Equine Scholars Program

The Equine Scholars program is designed to provide informal and formal experiences for students who are seriously interested in gaining a better understanding; developing a deeper appreciation; and participating in opportunities which exist within the Equine Industry in and around the Aiken community. This will be a competitive program, for which students must apply and be accepted.

Components Include:

**Presentations/Seminars/Trips**
All Equine Scholars would be required to participate in at least 2 of these presentations. (The Equine Scholars Program –ESP- will provide the education component of this program, which will include, but not necessarily limited to presentations, seminars, and trips. Scholars will be required to attend 2 to 3 activities per semester.)

**Job Shadowing/Internships**
All Equine Scholars are required to complete at least one internship which ideally combines their major with the equine industry. The University of South Carolina Aiken Career Services Office will assist students in developing experiential educational experiences with local equine businesses, and will encourage students to find internships outside the local community by doing their own research. Most internships are unpaid, but students majoring in Business Administration can receive academic credit. Internships offer valuable learning and networking opportunities!

**Community Equine Events/Community Service**
All Equine Scholars’ are also required to participate in at least 2 Equine Community Service events or tours during each academic year. This will be approved by the ESP coordinator, but could include such things as working at the Aiken County Equine Rescue, representing USCA at a Horse show as a judge or at the Aiken Triple Crown Event, etc... The ESP program will allow students to propose specific community service projects for in which they are interested in pursuing or chose from a list of events from which the ESP program will develop. Scholars may attend more than two events.

**How do I apply to the Equine Scholars Program?**
1. Complete the Equine Scholars Program Application (below);
2. Submit one letter of recommendation;
3. Submit high school or college transcripts to the USCA Admissions Office.
   *New USCA students only; current USCA students will not have to submit transcripts, but must meet the 2.75 minimum GPA requirement.*

For more information contact:
Corey Feraldi, coreyf@usca.edu
Coordinator of the Equine Scholars Program

Randy Duckett, randyd@usca.edu
Chair of Equine Initiatives
Equine Scholars Application

This application, your essay and letter of recommendation should be returned to: Corey Feraldi, Coordinator / USC Aiken Equine Scholars, 471 University Parkway, Box # 17, Aiken SC, 29801, or emailed to (coreyf@usca.edu).

Name ____________________________ ____________________________ ____________________________ (First) (Mid. Initial) (Last) (Preferred name)

Address: _____________________________________________________________________________

City: _________________________________________________ State: ___________ Zip:___________

Phone: ( _____ ) __________________ Email:_______________________________________________

Student Status (check one) ☐ Current USCA student ☐ Will be a new student at USCA

High School GPA ____________________________ College GPA________________________

(If a first time freshman) (Must have a 2.75 minimum GPA to apply)

1. Please indicate your reason(s) for applying to be an Equine Scholar?

2. Please list your experience as an Equestrian or involvement in Equine activities? (If none, please state this and indicate why you are interested in becoming involved).

3. What is your intended vocation?

4. Please write an essay (attach to this application) that describes your recent (high school) activities which show community involvement, leadership positions, honors/awards, and volunteer work. If you have worked, played on athletic teams, or been heavily involved in one organization or activity (including the Equine field) be sure to include those as well.

5. Submit a letter of recommendation from someone (other than a close relative) who knows you well and who can speak about your equine interests, your character, work ethic, academic pursuits and extracurricular involvement. (Please give that person plenty of notice so they can write a quality letter.)