

Companion Animal Minor

Courses		Credits
ANSC 112 Companion Animals in Society (Lecture: <i>M/W/F 12:30-1:20pm</i> ; offered fall only)	<u>OR</u> ANSC 288 Horse Fitting and Selling	3
ANSC 285 Companion Animal Management (Lecture: <i>M/W/F 8:30-9:20am</i> ; offered spring only)	<u>OR</u> ANSC 302 Therapeutic Horseback Riding 1	3
ANSC 311 Companion Animal Behavior and Training (Lecture: <i>Tue/Th 8:55-10:10am</i> ; offered fall only)	<u>OR</u> ANSC 320 Equine Behavior and Training	3
ANSC 312V Companion Animals and the Human/Animal Bond (Lecture: <i>M/W/F 10:30-11:20am</i> ; offered fall only)		3
ANSC 390 Internship (Offered Fall, Spring, or Summer)	<u>OR</u> ANSC 450 Equine Assisted Learning	3
ANSC 412 Companion Animal Health and Diseases (Lecture: <i>M/W/F 12:30-1:20pm</i> ; offered spring only)		3

Total credits: 18

Students receiving a Bachelor's degree outside of the Animal and Range Science department at New Mexico State University may wish to obtain a minor in Human Animal Interaction. Students may want to complete this minor for personal interest, or to increase their marketability to employers in an area in which they may be incorporating companion animals (including horses) into their careers.

Research into Human Animal Interactions (HAI) has increased in the past 10-15 years as human health and wellness disciplines look for progressive approaches to incorporate companion animals into various modalities and treatments in their respective fields. For professions that want to incorporate companion animals, having strong university based knowledge on companion animals will be critical for maintaining appropriate risk management procedures, as well as for ensuring animal well-being in professional settings where humans are in close contact with the animals. Currently, the primary companion animal species involved in HAI are dogs and horses.

The following are but a few examples of how animals are currently being incorporated in professional settings:

1) Courthouse Dogs

<http://courthousedogs.com/>

Professionally trained facility dogs are being used to provide emotional support in judicial settings. This program has been particularly successful during forensic interviews of children that have experienced or witnessed sexual abuse or domestic violence, and also when the minors have to testify during a courtroom trial in a very intimidating adult setting. Because of the legal ramifications, the dog's handler needs to be a professional with expertise about investigating and prosecuting crimes. The handler(s) must also have solid knowledge of dog behavior and care. (<http://www.westernregionalcac.org/directors-toolkit/facility-dogs/>).

There are currently several courthouse dogs placed in New Mexico (http://www.courthousedogs.org/settings_casa.html).

Major disciplines involved: criminal justice, psychology, sociology

2) NMSU Counselling Center - Animal Assisted Therapy

<http://counselingcenter.nmsu.edu/animal-assisted-therapy/>

While the NMSU Student Counselling Center does not currently have a trained dog available for students during counselling sessions, they have had a trained therapy dog in the past and the program/risk management policies needed are in place. This information can be found at the above website. Another example of the use of Companion Animals in psychotherapy sessions can be found at:

<http://www.dreamcatcherassociation.com/Services/Howwecanhelp/tabid/60/Default.aspx>

This private counselling business provides an example of how therapists are incorporating horses through the use of equine facilitated counselling.

Major disciplines involved: psychology, social work

3) Animal Assisted Occupational Therapy

<http://www.dogwoodtherapy.com/home.html>

Melissa Winkle, OTR/L offers clients with various cognitive and physical disabilities the opportunity to engage in alternative therapy modalities using highly trained dogs at her private practice *Dogwood Therapy* in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Major disciplines involved: occupational therapy, nursing (pediatric, geriatric), social work

4) **Early Childhood Education**

<http://lorifriesen.com/programs/>

Dr. Lori Friesen has developed two programs aimed at assisting children to become more confident in their literacy skills by reading to dogs. Peer reviewed research in the area of early childhood education and animal assisted literacy and therapy can be reviewed at <http://lorifriesen.com/research/>

Major disciplines involved: early childhood education, special education

5) **Tourism and Hotel Management**

<http://www.fairmont.com/promotions/canineambassadors/>

For years marketing agencies have used companion animals in television and print advertisements in an effort to create positive emotions in consumers by associating a product with a companion animal. Now hotel chains like Fairmont Hotels & Resorts have in-house “canine ambassadors” that guests can take for a walk, or run, or schedule a visit by the dog to their rooms.

<http://www.fairmont.com/hotel-vancouver/promotions/pet-friendly-hotel/>

Major disciplines involved: Business, marketing, School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (College of ACES)

6) **Equine Assisted Therapy**

<http://trp.nmsu.edu/index.html>

NMSU has a successful and growing Therapeutic Riding (TR) Program which incorporates innovative treatment methods for persons with various cognitive and physical disabilities. The program includes therapeutic riding, equine assisted learning, equine assisted psychotherapy, and hippotherapy (Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies-EAAT).

Students in other majors may have an interest in incorporating EAAT into their treatment programs rather than using canine species. Providing students with equine experience via available equine courses at NMSU would help students gain the knowledge and experience they need to use horses as part of the treatments they use in their human health and wellness careers. Students in the Human Animal Interaction minor could substitute one or all of the companion animal classes with equivalent equine classes.