About the Instructor

Doug Russo CJF, AWCF, is ISU farrier school’s primary instructor with 20 years’ experience.

Doug shod his first horse as a ranch hand over 25 years ago, although he did not begin his full-time career till many years later through an apprenticeship with Richard Becker, CJF.

He served as president of the Michigan Horseshoers Association as well as several years on the MHA board of directors. He is a past board member of the American Farriers Association, current approved AFA examiner, precertification instructor and chairman of the AFA’s research committee. He is an AFA Certified Journeyman Farrier as well as an Associate of The Worshipful Company of Farriers, one of only 20 in the United States. He is well known within the farrier industry and is a sought-after clinician in the United States and worldwide. He has a gift and a passion for teaching. He is a patient instructor who is invested in his students’ success.
Equine Farrier Courses
Total immersion courses designed to teach participants the art of farriery

Equine Therapeutic Shoeing – 1 week clinic
Doug Russo CJF, AWCF will be offering 1-week clinics focused on therapeutic equine shoeing. Clinics are located at Iowa State University's Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center Large Animal Hospital. Clinics will be limited to 3 students and will be closely tailored to student needs and interests. Clinics will include understanding the role of diagnostic imaging such as radiography, ultrasound and MRI in equine lameness. Students will spend time with the Iowa State University equine surgery team to observe lameness exams and to learn about surgical intervention that requires farrier support. Additional coursework includes studying and understanding distal limb anatomy, biomechanics, pathology and therapeutic shoeing protocol. There will be a focus on forging therapeutic shoes. Students will be able to observe cases that are treated by ISU's equine surgery/farrier team. This is an excellent opportunity to improve your ability to provide support for your area’s veterinarians as well as improve skills and service to your shoeing clientele. This would be useful information for those preparing for the AFA's therapeutic endorsement and the Associates with the Worshipful Company of Farriers.

American Farrier's Association Certification Prep Clinic – 1 week clinic
Doug Russo CJF, AWCF will be offering 1-week preparatory clinics for those interested in taking the American Farrier's Association certification. Both the Certified Farrier and Certified Journeyman Farrier's levels will be covered. Class size is limited to 3 students and will be closely tailored to student needs and area of interest. Clinics will focus on forging, time management, understanding certification, understanding the score sheet, study techniques as well as lectures and clinician lead group study.

Course Dates
Contact Doug at drusso@iastate.edu for available dates.

Fee: $1200.00 per week

Course fee will be payable by check upon arrival.

Course Location
The farrier courses are located in the Performance Evaluation Facility at the Large Animal Hospital, Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center in Ames, Iowa. This unique partnership allows course participants to interact with the hospital's equine veterinarians and in-house farrier, and observe hoof care for hospital patients.

Refund Policy
Courses canceled prior to start date will be refunded in full minus $65.00 process fee and any credit card process fees incurred by Iowa State University.

In the event of an emergency, students will have the opportunity to return and complete the course at a later date.

Course financing, specialized clothing, housing accommodations and transportation are the sole responsibility of the applicant.