



ANIMAL
SCIENCE

PHD POSITION: THOROUGHBRED RACING

1/2 time Graduate
Research Assistantship

Funded by the Boyd Racing Performance & Safety Initiative

The University of Tennessee Equine Program is seeking a PhD student for a 1/2 time research assistantship. The successful candidate will join an active research and outreach program focused on exercise performance and welfare under the mentorship of Dr. Jennie Ivey.

This position offers the opportunity to conduct high-impact, data-driven research at the intersection of racehorse performance, genetics, welfare, and economic impact—areas of critical importance to both the equine industry and the scientific community.

Further, the student will develop scientific communication, leadership, and outreach skills while working closely with research collaborators at other institutions and various industry professionals.

**POSITION START IN
SUMMER OR FALL 2026**

Responsibilities

- Compile, manage, and analyze large datasets including racing records, pedigree databases, and breed registries
- Conduct statistical and diversity analyses to evaluate performance, genetic, and performance to assess racehorse breakdown risk and future outcomes
- Collect field and/or laboratory data in coordination with racetracks, breeding farms, and veterinary practitioners
- Prepare and submit peer-reviewed manuscripts and present findings
- Collaborate with research and outreach teams, and mentor students
- Complete doctoral coursework and maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Assist with other equine-related educational activities and events as requested

Qualifications

- MS degree in Animal Science, Equine Science, or a related field (thesis-based, completed by May 2025)
- Strong background in exercise physiology and/or racing preferred
- Familiarity with statistical software (R, SAS, etc.)
- Excellent communication, self-motivation, and organizational skills
- Ability to work independently and as part of collaborative research teams
- Ability to work with horses, and travel to research and industry sites frequently

**APPLY
TODAY**

**Send application materials to
Dr. Jennie Ivey at jjivey@utk.edu.**

Candidates will be reviewed in order they are received.

Cover letter
Resume or CV
Contact information for 3 references