

## University of Kentucky Equine Science & Management

**Certified April 8, 2020**



### Program Summary

The University of Kentucky's Equine Science and Management undergraduate degree program is one of three pillars of equine excellence in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's Equine Programs. Education, research and extension/outreach are the hallmarks of a land-grant institution and equine programming at UK checks each of those boxes with robust offerings.

UK Ag Equine Programs serves as the front door to equine work being done at UK, representing the breadth and depth of all things equine in the college. It exemplifies the college's long-term commitment to serving the equine industry and horse enthusiasts regionally, nationally and internationally. The mission of the program is to discover, share and apply new knowledge on the health, performance and management of horses, enhancing the signature status of Kentucky's equine industry.

### Strengths & Noteworthy Practices

Students have multiple opportunities to apply learning in work-relevant contexts. Assignments like internships, study abroad, and the ASC 320 laboratory practical exam are some examples of effective assignments that develop and assess students' ability to apply what they have learned in work-related contexts.

150-hour internships, as well as internships students complete outside of curricular requirements prepare students for work in the equine industry. In addition to the internships, there are numerous other interactions with employers such as the job-shadowing assignment, attending industry events, and hosting guest speakers.

The Workforce Summit and Advisory Committee enable strong engagements with employers. Feedback from the 2017 Workforce Summit was effectively used to confirm that planned curricular changes were designed to better prepare students for employment after graduation.

The program maintains strong engagement with alumni through a formal structure and program events. Alumni involvement is strong through periodic requests for alumni updates, advisor contact, social media engagements, alumni involvement in undergraduate events, and alumni guest lecturers. The Equine Affiliate Network is a promising approach to formalizing alumni involvement and feedback. The Wildcat Wranglers program provides an effective means of obtaining feedback from a diverse group of students.

