

**ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE IN NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP**  
SUBMITTED BY  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-WESTERN**

## Objectives and Needs

**1. Centrality to or enhancement of the institution's approved mission and institutional objectives to be achieved by the addition of this program.**

The University's role and mission statement reads:

*"The unique mission of The University of Montana-Western provides **interdisciplinary education through experiential learning that combines theory and practice.** Western serves citizens of all ages with its academic, community service and lifelong-learning programs. As a part of a global community, Western encourages diversity, international awareness, environmental responsibility and mastery of technology as a gateway to the world."*

The Natural Horsemanship Associate's Degree built on the successful UM-W Equine Studies degree. The new degree provides students the opportunity to gain experiential learning through the laboratory classes at La Cense Montana and through the equine theory classes offered at the university, effectively combining theory and practice through a unique partnership between business and education.

This program prepares students for the world of work by providing them with the education and skills necessary to find employment in the Equine industry. Additionally, providing an option in either Natural Horsemanship Management or Natural Horsemanship Science and a university accredited credential in Natural Horsemanship enhances employment opportunities for program graduates.

**1. Need for the program.**

Evidence of the ever-increasing international interest in the discipline of Natural Horsemanship can be deduced by doing a simple search on the Internet. By typing the words "natural horsemanship" into any popular search engine or directory, one can view literally thousands of pages of information on the books, clinics, equestrian equipment, ranches etc. that promote natural horsemanship. (*Google: 57,100 entries; Yahoo: 79,964 entries*).

Natural horsemanship was first developed in Europe over two hundred years ago, and as such is not a new development in equestrianism. However, concurrent with the recent international resurgence in equestrianism, there has been a similar growth of interest in the natural horsemanship method around the globe, and especially within the past 10-15 years. Robert Redford's internationally acclaimed film *The Horse Whisperer* has played no small role in the renaissance of the natural horsemanship method.

William Kriegel, owner of La Cense Montana, recognized this growing interest in natural horsemanship several years ago when he established his equestrian farm in France- Haras de la Cense. It was in the mid 1990's that he made the acquaintance of Pat Parelli, an internationally recognized horsemen who promotes natural horsemanship, and one of the only horsemen who has created a comprehensive pedagogic system for learning natural horsemanship.

William Kriegel started the first European school for natural horsemanship at Haras de la Cense, which not only offers short-term clinics & courses, but also offers a two-year program in natural horsemanship for those who wish to pursue a career in the discipline. The program began in 2000 and in two years has graduated 10 students: 6 are employed as natural horsemanship instructors; 2 are professional horse trainers; 1 is an instructor at La Cense Montana; 1 is a free-lance instructor in Switzerland.

Haras de la Cense has hired some of its program's alumni in order to teach the courses and clinics offered at Haras de la Cense for which there is an ever-increasing demand, especially among equestrian instructors who teach at the many equestrian clubs and centers in France. Much of this demand is a result of the official recognition for the discipline of natural horsemanship by the FFE (French Federation of Equestrianism), the national association which oversees these equestrian clubs and centers, numbered at more than 800. Most recently, the FFE has developed-in conjunction with Haras de la Cense-a 3-part series of manuals, the first of which having been recently published, that explain the methods of natural horsemanship to the French rider.

These developments in the French market have influenced William Kriegel and La Cense to pursue the development of a similar program in the United States in conjunction with the University of Montana-Western, so that the discipline of natural horsemanship can develop within the parameters of an officially recognized and accredited industry standard.

Below is additional information regarding the equine industry, procured from the American Horse Council that reflects the magnitude of the horse industry in terms of participant and economic impact.

The horse industry is a highly diverse industry that supports a wide variety of activities in all regions of the country. It combines the primarily rural activities of breeding, training, maintaining and riding horses with the more urban activities of operating racetracks, horse shows and public sales.

