

PROPOSED PROGRAM SUMMARY

Institution: Murray State University
Program Name: Animal Equine Science
Degree Destination: Bachelor of Science

CIP Code: 01.0901

Credit Hours: 120

Implementation Date: 8/1/2023

Program Description

Animal Equine Science is currently a track within Murray State University's Animal Technology program. While Animal Equine Science and other tracks of the existing Animal Technology program have shared a core curriculum for years, they have grown and become more specialized over the last several years. Murray State and CPE staff agree that having a specific degree in Animal Equine Science will better help students demonstrate their credentials and expertise when applying for jobs.

Through this program, students will gain a foundation in biological and agricultural sciences, along with technical and practical training in animal agricultural business and animal health, breeding, and management. Additionally, this program will emphasize experiential learning through the Murray State's research farms, the William Cherry Expo center and the Breathitt Veterinary Center.

Connection to Other Programs

This track within the Animal Technology degree program has existed for many years. Separating the Animal Equine Science into a stand-alone major will pose no increased competition or unnecessary duplication of programs across the state.

Student Demand

Historically, there has been high student demand for the Animal Equine Science track that already exists under the Animal Technology degree program. The track consistently enrolls approximately 100 students each year.

Initial estimates of enrollment are:

Year 1 – 98

Year 2 – 100

Year 3 – 100

Year 4 – 100

Year 5 – 100

Employment Demand

The 2022 report of the Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky on the Importance of Agriculture showed employment of more than 34,000 people in animal agriculture, and an economic output of over \$2.7 million by the animal agriculture industry in Kentucky. Students who graduate with this degree will be qualified to pursue careers as an agricultural inspector, agricultural technician, animal

breeder, and animal scientist. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and KYStats projects between a 5 to 9% expected growth in these careers over the next 10 years.

Budget

Animal Equine Science is currently a track within the larger Animal Technology program. The proposed change will not increase costs of instruction or administration of this program.

Projected Revenue over Next Five Years (\$): \$5,619,854.00

Projected Expenses over Next Five Years (\$): \$2,792,196.00