



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ANIMAL ACUPUNCTURE
Equine Acupuncture Course Syllabus
154 Hours

The National Academy of Animal Acupuncture is accepting 8 students into its course on Equine Acupuncture. Because of the small size of the class, and in view of the large demand for instruction, interested students will be subject to an application and interview process. Acceptance into the animal acupuncture training program is not automatic upon application. Participation in the National Academy of Animal Acupuncture's course is open to licensed acupuncturists who have been actively practicing for a minimum of 3 years. This course uses standard TCM and Classical Chinese Medicine treatment and diagnostic principles. It may be difficult for a practitioner who is only grounded in 5 Element theory and has no background in TCM or Classical Chinese Medicine diagnostics to understand certain aspects of the course.

The course on Equine Acupuncture is designed to prepare licensed acupuncturists to treat conditions that affect horses. Treating horses is a life-long process and this course is designed to help prepare the acupuncturist for that journey.

Instructors:

Gene Bruno, OMD, LAc, FABAA
Jay Giles Clements, MS, EST

Course Description – The course is divided into two sections, Didactic and Clinical, with 8 modules, over a period of 7 months. The Didactic portions will be held **on-line**. Clinical modules must be attended in person. •
• **Didactic sessions will be held online**, and will be approximately 6 hours each day, over two days, Saturday and Sunday. For every hour of didactic, students need to be prepared to spend 2 hours out-of-class for study and review.
• **Clinical sessions will be held in Arizona**, over three days, approximately 6 hours each day, and take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For every hour of clinical internship, the student should spend 1 hour of study and review.

Between each module there will be Study Sessions. These will be held on-line, and attendance is mandatory. For those with scheduling conflicts who cannot attend the study sessions, efforts will be made to record and distribute a video of the session.

After each study session, students will receive a short quiz that must be returned within 24 hours. The quiz will be in a (.doc) format and must be returned in the same format. Photos are not acceptable.

TERM PAPER: Each student will be required to present a review of a case study that covers a specific condition. This will require 20 hours of research, analysis and writing.

These presentations will take place in Module 8 on the third day, after the written exam is completed. Students will be given specific help with the format for the presentation, including presentation guidelines.

ABAA CERTIFICATION: Each student who successfully completes the NAAA course requirements will be eligible to take the ABAA Clinical Exam and ABAA Written Exam in Module 8. Passing both of these exams will qualify the student for ABAA certification. Simply completing the course, without passing both final exams, does not qualify a student for ABAA certification. The ABAA exams are the professional standard for certification in animal acupuncture.

This course in equine acupuncture is intense and will be demanding of the student's time and energy.

Prerequisites:

- Applicants must be licensed acupuncturists who have been practicing for a minimum of 3 years.
- Applicants must submit an NAAA application
- All applicants will be interviewed as part of the acceptance process. Only 8 applicants will be chosen.
- Applicant interviews will be live on zoom
- **Safety around horses is critical:**
 - **Anyone who is pregnant, or plans to become pregnant, or becomes pregnant during the course, will not be admitted or allowed to complete the program. There are no refunds if this occurs.**
 - **Certain medical conditions [such as vertigo, fainting, etc.] can create unsafe and dangerous conditions for the student, students with certain medical conditions will not be admitted.**

In Person Clinicals – During Modules 4 - 8, students will be assisted by horse handlers. There will be at least one handler for every student in the course to help with handling and safety. There will also be an assistant instructor that will help with the training of the passive and active exams. They will also be able to answer questions regarding the horse's history, condition, etc.

Quizzes - Will be assigned after each study session. Each quiz will be based on the materials presented in the previous Module. The quiz must be returned within **24 hours**. Completing and submitting the quiz responses by the due date is your responsibility.

The purpose of the quizzes is two-fold. It is a learning experience for the student to understand their progress. For the instructors it is a tool to help understand areas that need more focus or review. The passing grade for the quizzes is 80%.

Formatting

All quiz assignments must be submitted using Microsoft Word. PDFs or Pages formats. Photos of quizzes are not acceptable.

ABAA Final Written Exam – The purpose of the Final Written Exam is to evaluate the student's overall comprehension of the information presented in the course. The passing grade for the Final Written Exam is 80%. The final written exam will be held on day 3 of Module 8.

- The written exam will not be an open book exam.
- It will consist of multiple choice and 'fill-in' answers.

Regarding testing for written exams – if a student knows they have difficulty with in-person written exams because of extreme stress or other factors, we will attempt to make special accommodations if possible.

However, the student must inform the instructors at the beginning of the course. This cannot be done for the practical exams.

