Frequently Asked Questions

Who owns the horses?
Approximately one-half of the horses are donated, while the other half are leased. Leases generally last the duration of the academic year and are often renewed yearly.

How can I lease my horse to the Equine Studies Program?
The Equestrian Center is home to many student-owned horses. Students are welcome to submit a video and brief biography of their horse for review. Guidelines for the process can be found on the Equine Studies webpage.

Do I have to bring my own horse?
Students enrolled in the Equine Studies Program are not required to bring their own horses. For those who would like to board their horses locally, we have a list of approximately 30 boarding stables within close driving distances. Many of our students do board their horses close to campus.

Who takes care of the horses?
Each freshman student is assigned a horse for which he/she is responsible throughout their first year in the Equine Studies Program. Students may also apply to work on staff at the Equestrian Center, as employees, student staff members are responsible for feeding, turnout and general care of the horses and facility.

What are the riding opportunities for Equine Studies students throughout the academic year?
Typically, Equine Studies students ride twice a week for Riding Skills classes. However, upperclassmen who are enrolled in the Special Training Project class may ride their project horse five days-per-week. Students may also have extra opportunities to ride through their membership in campus clubs such as the Equestrian, Dressage or Vaulting Teams.

How do I join the Equestrian or Dressage Team?
Try-outs for both teams are held during the first few weeks of school each fall. Notice of meetings and try-outs for those interested in joining either team are posted on the Student Activities Bulletin Board in the Student Center and sent out via campus email. Information on both the Equestrian and Dressage Teams can be found on the Equine Studies webpage.

Are there extra costs associated with this program?
To help defray the costs involved with sustaining a program such as this one, stable fees must be assessed. In addition, there is a required, non-credit Orientation Program for incoming freshmen in August.

INVITATION TO VISIT

We welcome campus visits and are pleased to arrange tours of our facilities and visits to classes in session.

For more information about the Equine Studies Program at Delaware Valley College, contact:

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
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Our Equine Studies program provides you with the knowledge and technical skills that are in high demand by today’s horse industry. Your four-year degree in Animal Science will prepare you for challenging careers such as the manufacturing, distribution and sale of supplies, feed and healthcare products, management of equine and breeding facilities, retail management and marketing, and riding and driving instruction. Our experienced faculty will help you to develop the skills and knowledge to be successful in today’s competitive business arena.

Our Facilities
Delaware Valley College maintains extensive on-campus equine facilities. The Equestrian Center serves as our training facility, where our Equine Studies students take riding skills classes, practical management courses and equine training classes. Our competitive intercollegiate teams also practice at the Equestrian Center during the week and on weekends. The facility is equipped with the following amenities:

- 52 matted stalls
- Turn out paddocks
- Separate bay barn
- 84 x 280 foot indoor arena with an elevated viewing area
- 120 x 90 foot outdoor arena
- Sand round pen
- Cross-country jumps
- Areas to hack out

The Curriculum
The Equine Studies curriculum is designed to provide students with great breadth and depth in all aspects of Equine Studies. As is true of all the College’s programs, this degree features “learning by doing.” Our students have the opportunity to take a wide variety of courses during their academic career at DeVAl. Incorporated into the four-year program of equine classes is a Liberal Arts core curriculum. Our four-year students opt to major in Equine Training or Equine Business. The number of credits required for graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science is 152, including 4 credits of Employment Program.

Our two-year Associate of Science Degree in Equine Studies is designed to provide students with a solid base of knowledge in various aspects of Equine Studies.

Courses in our curriculum include:

Equine Training Major
- Introduction to Equine Instruction
- Teaching Techniques
- Training and Conditioning
- Intermediate Driving

Equine Business Major
- Principles of Marketing
- Small Business Management
- Business Law
- Personal Finance

Equine Required Classes and Electives
- Riding Skills Classes
- Driving the Single Horse
- Equine Anatomy and Physiology
- Equine Nutrition and Feeding
- Judging and Course Design
- Equine Massage and Therapy
- Equine Behavior
- Equine Breeding Management
- Equine Business Management

Our Faculty
The DeVAl faculty bring decades of experience and success in the equine industry to the program. Their expertise ranges from instruction and training to driving, riding, breeding and nutrition. All are active participants in their own horse-related interests off campus and maintain important contacts within the profession, helping to keep the program current with industry needs. They work with our Office of Career and Life Education to provide contacts for employment opportunities.

Our faculty members help students to secure successful positions within the industry upon graduation and are highly dedicated to teaching, working one-on-one with students for maximum results.

The Employment Program
In alignment with the mission of Delaware Valley College, the Equine Studies Program seeks to produce educated, skilled, responsible, and compassionate horsemen/women who are prepared to enter the equine industry. Through the college’s employment program, students earn college credits while gaining industry experience and focusing on their specific interests within the equine industry.

Our British Horse Society Instructor Certificate
The British Horse Society is one of the most prestigious instructor and management certification programs in the world. The Delaware Valley College Equestrian Center is an official approved British Horse Society (BHS) establishment and testing center, meeting rigorous international standards for safety, horse care and instruction. Throughout their four years in the Equine Studies curriculum, students have the opportunity to prepare and take the BHS Assistant Instructor Certificate. This gives our graduates the advantage of a certification in stable management, as well as training in dressage, show jumping and eventing.

Our Intercollegiate Teams
Delaware Valley College is an active member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) and the Intercollegiate Dressage Association (IDA). The BHS or equestrian team hosts both hunt seat and western competitors. Hunt seat and dressage teams are all very competitive within their associations and have been recognized at the national level. Several team-sponsored horse shows and clinics with well-known industry professionals are held each year at the Equestrian Center.

International Opportunities
Equine Studies majors have the opportunity to participate in a semester exchange program with Hartpury College in England. Like DeVAl, Hartpury College has a strong agricultural tradition. Furthermore, Hartpury is home to a prestigious British Horse Society equestrian facility, site of the annual Hartpury Advanced Horse Trials.

The DeVAl Equine Studies Program has also initiated the Intercollegiate World Equestrian Cup, an international intercollegiate competition. This unique experience provides our students with a chance to network with other equine students from around the world. Participants have included teams from Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, and France.