

UMW Natural Horsemanship Program Application

Horse Experience and Achievements, Goals, & Aspirations:

Write a one to three page personal essay that includes the following information in paragraph format with thought given to sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation:

1. Describe your interest, expectations and goals regarding the University of Montana Western Natural Horsemanship degree program, including any personal or professional aspirations.
2. Include how this Natural Horsemanship degree will integrate with your prior horsemanship experience and your perception of your current horsemanship abilities. While including this information into the essay, try to work in the answers to the following questions:
 - a. How many years have you had the personal responsibility for care of a horse or horses?
 - b. How many years have you owned horses?
 - c. How many years have you ridden or worked with horses and in what capacity?
 - d. Have you received professional instruction or training in the care, management, training, or riding of horses and if so, in what capacity and for how long?
 - e. Do you have any experience with Natural Horsemanship either on your own, through clinics, seminars, etc. and if so, in what capacity and for how long?
 - f. Have you been a member of 4-H, FFA, Pony Club, Rodeo or any Horseman's Club or Breed Association, in any equine-related capacity or competed in any equine discipline? If yes, please give details as to level and duration of involvement, any achievements obtained, as well as when and where.

The essay must be no longer than 1500 words and it must be typed in 11 or 12 point font with either single or double spacing. Attach the completed essay to the application.

Letters of Reference:

Each student needs to obtain three letters of reference (one from a person knowledgeable about your academic performance, one from a person knowledgeable about your skills with horses, and one other letter from a person of your choice) to include with their application.

Personal Video (optional):

Each student may opt to include a short video of themselves with their horse to assist us in our application process. Preferably, the video will be of the student with the horse that they intend to use in the Natural Horsemanship program. The video should include footage of the student saddling their horse, and then riding the horse at a walk, trot (or rack, running walk, etc), canter, and a stop. This does not need to be a professional video, but does need to be of sufficient length and quality to show what the student and their horse's current capabilities are. Inclusion of this personal video is optional.

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Personal Data:

Full name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Application Status:

Please check the appropriate blank regarding your application status at the University of Montana Western (UMW):

_____ I have applied to UMW and have been accepted to the university

_____ I have applied to UMW and still need to submit more application materials (including waiting on transcripts, test scores, etc.)

_____ I have not yet applied to UMW (Please note: you must be accepted to UMW before you can register for classes.)

_____ I am a current UMW student in good academic standing

Academic Achievement:

For freshman:

ACT score: _____ / _____
English/Math/Reading/Science/Composite Writing

SAT score: _____ / _____
Reading/Math/Writing Overall

High School GPA: _____ Rank in class/Number in Class: _____ / _____

For Transfer students:

Cumulative GPA from last institution: _____

For Current UMW students:

Cumulative GPA: _____

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Suitable Horse, Physical, Financial, and Transportation Requirements

Each student is required to confirm the following statements
(circle your response and initial the blank):

The horse that I intend to use in the Natural Horsemanship degree program is at least 3 years of age, and is either a mare or a gelding; has no chronic unsoundness that would prevent it from being able to complete the necessary workload in a safe and humane manner; can be safely tied and has no history of pulling back or breaking halters or lead ropes when tied; and can be ridden safely, and that can walk, trot, canter and stop when ridden either in a group of other horses or alone, without bucking or misbehaving.

Yes _____ No _____

I have the financial ability to pay for monthly board and feed, routine and emergency veterinary and farrier bills, and for tack and equipment required for the program.

Yes _____ No _____

I have access to safe and reliable transportation for myself and for my program horse both to and from class 3-5 times per week, along with associated fuel costs.

Yes _____ No _____

I have the physical ability to lead my horse at a trot through deep sand for 50 yards; the physical ability to lift a saddle (25-50 pounds) to the height of a horse's back (60-70 inches from the ground); and the physical ability to dismount my horse from either side or to mount my horse from either side rapidly if the situation calls for it.

Yes _____ No _____

Other Background Information:

Please list other extracurricular activities/hobbies you have been involved in and how long you have been involved in that activity. (Add additional information on separate sheets as needed).

Activity/Hobby

Approximate dates

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Other Information:

Please tell us how you found out about the University of Montana Western Natural Horsemanship degree program

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Degree Information:

I am interested in earning: _____ Associate of Applied Science in Natural Horsemanship
_____ Bachelor of Science in Natural Horsemanship
Option area: _____

Please note:

Natural Horsemanship classes are sequential and are only offered beginning in the Fall Term.

To successfully complete this application, you must:

1. Complete this application form
2. Attach a copy of your high school transcripts or a copy of your transcripts from all colleges previously attended. *Note: You must submit these transcripts with this application even if you have already submitted them to the UMW admissions office or if you are a current UMW student.*
3. Attach your completed personal essay to the application
4. Include the three letters of reference and attach them to this application
5. Sign and date the application below
6. If student is under 18 years of age, then have parents or guardians sign and date the application as well
7. Return this application and all application materials to:

The University of Montana Western
Natural Horsemanship Review Committee
Mailbox #94
710 South Atlantic
Dillon, Montana 59725

Please note that your academic achievement carries approximately 1/3 of the weight in the committee's decision for acceptance, horse experience and personal preparedness carries about 1/3 of the weight, and the final 1/3 of the decision is determined by the personal essay.

Please initial each statement below and then sign and date the bottom of form

_____ *I understand that admission to the Natural Horsemanship program is competitive and that, if not accepted, I have the opportunity to pursue any of UMW other equine degrees if so desired, and can re-apply the following year for the Natural Horsemanship program.*

_____ *I also acknowledge the inherent risk involved in equine activities.*

_____ *I also acknowledge that if found intentionally falsifying information on this application that I may be subject to dismissal from the program.*

Student's printed name

Student's signature

Date

Parent's printed name, if student under 18

Parent's signature, if student under 18

Date