For years, horsemen and women have known that the American horse industry is a serious, economically diverse and productive business that deserves the attention and appreciation of government, media and the public. But they had no written documentation to support their claims. Following are some industry statistics from ***The Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in the United States***, conducted by the *Barents Group* of Washington, DC for the American Horse Council.

The horse industry has a total impact of **\$112.1 billion** on U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- The horse industry provides **1.4 million** full time jobs.
- The horse industry pays **\$1.9 billion** in taxes.
- Racing, showing and recreation each contribute more than **25%** to the total value of goods and services produced by the industry.
- The horse industry's contribution to the U.S. GDP is greater than the motion picture services, railroad transportation, furniture and fixtures manufacturing and tobacco product manufacturing industries. It is only slightly smaller than the apparel and other textile products manufacturing industry.
- In terms of employment, the industry directly employs more people than

railroads, radio and television broadcasting, petroleum and coal products manufacturing and tobacco product manufacturing.

There are **7.1 million** Americans are involved in the industry as horse owners, service providers, employees and volunteers.

- **4.3 million** individuals participate in recreation activities
- **3.6 million** individuals participate in showing
- *With some overlap in cases of people who participate in both showing and recreation.*
- **1.9 million** people own horses
- **941,000** people participated in racing in either a professional or volunteer capacity
- ***In addition to the people actually involved in the industry, tens of millions more Americans participate as spectators.***
- The median income for horse owning households is **\$60,000**
- **14%** of horse-owning households have incomes under **\$25,000**
- **38%** of horse-owning households have incomes under **\$50,000**
- **64%** of horse-owning households have incomes under **\$75,000**

There are **6.9 million** horses in the U.S., including both commercial and recreational horses.

- **2,970,000** are used in recreation
- **1,974,000** are used in showing
- **1,262,800** are used in other activities, such as farm and ranch work, rodeo, polo, police work, etc.
- **725,000** of those horses are involved in racing and racehorse breeding.

An increasing number of ranches, especially in the western of the United States, are offering courses and clinics teaching the methods of natural horsemanship. As the UM-W Natural Horsemanship degree would be the first program to offer accreditation in this discipline, UM-W graduates would clearly have an enormous advantage over other candidates in acquiring positions at these businesses promoting natural horsemanship.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' *2001 National Occupation Employment and Wage Estimates* the farm and ranch industry is estimated to grow at a rate of 6% over the next five years. Wages for all occupations average \$8.56 an hour; however, the national median wage for animal trainers is \$10.90 per hour with top wages averaging \$20 per hour; the national median wage for animal breeders is \$10.30 with top wages of \$24 per hour. The average national median wage for farm and ranch management positions is \$21 per hour with top wages of \$45 per hour. These data suggest that the industry is vital, growing and well-paying.

**2. *New courses the program will add to the curriculum and the course requirements for the degree. (courses have already been taught for three semesters)***

**New or Revised Catalog Description**

**AAS: Natural Horsemanship**

**Degree Requirements**

<b>AAS General Education Core</b>	<b>16</b>
POLS 121 American Government	3

COMS 101 Intro. to Computers	3
ENG 101 Freshman Composition	3
ENG 131 Oral Communication	3
MATH 104 Math for Liberal Arts or higher level Math*	4

**AAS Natural Horsemanship Core 29**

EQST 101 Intro to Equine Studies	3
EQST 105 Introduction to Groundwork	4
EQST 252 Practice in Groundwork	4
EQST 200 Internship	4
EQST 201 Prin. of Equine Nutrition	3
EQST 202 Physiol/Equine Reprod. I	3
EQST 254 Adv. Round Pen Groundwork	4
EQST 255 Intro. to Horseback Riding	4

**Natural Horsemanship Option .27**Select one Option Area**AAS: Natural Horsemanship****Total Credits Required 72 cr****AAS: Natural Horsemanship Options****Natural Horsemanship Management Option 27 cr****Natural Horsemanship Management Option Core 15**

