About the Instructor
Doug Russo, CJF, AAPF

• Certified Journeyman Farrier
• 16 years experience
• AAPF accredited
• AFA certification tester
• AAEP short course instructor
• Skilled in forge work, and all aspects of shoeing/trimming
Equine Farrier Courses

Total immersion courses designed to teach participants the art of farriery

The farrier program at the Iowa State University Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center consists of two courses in equine farriery, each providing unique skill levels. Additional one-week training courses are also available.

Basic Farrier Course*

**What:** The 16-week training course will provide participants with the basics of equine foot anatomy and proper trimming techniques. Participants will also learn the basics of blacksmithing and shoe modifications. The course will contain 40 hours of didactic instruction and laboratory work per week.

- Anatomy of the lower limb and trimming feet to proper geometric proportions
- Blacksmithing and the basic skills of hand making shoes, tool making
- Theory and practical application of all of the above

**When:** Scheduling and availability for this course is flexible. To ensure that each participant receives adequate attention, class size is limited to a maximum of three participants.

**Fee:** $8,500

---

Therapeutic Farrier Course*

**What:** This two-week course will provide participants with knowledge of therapeutic farriery applications to horses with serious injuries such as lacerated tendons, and severe limb deformities. Participants will learn the construction of several different types of advanced hand-made shoes and advanced blacksmithing. These shoes include, but are not limited to, Heartbar shoes and Patten bar shoes. Hands-on therapeutic applications will be performed under the guidance of the equine veterinarians at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center (LVMC). Participants will also work with radiologists at the LVMC regarding reading and interpreting radiographs of the equine foot.

The syllabus will vary based on the skill and knowledge of the participants. A two-week block will typically focus on only one or two areas in therapeutic, corrective farriery. This course will also provide advanced training for those interested in pursuing certification through the American Farriers’ Association.

**Examples include:**
- Laminitic horse
- Hoof crack and hoof wall avulsion management
- Navicular syndrome/caudal heel pain
- Fexural deformities

**When:** Scheduling and availability for this course is flexible. To ensure that each participant receives adequate attention, class size is limited to a maximum of three participants.

**Fee:** $2,000

---

One-Week Farrier Courses

**What:** One-week courses will be tailored to fit each participant’s needs. These are offered to farriers who have already completed basic farrier training through any school or apprenticeship and wish to improve their skills in areas such as forging, anatomy, as well as AFA certification preparation.

**When:** Participants can schedule as many weeks as they need based on instructor’s approval and schedule.

**Fee:** $500/week

The farrier courses are located in the Performance Evaluation Facility at the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center. This unique partnership allows course participants to interact with the hospital’s equine veterinarians and in-house farrier to provide hoof care for hospital patients. Participants will also work with patients referred by local veterinarians, under the supervision of the in-house farrier.

---

*All participants accepted in the program must have the required equipment and clothing. A kit is available for purchase from the LVMC.*