

Opportunities Across a Breadth of Disciplines

The nature of horse racing makes it one of the most diverse and exciting industries to be involved in.

Racing provides a broad range of career options for job seekers. Whether your interests lie in being involved hands on with horses, working outdoors, pursuing an international career or getting involved in the administration of racing; with the right training, commitment and experience, there's many varying career paths to follow. This information is supplied by Racing Victoria Ltd. Check for information on career categories available in your State.

Career categories

Racing

Includes: trainer, assistant trainer, foreperson, pre-trainer, horse breaker, barrier attendant, stable-hand, trackwork rider, jockey, track supervisor, track maintenance and racecourse manager.

Breeding

Includes: Stud hand, stud groom, stallion handler, stud manager and bloodstock manager.

Veterinary / Remedial / Other

Includes: Race day veterinarian, equine nurse, equine dentist, equine acupuncture and farrier.

Administration

Includes: Steward, racing administrator, licensing/ registration clerk, jockey manager, race programmer and handicapper.

Race Day

Includes: Photo finish operator, judge, race caller, starter, clerk of scales and clerk of course.



Education and careers in the racing industry

| | Role | Description | Training Opportunities |
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| Racing | Thoroughbred Trainer | A racehorse trainer is responsible for the care, maintenance and racing performance of racehorses. | Diploma in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) Certificate IV in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) |
| | Assistant Trainer | This role is delegated to assist a permit trainer who operates an independent horse racing business. | Diploma in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) Certificate IV in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) Certificate III in Racing (Stablehand) |
| | Foreperson | A foreperson is a senior stable hand who looks after the daily organization of the stable and takes instructions from the trainer to ensure the smooth running of the stable. | Certificate II in Racing Industry (Stable hand) Certificate III in Racing (Stable hand) Certificate II Equine Industry |
| | Pre-Trainer | A pre-trainer is responsible for conditioning and preparing horses for racing after they have been spelling. | Certificate IV in Racing (Racehorse Trainer) Certificate III in Racing (Stable hand) |
| | Horse Breaker | A horse breaker educates young horses and prepares them for race training. | On the job training |
| | Barrier Attendant | A horse handler and team player, on race day, a barrier attendant works efficiently to manage horses into the barriers, check that approved equipment is being worn and re-fit any damaged equipment. | Certificate III in Racing (Stable hand) On the job training |
| | Stable hand | The tasks of a stable hand involve handling horses, preparing them for their daily routine, attending to stable duties such as feeding and walking horses as well as assisting the horses on race day. | Certificate II in Racing Industry (Stable hand) Certificate II in Equine Industry |
| | Trackwork Rider | A track rider works intimately with horses to exercise them, provide feedback on their health and communicate valuable information to trainers. | Certificate III in Racing (Trackwork Rider) On the job training |
| | Jockey | A jockey is a professional sports person licensed by thoroughbred racing industries. A jockey lives, eats and trains as a professional athlete. | Certificate IV in Racing (Jockey) On the job training Jumps jockey skill set (Jumps Jockey only) |
| | Track Work Supervisor | A track work supervisor monitors horse training operations & ensures that all personnel on the track during training are licensed and that rules & OHS procedures are adhered to. | First Aid Certificate Industry/Racing Experience Equine knowledge |
| | Track Maintenance Trainees | A role in track maintenance involves maintaining the upkeep of the racecourse, racetracks, training facilities, the gardens, tools and the machinery at the racecourse. Reporting and dealing with all track maintenance or track issues are encompassed in the role. | Certificate II in Racing Industry (Track Maintenance) Horticulture or Agriculture experience |
| | Racecourse Manager | A racecourse manager is responsible for the management of the racecourse complex to make sure it provides clean, well maintained & safe facilities and fair surfaces for racing. | Certificate III in Sports Turf Management Racing and industry experience required On the job training |