BUS 201 Entrepreneurship	3
BUS 241 Financial Accounting	3
BUS 281 Business Law I	3
BUS 347 Marketing Prin. & E-Commerce	3
ECON 252 Prin. of Microeconomics	3

**Natural Horsemanship Management****Professional Electives .... 12****12 credits** from the following:

ART 380 Artist Blacksmithing	(3)
BUS 202 Customer Service	(3)
BUS 242 Managerial Accounting	(3)
BUS 282 Business Law II	(3)
COMS 135 Microcomputer Applications	(3)
COMS 236 Adv. Microcomputer Applications	(3)
ENVS 260 Wildlands Skills	(2-4)
HHP 231 First Aid & Safety	(1)
HTR 112 Fundamentals of Tourism	(3)
HTR 143 Intro. to Leisure Services	(3)
HTR 204 Leadership	(3)
SPAN 101 Elementary Spanish I	(5)

Electives: Any EQST course not taken in Natural Horsemanship Core

**Natural Horsemanship Science Option 27 cr**

**Natural Horsemanship Science Option Core 15**

BIO 101 Intro to Life Science	3
BIO 151 Zoology	4
BIO 262 Microbiology	4
CHEM 131 General Chemistry	4

**Natural Horsemanship Science Professional Electives 12****12 credits** from the following:

BIO 150 Conservation Biology	(4)
BIO 251 Systematic Botany	(3)
CHEM 132 General Chemistry	(4)
ENVS 260 Wildlands Skills	(2-8)
GEOL 150 Environ. Geology	(4)
GEOL 230 Geol. of American West	(4)
HHP 231 First Aid & Safety	(1)
PHYS 239 Physical Meteorology	(3)

Electives: Any EQST course not taken in Natural Horsemanship Core

**Course Descriptions****Core Courses****EQST 101 INTRODUCTION TO NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP STUDIES (4)**

Preview of the horse industry: evolution, breeds, skeletal structure, anatomy, physiology, genetics, health, uses and economic impact. (existing course, title change only)

**EQST 105: INTRODUCTION TO GROUNDWORK (4)**

The primary objective of this course will be to gain the horse's confidence by approaching it as a partner as opposed to a predator, while at the same time making the horse respect the rider's personal space. Students will learn about the various types of tools used in equine groundwork, which include body language, energy management, control of emotions and the basic principles of approaching/retreating, successive phases and giving in to pressure. Further into the semester students will explore the different types of groundwork approaches and how they affect the horse, the importance of training both left-handed and right-handed and will finally learn how to put on a halter with the horse's cooperation. (new course)

**EQST 200 INTERNSHIP (4)**

A laboratory field experience providing a practical application of acquired knowledge and theory in a professional setting. Students serve under the guidance of professional personnel with the support of a university faculty supervisor. Students will complete a series of written periodic reports and a portfolio in the form of a final comprehensive report on their experience. (existing course)

**EQST 201 PRINCIPLES OF NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP NUTRITION (4)**

Presents digestive anatomy and physiology in addition to basic nutrition. Topics include principles of digestion, nutrient requirements, and ration formulations. (existing course; title change only)

**EQST 202 PHYSIOLOGY OF NATURAL HORSEMANSHIP REPRODUCTION I (4)**

Studies the fundamental anatomy and physiological function of the horse. Systems covered include circulatory, respiratory, urinary, nervous, and genetic principles. Topics

covered include reproductive anatomy and physiology, stallion, mare and foal management, and artificial insemination. (existing course; title change only)

#### **EQST 252: PRACTICE IN GROUNDWORK (4)**

The main objective of this course will be to achieve a high level of cooperation with the horse while working in close quarters with a minimum 3-yard rope and bridle or halter. On the ground, students will learn to find the horse's release, relaxation and attention at all times during a session and will begin to work on controlling the gait and direction of a horse on an empty field with no obstacles. Over the course of the semester students will begin to use simple obstacles in order to increase groundwork capabilities and will be introduced to going forward and backwards in certain drills. The basics of "horse mobilization" will be introduced at the end of the course, whereby students will learn how to mobilize each part of the horse independently of the other. This will set the foundation to be able to effectively put a horse into a trailer in the successive course, *Advanced Round-Pen Groundwork- Natural Horsemanship 254*. (new course)