ABAA Final Clinical Exams – The Final Clinical Exam takes place on Day 2 of Module 8. The instructors will use a Rubric to evaluate and determine if the practitioner is competent in the competencies, knowledge and skills that are necessary for treating horses. This Rubric is based on the course's Learning Outcomes, which are listed below. The passing score for the Clinical Exam is 80%.

Case Study Presentation: The oral case presentations will be on day 3 of Module 8.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Rubric information for the practical exam, which is based upon the Learning Objectives listed below, will be given to students before the final exam.

Late Work/Make-up Policy

Please plan accordingly and complete these assignments in advance of their deadlines to ensure any unanticipated circumstances do not result in a missed assignment. User error does not qualify you for any kind of makeup or retake opportunity.

Late QUIZZES will be accepted if:

1. You contact the instructors in advance of the assignment deadline to make arrangements for its completion.

Grade Distribution

Quizzes – 5%

Case study – 10%.

Clinical exam – 50%

Written exam – 35%

Learning Objectives

Students must demonstrate the following competencies, knowledge and skills in order to complete and pass the course. These competencies, knowledge and skills will be the essential parts of the Rubric that is used in the ABAA Final Clinical and Written Exams.

Patient Care

- Ability to respect the rights and dignity of each horse patient.
- Ability to safely approach and comfortably position the horse for treatment.
- Ability to relate to and be comfortable with horses.
- Ability to understand the animal's emotional energy state and reactions.
- Ability to properly relate to and be supportive of the horse's guardian.
- Ability to communicate to pet parents and guardians the length and consistency of treatment required for healing, and the reasons for treating with acupuncture.
- Ability to communicate to the pet parents and guardians' nutritional and dietary information that can affect the horse's health and wellbeing.
- Ability to provide a safe working environment.
- Ability to assess the horse's tolerance for treatment and the limits of treatment.

Clinical Judgement

- Ability to exercise clinical judgment.
- Ability to recognize conditions that are outside of the practitioner's expertise or the need for urgent care, and to refer these patients to a veterinarian or appropriate medical professional.
- Ability to assess and evaluate the animal's medical records as it pertains to their care.
- Ability to assess and evaluate the appropriateness of TCM care for each presenting animal.
- Ability to assess issues of safety for the practitioner, others present and the animal.

Examination

- Ability to execute the Passive & Active exams for the horse.
- Ability to execute and interpret the horse's reactions to point palpation and running the points.
- Ability to make an accurate TCM diagnosis and prepare and explain a practical treatment plan.

Point Identification

- Ability to accurately locate points, including the essential points and alternate points for a specific condition.
- Ability to accurately identify landmarks for points.
- Ability to accurately describe point indications.

Treatment

- Ability to explain the essential points for treatment.
- Ability to properly execute a treatment using needles – including technique, depth & angle.
- Ability to properly execute a treatment using a Class 3B laser.
- Ability to keep accurate and legible records of each patient's history and treatment.

Those who successfully pass the NAAA animal acupuncture course and pass both ABAA exams:

- Will receive a certificate of successful completion from the National Academy of Animal Acupuncture.
- Will be certified by the ABAA as a Diplomate in Equine Acupuncture.
- Will become a Fellow of the ABAA.
- Will be able to have their contact information listed on the ABAA website.
- Will be a Fellow of the American Board of Animal Acupuncture – FABAA

Required Textbooks

Acupuncture Points on the Horse, by Gene Bruno

- ISBN-13: 978-1542468770

Equine Acupuncture – Conditions & Treatment Protocols, by Gene Bruno

- ISBN-13: 979-8377942634

Horse Anatomy – A Coloring Atlas, by Robert Krainer

- ISBN-13; 978-1617812408

The Merck Veterinary Manual

- ISBN-13: 978-0911910612

Recommended Text

Textbook on Veterinary Anatomy, by Dyce, DVM and Wensing, DVM

- ISBN-13: 978-1416066071

Course Requirements

Attend all online lectures, in person clinicals and completion of all coursework is required which include:

- Students must have an updated, working zoom account
- On-line PowerPoint Lectures
- On-line Study Sessions
- Quizzes – student will receive quizzes after Modules 1 - 7
- In Person Clinical training and treatment
- Term Research Paper & Presentation in Module 8
- Final Practical Clinical Exam
- Final Written Exam

Students must pass both the Clinical Exam and the Written Exam to successfully complete the course and qualify for ABAA certification in Equine Acupuncture

Course Communication and Feedback

If you are having any difficulties with this course or its material, you should contact an instructor as soon as possible.

Announcements will be sent via email for this course whenever necessary. It is your responsibility to ensure that your email account works properly to receive email.

