

The University of Findlay

College of Sciences

Summer 2026

The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

Course Number/Title: ASLA 436 Large Animal Husbandry and Medical Care: Costa Rica Equine

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour

Class Time/Place: Loop Abroad, Costa Rica Equine Session 1: June 7th-June 13th, 2026

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Course Description:

This course is designed for undergraduate students with an interest in pre-vet, biology, or large animal management. Through a combination of classroom lectures, field exercises, labs, discussions, and practicums, students will be introduced to basic large animal medicine and care. This intensive course will help students understand the many factors that affect the needs, health, and wellbeing of large animals. Students will have the opportunity to work alongside doctoral-level educators, veterinarians, and animal caretakers. The course is repeatable with a maximum of 9 total credits provided the topics are unique.

Instructor: Erica Ward, DVM

Instructor Contact Information: erica@loopabroad.com

Office Hours: upon request

Course Objectives:

The following Learning Objectives will be addressed or assessed as part of the course:

- **Understand** and **Apply** knowledge gained to provide basic care, husbandry and management of large animals
- **Analyze** behavior and welfare of large animals
- **Evaluate** body condition and welfare of large animals and suggest appropriate steps, if necessary, for improvement
- **Understand** and **Apply** knowledge gained to be proficient at handling, restraint, and physical exams of large animals

- **Analyze** physical exam findings and **create** diagnostic and therapeutic plans
- **Create** a preventative health regime for a large animal
- **Apply** skills learned to demonstrate proficiency in suture techniques, drug dose calculations, and other clinical skills

Required Textbooks and Other Materials:

Students are not required to purchase these texts. All required texts, research articles and information will be provided in class.

- Loop Abroad’s workbook that corresponds to the class section (if applicable).
- Notebook and/or laptop, writing utensils, etc.), wrist watch, snacks, refillable water bottle, insect repellent, sunscreen, and hand sanitizer.
- Optional: stethoscope, waterproof thermometer and hoof pick
- Students will be asked to wear closed-toed shoes or boots each day and in general to wear scrubs or t-shirts or polo shirts and long pants. Clothing may get dirty or ripped.

Instructional Strategies:

Case Analysis	x	Library and Internet Research	
Debate		Practice/drill	x
Discovery/Independent Research	x	Problem solving	x
Discussion/Questioning/Interviewing	x	Reading assignments	x
Experiential Learning	x	Role playing/simulation games	x
Field Experience	x	Service Learning	x
Group Presentation	x	Video/Audio Review and Critique	
Laboratory Experiences	x	Other	
Lecture	x		

Methods of Assessment: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Abstracts		Participation	x
Attendance	x	Peer Evaluation	
Capstone Project		Portfolio	
Case Study		Portfolio Lab Performance	

Exams	x	Presentations	x
Group Projects	x	Professional Evaluation	x
Homework Assignments	x	Quizzes	
Internet Research		Research project	
Journaling		Other	
Lab Performance	x		
Oral/written review of literature			

Grading: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam: 30%

Assignments: 50%

Class Attendance, Participation, and Lab Performance: 20%

Assignments will be completed while the student is participating in the program. The exam will be proctored on the last day of the program and will be a closed book exam. Completed writing assignments should be submitted to your assigned veterinarian instructor in a word document or google document by the designated time and due date. Details on the assignments and assessments will be distributed on the first day of the program.

Throughout this course, instructors will assess students on their participation in labs and activities both in and out of the classroom. To do well on this assessment:

- Be sure to do your best in all labs and activities and complete corresponding handouts and pages in workbook
- Be an active and engaged participant (pay attention during class, volunteer answers, ask questions, etc)
- Be a team player and be helpful to your peers and instructors both in and outside the classroom
- Be prepared and on time for all activities

Please note: this is not an exclusive list. A student's behavior, attitude, and actions throughout their Loop Abroad or CELA program may have an impact on their Participation and Performance Score.

Grading Scale/Distribution:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
A	4.00	93-100
A-	3.67	90-92
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82

C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.00	63-66
D-	0.67	62-60
F	0.00	below 60
U	0.00	

University Honor Code:

Each and every student of the University will adhere to the following Honor Code:

“I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie, or commit any act of plagiarism during any academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University’s Honor Code, I may, at my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel.”

Student Acknowledgement of University Honor Code:

“I acknowledge that I have fully complied or will comply with all aspects of the University’s Honor Code in submitting this work.”

Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement, Article VIII-Academic Integrity:

<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/VIII-Academic-Integrity>

University Diversity Statement:

As part of our commitment to achieve excellence, the University of Findlay values and actively promotes a welcoming and supportive environment that honors the many aspects of diversity. We aspire to foster acceptance of, respect for, and appreciation of all persons in our campus community. We celebrate our commonalities and unique differences, and we acknowledge that diversity broadens learning, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and prepares our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

Course Policies and Practices:

Attendance and Participation Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings for which they are registered. This is regarded as a matter of individual student responsibility. The only excused reasons for absences will be illness that impairs ability to attend and function within the classroom setting or an unavoidable personal emergency.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions on all days of class. It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the course instructor or site director, preferably before the absence, to provide the appropriate documentation and verification for the reason for the

absence, and to make arrangements with the course instructor for missed work. Students are responsible for all missed class material. Students may be subject to limited participation in hands-on practice at the instructor's discretion if they have missed the underlying material needed to safely perform the task at hand.

Final Exam Date: TBD, Please see Loop Abroad Schedule

Special Services: If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor and register with the Office of Disability Services (ods@findlay.edu) at least one week prior to a needed service so reasonable accommodations can be made.

Course and Instructor Evaluation: Each student is expected to complete the course and instructor evaluation which is sent electronically to the student by the Office of the Registrar. The electronic notification comes in the form of an e-mail from the UF Registrar's Office with the following subject line: Online survey for the designated course (e.g., BIOL 102).

Last Date of Attendance Policy: Instructors are required to indicate the last known date of attendance when a final grade of "F" or "U" is assigned to a student.

Tentative Course Outline:

Based on the program location, these are possible lecture and lab topics:

Possible Lectures

- Animal Agriculture
- Large Animal/Equine Physical Examination
- Large Animal/Equine Anatomy, Physiology, Diagnostics
- Large Animal/Equine Husbandry
- Preventative Medicine and Routes of Drug Administration
- Animal Health and Reproduction
- Large Animal/Equine Behavior and Safe Handling
- Equine Physical Exam and Biomechanics
- Types of Equids
- Careers with Equine/Vet Med
- Equine Musculoskeletal Examination and Conditions
- Equine Nutrition, GI Physiology, and Associated Diseases
- Anesthesia and Surgery
- Equine Dentistry
- Parasitology and Epidemiology
- Reproduction and Neonatal Health
- Basic Suture Procedures

Possible Labs

- Physical Exam Lab

- Handling Lab
- Veterinary Shadowing
- Injection and Catheter Lab
- Calculating Dosages and Fluids
- Fecal Lab
- Hematology Lab
- Artificial Insemination Field Practice and Observation
- Anatomy Lab
- Musculoskeletal Examination Lab
- Bandaging Lab
- Saddle Fitting Lab
- Case Studies
- Farrier Shadowing