#### **EQST 254: ADVANCED ROUND-PEN GROUNDWORK (4)**

The primary objective of this course will be to take the skills and techniques learned in EQST 105 and EQST 252 and perfect them through practice in the more confined area of the round-pen. Working in the round-pen on foot, students learn to find the horse's points of release, relaxation and attention while moving the horse away and bringing it closer both un-tethered and using a rope. Students will also work on controlling the speed and direction of the horse in a precise route and for every gait, un-tethered in the round pen, using a rope and with and without obstacles. Also explored in this course will be the link between groundwork and work on horseback. (new course)

#### **EQST 255 INTRODUCTION TO HORSEBACK RIDING (4)**

The primary objective of this course will be to introduce to the student the basic principals of horseback riding. Having already accomplished many hours of groundwork, students prepare to get into the saddle and will learn more about equine equipment and especially about the saddle, bridle and protective equipment and their proper maintenance. Methods of communication available to the rider are to be explored extensively before the student is to ride and the students will learn the qualities required to be a leader in the saddle. On horseback with bridle or halter and a single active rein, the student will learn to effectively find the horse's points of release, relaxation and attention at all times. (new course)

### **Adequacy, Accreditation and Assessment Issues**

#### **1. Adequacy of present faculty, facilities, equipment and library holdings in support of the program.**

UMW currently has one full-time tenure-track Equine Science Assistant Professor who has both a D.V.M and a Ph.D. as well as some training in Natural Horsemanship. Beginning August 2005 the campus also has a highly skilled natural horsemanship instructor who instructs the students as they actually work with horses. Other campus faculty members, as well as adjunct faculty members, also teach courses in the program. If the program continues to grow as anticipated, new positions will be added to serve that growth.

#### **2. Needs for special accreditation.**

There are no current plans to seek special accreditation for this program.

### **3. *Assessment plan.***

Prior to graduation, students will be assessed based on performance in academic classes, skills learned in applied classes (such as the natural horsemanship, and performance during outside applied internships. Once graduates are at place in the workforce, additional assessments via surveys of employer satisfaction can be pursued. Summarized results of these assessments will be used to improve the program.

## **Impact on Faculty, Facilities, Costs, Students and Other Departments and Campuses**

### **1. *Additional faculty requirements.***

Current faculty are able to handle the current numbers of students. If the program grows, additional generated funds will be used to hire additional faculty members.

### **2. *Impact on facilities.***

Classroom facilities are adequate to handle the classroom classes. Facilities at La Cense Montana are adequate to handle the student work with horses. Other options are being explored, should extensive program growth occur.

### **3. *Costs estimated over a five-year period.***

These are outlined in the attached budget sheet. The costs associated with the on-campus classroom courses are covered by state funds that are generated by tuition and state support. Costs associated with direct student work with horses are covered by La Cense Montana.

### **4. *Impact on enrollment.***

Projected enrollments are also found in the attached budget sheet. The number of students who have declared that they are working towards completion of one of Western's three equine degrees has increased from 7 in 2002-3 to 19 in 2003-4 to 32 in 2004-5 to 51 in 2005-6. Enrollment is expected to exceed 80 students by 2006-7.

### **5. *Relationship to other programs on campus.***

The A.A.S. is closely related to the B.S. in Natural Horsemanship and the A.A.S. in Equine Studies. It shares all of its coursework and faculty with one or both of these other faculty.

### **6. *Relationship to other institutions.***

This program is unique to UMW.

## **Process Leading to Submission of Proposal**

The proposed program and curriculum have been cooperatively developed by personnel from La Cense Montana and the University. Both the curriculum and the program components have been reviewed and approved by the Business and Technology Department, the University Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Senate, and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.