Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Advanced Farrier Certificate Program

General Overview

This is a one-year advanced farrier training program beginning July 5, 2016 (2 participants) and January 2, 2017 (2 participants) designed to provide participants with the training and skills necessary to operate a successful farrier practice. Participants will be trained by members of the Equine Podiatry Service of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM). The participant's time will be split between classroom, laboratory, and applied instruction. Classroom instruction will include classroom work in anatomy, physiology, and principles of horseshoeing. Laboratory instruction will include exercises in forging and welding. Applied instruction will include hands-on practical experience in routine and therapeutic trimming and horseshoeing. During the program the participant will gain experience in the care of performance horses and therapeutic farriery. Participants will also gain experience working with veterinarians on hoof pathology and lameness cases. Upon completion of the program the participants should be confident in the building and application of traditional hand forged and manufactured horseshoes as well as direct, and indirect glue on horseshoes. It is expected that participants will achieve at least Certified Farrier distinction (by examination) with the American Farrier's Association upon completion of the program.

The equine podiatry service sees approximately 1,200 cases per year. These cases are seen both on farms and at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). The service provides on the farm farrier services for the Virginia Tech Equestrian Program, a Quarter Horse breeding operation within the Virginia Tech College of Animal and Poultry Sciences, as well as a select group of local clients. The remaining case load is comprised of cases referred to the Equine Podiatry, Large Animal Surgery and Medicine services from practitioners in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and West Virginia.

Requirements

- completion of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Farrier Certificate Program online application
- have completed a 6-week farrier course (minimum) or an equivalent experience in a private farrier practice
- be at least 18 years of age
- be able to lift 110 pounds and be in reasonable physical condition
- have a High School Diploma or equivalent
- have a full set of farrier tools
- have proof of current health and accident insurance that meets minimum VMCVM requirements
- acquire Farrier Insurance with specified coverage levels
- acquire rabies vaccination in accordance with VMCVM requirements
- agree to comply with the Farrier Certificate Program Code of Conduct

Tuition

Program cost is $20,000. A non-refundable deposit of $5,000 is required within two weeks of notification of acceptance. The remaining balance of $15,000 is due prior at the beginning of the program.