

Equine Science Minor

Goal 1- Equine Industry Employability Skills

Goal Description:

Graduates will demonstrate equine industry employability skills.

Providing Department: Equine Science Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Goal 1- Objective 1: Safety awareness

Learning Objective Description:

Students will be able to discuss safety hazards of an equine facility.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Goal 1- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Equine Facility Safety Evaluation

Indicator Description:

The indicator will be a laboratory assignment in EQSC 2364 where students are asked to critically evaluate an equine facility and produce a report on the 5 biggest safety concerns. Students will be evaluated on their use of facts and reasoning on a scale from 1 (unable to provide facts) to 5 (exceeds expectations) for each of their safety concerns.

Attached Files

 [facility evaluation rubric.docx](#)

Criterion Description:

At least 70% of students will score a 3 out of 5 or greater on rubric components.

Component	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3	Score 4	Score 5
Identifying safety concerns	Can only identify 1 safety concern	Provides 2-3 safety concerns	Can identify 3-4 safety concerns	Can identify 5 safety concerns	Can identify 5 safety concerns in the facility
Justification of safety concerns	Does not use facts to justify the concern	For some concerns provides justification	For at least three concerns provides justification	For four concerns concerns provides justification	Uses appropriate justification for each safety concern (for instance: stall doors are less than 4 feet wide or dust causes respiratory disease)
Provision of basic solution	Does not provide any type of basic resolution	For some concerns provides a basic solution	For at least three concerns provides justification	For four concerns provides justification	Provides a basic solution (replace broken boards)

Findings Description:

Seven groups of 2-3 students participated in this activity during the 2020-2021 assessment cycle. This evaluation was not obtained for the assessment cycle of 2021-2022. The percentage of groups scoring at least a 3/5 or greater for 2020-2021 is as follows:

Component	n, %
Identifying safety concerns	6, 86%
Justification of safety concerns	6, 86%
Provision of basic solution	6, 86%

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Goal 1- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Equine Facility Safety Evaluation

Action Description:

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022, therefore data presented remains the same.

Students met the goal for this learning objective in. We plan to make the assignment an individual assignment in future semesters and to continue to collect data until at least 100 students' responses are represented to have an accurate evaluation of this objective.

Goal 2- Horse Handling Skills

Goal Description:

Graduates handle horses safely and effectively.

Providing Department: Equine Science Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Goal 2- Objective 1: Safe Horse Handling Skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate the ability to approach, halter, lead, and tie a horse.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Goal 2- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Practical lab exam in EQSC 2364

Indicator Description:

The indicator will be a practical exam in EQSC 2364 where students are scored on a scale from 1 (unprepared) to 5 (exceeds expectations) in each of 5 areas. The 5 areas will include safely approaching a loose horse in a stall, haltering a loose horse, leading a horse through a stall door, leading a horse away from the barn, and tying a horse in a safe location and with a safety knot.

Criterion Description:

At least 70% of students achieve a score of 4/5 in each of the 5 identified areas.

Findings Description:

Category	n, % students achieving an 80% or greater
Rope over neck first	16, 73%
Correct method for pulling halter over neck	12, 55%
pulling noseband onto the nose	17, 77%
bringing crownpiece around head	16, 73%
tying the knot properly	15, 68%

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Goal 2- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Practical lab exam in EQSC 2364

Action Description:

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022, therefore data presented remain the same.

Goal 3- Appropriate Care of Horses

Goal Description:

Graduates will provide industry-standard care for horses in a safe and efficient manner.

Providing Department: Equine Science Minor

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Goal 3- Objective 1: Stall cleaning skills

Learning Objective Description:

Students will demonstrate effective stall cleaning skills.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Goal 3- Objective 1. Indicator 1: Stall cleaning quiz

Indicator Description:

Students in EQSC 2364 will complete a stall cleaning quiz after several weeks of practice. During practice weeks, students remove manure from stalls daily, and as needed clean water buckets, remove cobwebs (which are a fire hazard), and add fresh bedding. For their quiz, students will be expected to efficiently remove manure from a stall, evaluate cleanliness of water and feed buckets, and make a judgement on whether fresh bedding needs to be added. Students will be assessed on efficient use of time, removing manure without removing fresh bedding, successfully completing all tasks without being prompted, and their use of judgement in adding fresh bedding. Each component is scored on a scale from 1 (poor quality or judgement) to 5 (exceeds expectations).

Criterion Description:

At least 70% of students achieve a score of 4/5 in each component.

Attached Files

 [Stall Cleaning Test.docx](#)

Findings Description:

Category	n, % students achieving an 80% or greater
Rope over neck first	16, 73%
Correct method for pulling halter over neck	12, 55%
pulling noseband onto the nose	17, 77%
bringing crownpiece around head	16, 73%
tying the knot properly	15, 68%

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Goal 3- Objective 1.Indicator 1: Stall cleaning quiz

Action Description:

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022, therefore data presented remain the same.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Goal 3- Objective 2: Feed selection

Learning Objective Description:

Students will be able to select appropriate types and amounts of forages and concentrates for different classes of horse.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

Goal 3- Objective 1. Indicator 2: Feed selection assignment in EQSC 4379

Indicator Description:

Students in EQSC 4379 will complete an end of semester project for which they will select forages and concentrates for four types of horse and decide on how much to feed each type of horse. Students will have prior practice with each of these types of horse. Rubric components include selecting an appropriate forage, an appropriate amount of forage, an appropriate concentrate feed, and an appropriate amount of concentrate. Each component will be scored on a scale from 1 (does not make appropriate selections) to 5 (makes appropriate selections for all types and amounts).

