

Graduate Teaching Assistant/M.S. Opportunity in Equine Extension Equestrian/Equitation Science, Teaching, and Curriculum Development Focus

The Equine Extension program led by Dr. Jennie Ivey and housed in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Tennessee (UT), is seeking a graduate student to conduct and publish original research, aid in the development and implementation of extension programs and curriculum, and serve as a graduate student coach for the UT Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) Equestrian Club Team. This new graduate student position is a cooperative effort made possible by Last Lap Ranch (Maryville, TN), the UT Animal Science Department, and the Herbert College of Agriculture.

Dr. Ivey's extension and research program is centered on developing and implementing science-based practices to increase stakeholder knowledge on various management areas. Specifically, the Ivey lab focuses on applied concepts and their impact on equine welfare, nutrition, and performance, and the impact of educational programming on traditional and non-traditional learners. Students under Dr. Ivey's mentorship are provided the opportunity to learn modern approaches to equine-centered projects, data collection, to interact and learn from collaborating labs/programs across campus and at other programs throughout the U.S., to present their research at national meetings, and to develop skills of interest. ***This M.S. student position provides full tuition, a competitive stipend, and Graduate Student benefits.***

In turn, the graduate student selected for this position will be expected to work collaboratively and independently, to develop their research into submitted scientific manuscripts, develop extension publications, and to contribute to the collective efforts of the department and equine extension program. Additionally, the student is expected to coach the UT IHSA Equestrian Club, be present/travel to all IHSA lessons, meetings, events, and shows, while working in partnership with Last Lap Ranch personnel, Animal Science Faculty, and UT IHSA students.

A variety of degree backgrounds should provide a sufficient foundation for entering into this M.S. program, but a strong knowledge base in animal science, with functional knowledge of the equine industry and the following skillset is required:

- Ability to ride, teach, coach, and explain hunt seat and western disciplines, including flatwork, equitation (flat and over fences), horsemanship, reining
- Have ability and skills needed to assess horses for ability, training, soundness, and suitability for UT IHSA team riders
- Possess ability to train horses as suitable mounts for the UT IHSA team riders
- Experience in barn management, including scheduling (ex. arena use, lessons), maintenance, and routine care of facilities and horses
- Experience in leadership roles and management of others, while working as part of a team and independently

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter describing the basis for their interest, background, and why pursuing graduate school is beneficial for their career aspirations. A curriculum vitae, copies of undergraduate transcripts and GRE scores, and contact information for three references should also be submitted to: Dr. Jennie Ivey, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Science, at jzivey@utk.edu. Applicants may also reach Dr. Ivey by e-mail or phone (865-974-3157) with any questions. Review of interested applicants will begin immediately, and will continue until a suitable student is found.