Instructor Contact Information

NAAA – Info4naaa@gmail.com

Gene Bruno – (503) 701-8999 drgenebruno@gmail.com

Jay Clements – (520) 235-6870 naaaigc@gmail.com

Material & Equipment Requirements

Needles: All needles will be supplied. These will consist primarily of Seirin J-type needles with tubes.

Laser: A 3B Cold Laser is the preferred laser for the course. We will provide these.

Stethoscope: Stethoscopes will be used in the clinicals. It is recommended that you bring your own.

Clothing: In the clinicals, all students must wear long pants and adequate boots. Boots with steel inserts and rubber boots are NOT acceptable. Hats are recommended.

Attendance Policy

All 8 modules must be attended in order to pass the course.

Academic Integrity

As a partner in your learning, it is important that any assignment submission is a pure reflection of your work and understanding. You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity.

Etiquette: It is expected that all students will treat each other, instructors, assistant instructors, volunteers and horses with respect.

Instructional Methods

The course will be taught using multiple instructional methods. These methods will include PowerPoint presentations, question and answer sessions, online Study Sessions, quizzes and live clinical demonstrations.

Expectations of the Instructor

We are expected to facilitate learning, answer questions appropriately, use fair and objective grading methods, provide timely and useful feedback on assignments, create a safe learning environment and treat all students as we would like to be treated.

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Tuition for the course is \$12,500. Payment can be made by Zelle, Money Order or check. Credit cards are not currently accepted.

- The ABAA written and clinical exam fee is included.
- Acupuncture needles will be provided.
- This does not include the required texts.
- This does not include a 3B Laser, although lasers will be provided in clinic for students to borrow who do not bring one.

Tuition Payment plan

Those accepted into the course will be required to make a Deposit of \$2000. **Non-Refundable**

Remaining tuition payment can be made in full or in 3 partial payments of \$3,500 each.

Dates for 3 payment schedules:

1st by August 15, 2026

2nd by September 15, 2026

3rd is due October 15, 2026

Travel and lodging costs are not included in course tuition. Recommendations for accommodations will be provided.

Checks should be made out to the National Academy of Animal Acupuncture, mailed to:

**NAAA
10201 N Chemehlevi Dr.
Casa Grande, AZ 85122**

Refund Policy

NAAA reserves the right to cancel the course or any of its clinical units, and to change the dates or venue of the units. A full refund can be given if the course is canceled or rescheduled prior to the first day of the course. Requests for refunds must be in writing.

- Refunds will only be given for special circumstances, such as serious medical conditions.
- The deposit of reserving a position in the course is not refundable.
- If a student chooses to withdraw from the course, they must deliver by email or by written notice, their decision to either Dr. Bruno or Jay Clements
- If less than 25% of the course has been completed – 50% refund
- If 25% to 50% of the course has been completed – 25% refund
- If 50% or more of the course has been completed – no refund

Student Conduct

It is the responsibility of students to be knowledgeable about acceptable conduct and activities. Students are expected to maintain a demeanor that is polite and consistent with professional courtesy to fellow students, faculty, and instructors. Students are expected to treat every horse with respect. An instructor may ask a student who exhibits any disrespectful, uncivil, or unprofessional behavior to leave.

Cell Phones and Other Communication Devices

All cell phones, pagers are to be turned off. Cell phones and pagers are not to be answered during class time.

Students Retaking an Examination

If a student scores below 80% on the ABAA exams, they may be granted only one opportunity to retake the exam in question.

The following steps establish the criteria for retaking an exam:

- 1) For the final written exam, only one retake is allowed. The student would need to contact the instructor to schedule. There is a fee for retaking the final written exam.
- 2) For the final clinical exam, only one retake is allowed. The student would need to schedule this with the instructor. There is a fee for retaking the final clinical exam.

Academic Honesty

The NAAA Faculty and staff are dedicated to supporting student learning by providing high quality instruction in animal acupuncture, TCM and handling. At the same time, the student's dedication to the learning process is critical for their success. This includes the student's commitment to the accepted standards of honesty that are a part of every institution of higher learning.

The National Academy of Animal Acupuncture does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Any attempt by a student to gain an unfair advantage in a course will be met with serious penalties, up to and including suspension.

Cheating or dishonesty in an academic endeavor may involve:

- Plagiarism, such as paraphrasing material from another source without citing it, or using the exact wording of a source without putting that wording in quotation marks and citing it.
- Copying or attempting to copy from others during an exam.
- Transmitting information to, or receiving information from, another student about exams or during an exam.

We look forward to taking the next step to expand the future of animal wellness together