Criterion Description:

At least 70% of students achieve a score of 3/5 in each component.

Findings Description:

Category	n, % students achieving an 80% or greater
Rope over neck first	16, 73%
Correct method for pulling halter over neck	12, 55%
pulling noseband onto the nose	17, 77%
bringing crownpiece around head	16, 73%
tying the knot properly	15, 68%

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Goal 3- Objective 1. Indicator 2: Feed selection assignment in EQSC 4379

Action Description:

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022, therefore data presented remain the same.

Students met the goal for this learning objective in all areas of the rubric. We have been collecting data on this assessment item for several years and find this to be consistent across years. We plan to re-evaluate the assignment and rubric to make it more stringent. We also plan to use a greater variety of real-life applications in order to move the students from "understand" to "apply" and "analyze" levels of thinking.

Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

Closing Summary

Goal 1: Equine Industry Employability Skills

The ability to identify safety hazards in an equine facility is essential to providing good care to horses. Further, being able to discuss those concerns using scientific facts (such as, dusty barns cause airway disease) and suggest minor resolutions (watering the riding arena reduces dust concentrations) is an essential skill of an employee. These are topics that we cover in lecture in the EQSC 2364 course. Students performed well on this learning objective during the previous assessment cycle. It was a new assignment for this course and was administered to small groups. We plan to make it an individual assignment in future semesters and then to collect data over numerous semesters in order to fully assess the student learning outcomes.

Goal 2: Horse Handling Skills

Being able to safely handle horses is an essential skill of graduates of an equine science program. Whether students go on to be horse owners, employees in the industry, veterinarians, or equine graduate students, they must be able to safely halter and lead a horse. Students must be able to demonstrate 5 correct attempts across successive weeks prior to taking their haltering practical. We also plan to restructure our rubric to be more comprehensive of the entire experience- beginning with how the student enters the horse's stall to how well they lead the horse from the stall. Our objective of at least 70% of students achieving an 80% or greater remains.

Goal 3: Appropriate Care of Horses

The third goal of our program is that graduates be able to provide industry level care for horses. The two parts of this goal include stall cleaning and selecting appropriate feeds. With regards to stall cleaning, all students met our goal for effectively and efficiently cleaning a stall. As stall cleaning is the entry level skill for all equine industry positions, we plan to continue data collection on this assessment item until we have at least 100 students' data in the data set. The second objective in this goal regards feed selection. Students met our goal on each area of the assessment, and as we have already been collecting this data for several years, we plan to make the assignment and rubric more stringent in order to identify gaps in the curriculum and to push students from the "understand" level of learning to "apply" and "analyze." The new assignment will use more real-life scenarios to focus on application of knowledge.

Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

Goal 1: Equine Industry Employability Skills

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022 due to faculty change, therefore data presented remain the same.

Goal 2: Horse Handling Skills

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022 due to faculty change, therefore data presented remain the same.

Goal 3: Appropriate Care of Horses

This indicator was not evaluated in the year 2021-2022 due to faculty change, therefore data presented remain the same.

New Plan for Continuous Improvement Item

Closing Summary:

Goal 1: Equine Industry Employability Skills

The ability to identify safety hazards in an equine facility is required in order to provide appropriate care to horses. Further, being able to discuss those concerns using scientific facts (such as, dusty barns cause airway disease) and suggest minor resolutions (watering the riding arena reduces dust concentrations) is an essential skill of an employee. These are topics that we cover in lecture in the EQSC 2364 course. Students performed well on this learning objective during the previous assessment cycle. It was a new assignment for this course and was administered to small groups. We plan to make it an individual assignment in 2022-2023 semesters and then to collect data over numerous semesters in order to fully assess the student learning outcomes.

Goal 2: Horse Handling Skills

Being able to safely handle horses is an essential skill of graduates of an equine science program. Whether students go on to be horse owners, employees in the industry, veterinarians, or equine graduate students, they must be able to safely halter and lead a horse. Students must be able to demonstrate 5 correct attempts across successive weeks prior to taking their haltering practical. We also plan to restructure our rubric to be more comprehensive of the entire experience- beginning with how the student enters the horse's stall to how well they lead the horse from the stall. Our objective of at least 70% of students achieving an 80% or greater remains.

Goal 3: Appropriate Care of Horses

The third goal of our program is that graduates be able to practice industry level care for horses. The two parts of this goal include stall cleaning and selecting appropriate feeds. With regards to stall cleaning, all students met our goal for effectively and efficiently cleaning a stall. As stall cleaning is the entry level skill for all equine industry positions, we plan to continue data collection on this assessment item until we have at least 100 students' data in the data set.

The second objective in this goal regards feed selection. This objective will be re-evaluated 2022-2023.