed
- Conserving bedding
- Comparing bedding
- The muckheap

### 4 The Foot and Shoeing

- Foot structure
- Trimming
- Advantages and disadvantages of shoeing
- Signs that shoeing is required
- The farrier's tools
- How the horse is shod
- What to look for in a newly shod hoof
- Basic shoes
- Surgical shoeing
- Studs

### 5 Exercise and Conditioning

- The difference between exercise and conditioning
- Soft and hard condition
- Exercising a horse
- The fittening schedule
- Principles of fittening
- Maintaining fitness

### 6 Tack and Tack Fitting

- Principles of biting
- The mouth
- Types of bits
- Where the bit acts
- Fitting the saddle
- Causes of sore backs
- Care of the back when unsaddling
- Saddle types
- Girths
- Saddle cloths and numnahs
- Tack cleaning

### 7 Horse Facility Design

- Farm layout

## Horse Care III

### 1 Blankets, Bandages and Boots

- Different blankets and rugs
- Fitting a rug
- Putting on a rug
- Taking off a rug
- Surcingles and rollers
- Caring for rugs and blankets
- Types of bandages and their uses
- Rules for bandaging
- Boots and their uses

### 2 Maintaining the health of horses

- Signs of good and poor health
- Sick nursing rules
- Isolation procedure
- Common ailments to recognize
- Taking the temperature
- The medicine chest
- First aid treatments
- Restraining a horse
- Emergencies
- Preventing a disease

### 3 Clipping, Trimming and Plaiting

- Reasons for clipping
- Types of clippers
- Types of clips
- Preparation for clipping
- How to clip
- Finishing off
- Hogging the mane
- Trimming
- Pulling the mane and tail
- Plaiting the mane or tail

### 4 Travelling and care of the horse away from home

- Preparing a horse for travel
- Preparing a trailer
- Loading the horse
- The problem loader
- Safety while loading
- Before a show
- At the show
- Returning home

### 5 Organising and managing a horse event

- Organising an event
- Contingencies to cater for
- The public, exhibitors and organisers
- Costs
- Guidelines for planning a show or exhibition
- The facility
- Exclusive bookings
- Facilities without prior bookings
- Booking records
- Publicity
- Community participation

### 6 Managing a horse enterprise

- Management plans
- Rural finance sources
- Banks
- Money market
- Financial planning
- Contract law
- Assessing profit
- Risk analysis
- Standards
- Financial records
- Cash flow
- E.O.P accounting





# Equine Behaviour

## 1 Introduction: Influences and Motivation

- What is an equine?
- Why study equine behaviour?
- Scope of equine behaviour
- What motivates behaviour?
- Categories of behaviour - reactive, active, cognitive
- Species behavioural differences
- Learned behaviour and learning ability
- Other influences on behaviour
- Behavioural differences between breeds
- Related terminology

## 2 Genetics and Behaviour

- Inborn, innate or inherited?
- Understanding the basics of genetics
- Effects of the environment
- Heritability, epigenesis, interaction between species, survival
- The importance of inborn behaviours

## 3 Perception and Behaviour

- How do animals perceive things?
- Imprinting
- Types of stimuli
- Stimulus filtering
- Equine perception and behaviour
- Sensory perception - horse versus human
- Sight, taste, smell, touch, sound
- The body language of horses
- Fight or flight
- Terminology

## 4 Communication and Social Behaviour

- Animal societies
- Social constraints and herd membership
- Signals of communication - chemical, tactile, visual signals
- Social organisation - home range
- Maintenance behaviour
- Play behaviour
- Lack of equine company

## 5 Sexual and Reproductive Behaviour

- Sexual strategies
- Normal sexual behaviour - stallions, mares, mating, birthing
- Foal imprinting
- Normal maternal behaviour
- Abnormal sexual behaviours

## 6 Learning and Training

- Conditioning and learning
- Shaping, extinction, habituation, instrumental learning
- Thorndyke's Law of Effect
- Operant and respondent behaviour
- More aspects of conditioning - pseudo-conditioning, interoceptive conditioning, temperal conditioning
- Biological aspects of conditioning
- Cognition and learning
- Associative learning
- Obedience, reinforcement, punishment
- Reinforcement schedules
- Flooding, Systematic desensitisation, exhaustion, punishment, habituation, counter conditioning, join-up/follow-up

## 7 Behavioural Problems

- Abnormal behaviour
- Types of abnormal behaviour in horses
- Diagnosing behavioural problems
- Domestication
- Stress
- Stereotypes
- Stable vices - crib biting, wind sucking, weaving etc
- Prevention
- Ridden vices - shying, tongue over bit, head tossing, rearing, bucking etc
- Handling vices - leading, unwillingness to be caught, etc.
- Transporting horses - problems during loading, horse trailer requirements



# Breeding Horses

## 1 Why breed horses?

- An understanding of heritability is fundamental
- Meiosis
- The work of Gregor Mendel
- Chromosomes and genetics in breeding
- Selecting the mare and the stallion
- Quantitative and qualitative inheritance
- Inbreeding and linebreeding
- The genetic effect of inbreeding
- Line breeding
- Advantages of inbreeding
- Stallion and mare complementation
- The industry