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| Breeding | Stud Hand | Stud hand positions are usually the beginning of a career in the horse breeding industry. Duties include basic horse handling, feeding; cleaning and maintenance of stables, paddocks and equipment; maintaining property; operating machinery and equipment. | Certificate II Equine Industry Certificate II Racing Industry (Stud Hand) Certificate III Equine Studies Bachelor of Equine Studies |
| | Stud Groom | A stud groom is a skilled stud hand and is involved in coordinating a wide range of horse breeding activities such as: caring for and foaling-down broodmares; carrying out mare mating procedures; care of stallions; establishing and conserving pastures and crops. | Certificate III in Horse Breeding Certificate IV in Horse Breeding Bachelor of Equine Studies |
| | Stallion Groom & Stallion Manager | The stallion groom is a highly developed horseman with experience developed during time as a stud groom. The role may include control of stallions during the mating of mares, control of mares during the mating process; preparation and presentation of stallions to clients at stud parades; ensuring quarantine procedures are adhered to. | Certificate III in Horse Breeding Bachelor of Equine Studies |
| | Stud Manager | A stud manager has significant responsibilities in managing horse breeding activities. Duties may include managing livestock production and physical and natural resources; business administration; staff management and training; supporting the marketing of livestock. | Diploma in Agriculture (Rural Business Management) Diploma of Horse Stud Management Diploma of Horse Breeding (Stud Management) |
| | Bloodstock Agent | A bloodstock agent specializes in the buying and selling off racehorses, broodmares and stallions. | No formal training requirements |

Education and careers in the racing industry

| | Role | Description | Training Opportunities |
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| Veterinary / Remedial / Other | Race Day Veterinarian | A qualified veterinarian with a keen sense of the racing industry and specialized equine training. | Bachelor of Veterinary Science |
| | Equine Nurse | An equine nurse plays a role in all aspects of equine veterinary care including medicine, surgery, intensive care, breeding and anesthesia. Equine nurses are often involved in clinical pathological and radiographic procedures. They also aid in the cleaning and maintaining of an equine facility and implement quality assurance methods and OHS procedures. | Certificate III in Veterinary Nursing Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing |
| | Equine Dentist | An equine dentist performs routine dental examinations and corrects and maintains the proper and efficient dental working of an equine mouth. Improving the oral and digestive health and comfort of a horse is the paramount aim of an equine dentist, which in turn enhances the racehorse's performance. | Certificate IV in Work Practices for Equine Dental Technicians |
| | Equine Acupuncture | An equine acupuncturist specializes in the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders in horses. They stimulate particular points on the horse which can change many biochemical and physiological issues, leading to an enhanced well-being. | Certificate in Equine Myofunctional Therapy Diploma/Certificate in Animal Acupuncture |
| | Farrier | A farrier is responsible for the care and maintenance of horse's hooves and the shoeing of them. | Certificate III in Farriery (Trade) |
| Administration | Steward | A steward oversees all aspects of horse racing and wagering to ensure that the rules of racing are adhered to. | Racing and industry experience required On the job training |
| | Racing Administrator | A number of administrative roles exist that support the operation of racing clubs and the racing industry. | Certificate II in Racing Industry (Administration) Certificate III in Racing Services (Racing Administration) |
| | Licensing/Registration Clerk | A licensing / registration clerk performs the licensing administration duties of racing's governing body. | On the job training |
| | Jockey Manager | A jockey manager works as a booking agent securing the best rides for their client as well as providing the jockey with advice on form and tactics. | No specific courses for this role |
| | Race Programmer | A race programmer develops all race programming, analyses statistics relating to race programs. They provide innovative recommendations to improve the overall racing calendar, which includes development of race series, process improvements, race condition analysis and black type upgrade targets. | On the job training |
| | Handicapper | A handicapper is responsible for setting the weight horses carry in a race. | On the job training |
| Race Day | Photo Finish Operator | A photo finish operator uses specialized race result equipment, including cameras, computers and other technology to officially record the finish of a race. They are accountable for the accurate capture of all place getters in each race and entry of event data into the various systems to reflect race results, jockeys and timings associated with the conducted events. | Racing and industry experience required. On the job training |
| | Judge | A judge on race day determines official placings in a race. | Racing and industry experience required. On the job training |
| | Race Caller | Employed by television and radio stations, a race caller calls the race and race trials. | No specific training but industry experience and broadcasting favorable |
| | Starter | The starter ensures that races are run efficiently, on time and safely. | Racing and industry experience required. On the job training |
| | Clerk of Scales | The clerk of scales oversees the pre-race weighing out and weighing in of jockeys. | Racing and industry experience required. On the job training |
| | Clerk of Course | The clerk of the course monitors and assists horses getting to the barriers and assists during emergency situations. | Certificate III in Racing (Trackwork Rider) |