## 2 Mare Anatomy

- The reproductive cycle of the mare
- Hormonal control
- Abnormal oestrus
- Breeding fitness
- General broodmare care
- Nutrition and feeding
- Rations
- Carbohydrates
- Fat
- Protein
- Vitamins
- Roughage
- Hay
- Pre-season care

## 3 Stallion Anatomy

- Sperm production
- Semen release
- Reproductive cycle of the stallion
- Breeding fitness
- General stallion care
- Handling
- Pre-season care
- Stallion management for reproduction
- Training the young stallion
- Steps in training a novice stallion onto the phantom
- Common clinical problems with stallions
- Castration (gelding)

## 4 Managing the arrival and departure of the horse at the stud

- Semen from the stallion
- Collection and processing
- Evaluating the quality of sperm

- Breeding methods
- Natural breeding
- Live cover – in-hand or pasture
- Artificial insemination
- Handling frozen semen
- Embryo transfer
- When to breed
- Detection of oestrus
- Teasers
- Visual signs
- A plan for when things go wrong
- Sexually transmitted infections

## 5 Pre-natal Growth

- Conception of twins
- Gestation methods and detecting pregnancy
- Methods of diagnosis
- Palpation
- Pregnancy tests
- Ultrasound
- Post-natal growth

## 6 Care of the pregnant mare

- Nutritional requirements
- Caslicked mares
- Preparation for foaling
- Exercise needs
- Worming
- A deworming program for mares
- Preparation of the foaling environment
- Preparation for if things go wrong
- The physical environment – bedding
- Common bedding in the foaling environment
- Straw
- Wood shavings
- Wood pellets
- Rubber matting
- The parturition process
- Stages of labour
- Common foaling problems
- Dystokia
- Abnormal presentations
- Health problems of the post-partum mare
- Retained placenta
- Haemorrhage
- Post-partum metritis
- Rejection of the foal
- Prolapsed uterus
- Lactation (udder edema)
- Lactation (reduced milk supply)

## Breeding Horses (Continued)

- Foal and foaling reports
- Example foaling record
- Example foal report

### 7 General Newborn Care

- Stabling and safe environment for newborn foals
- Lactation and suckling
- Premature foals
- Orphan foals
- Common health problems in newborn foals
- Infections, constipation and diarrhoea
- Septicaemia
- Meconium impaction
- Diarrhoea
- Congenital disorders
- Neonatal isoerythrolysis (ni)
- Angular limb deformities
- Flexor and extensor tendon abnormalities
- Delayed ossification of the cuboidal bones
- Heart murmurs
- Congenital papilloma (warts)
- Entropion
- Neurological disorders
- Neonatal maladjustment syndrome (nms)
- Head tilt
- Structural abnormalities
- Uroperitoneum
- Umbilical hernias
- Training a foal in the earliest stages

### 8 Introduction to Fertility

- Understanding fertility in mares
- Understanding fertility in stallions
- Handling and management in stallions
- Age
- Overuse
- Nutrition
- Illness and injury
- Other abnormalities
- Semen problems
- Haemospermia
- Urospermia

- Oligospermia
- Structural disorders of the reproductive tract
- Pneumovagina
- Maiden cervix' or cervical incompetence
- Vesicovaginal reflux or urine pooling
- Structural disorders of the reproductive tract
- Cryptorchidism
- Testicle conformation
- Testicular torsion
- Testicular tumours
- Scrotal hernia
- Venereal diseases (mares)
- Endometritis
- Bacterial endometritis
- Fungal endometritis
- Mating induced endometritis
- Contagious equine metritis (cem)
- Equine viral arteritis (eva)
- Pyometra
- Abnormal oestrus cycles
- Silent heat and post-partum anoestrus
- Persistent oestrus
- Vernal transition
- Ovarian tumours
- Persistent corpus luteum
- Haemorrhagic follicles
- Abortion
- Venereal diseases (stallions)
- Bacterial infections
- Equine viral arteritis (eva)
- Equine coital exanthema
- Dourine
- Contagious equine metritis (cem)
- Infectious causes of abortion (mares)
- Viral abortion
- Bacterial abortion
- Leptospirosis
- Non-infectious causes of abortion (mares)
- Congenital defects
- Twinning
- Umbilical cord torsion
- Progesterone deficiency





## Course overview



### Course duration

This course is made up of 5 in-depth modules. The amount of study time required to complete this course is approximately 500 hours of study, approximately 30 weeks.

There are options to reduce the modules from this program. Just speak to one of our team members for more information.



### Supporting you in your studies

With our courses you are not on your own. Careers Collectiv provides the highest level of support possible.

Your tutor will provide you with their email and contact number to ensure you always have support throughout your course. Our tutor support service is available to you 24 hours, 7 days a week.



### 24/7 Access

Online 24/7 access to your course allowing you to fit your study in with your schedule.



### Certification

A certificate of attainment will be issued upon completion of your course.

### Careers Collectiv benefits

- Study from anywhere, anytime
- No experience required
- No set deadlines
- Lifetime access to your course

### Flexible payment options

This course can be paid off through an interest free payment plan for \$30 per week.

The overall price will vary depending on the options you select. We also offer a 30% discount for upfront payments.

To find out more about the course that best suits your needs, talk to one of our career advisors on **1300 001 703**.

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