SCHOLARS AND RIDERS
RENOWNED FOR EXCELLENCE
For decades, Sweet Briar’s riding program has set the standard for collegiate riding. We offer exceptional indoor and outdoor riding facilities and quality horses that partner with riders at every level. We equally value each rider — from novice to advanced. Students develop into competent and well-rounded horsewomen who are skilled and knowledgeable in the hunter/jumper discipline.
Partnership Between

HORSE & RIDER
Our program focuses on the hunter/jumper discipline, heavily influenced by the modern forward system of riding. More than 20 different courses of instruction are offered, with three to six riders per class. Small classes allow for personalized instruction that fosters partnership between rider and mount.

**Competition.** Our equestrian athletes continue to develop their mental focus and refine and strengthen their position all while setting and achieving goals. Whether competing in a collegiate setting, where the horse is unknown, or on a familiar mount, students learn to assess the situation and use their aids to create a winning performance from each horse they ride.

**Recreation.** Sweet Briar has much to offer students who wish to ride primarily for enjoyment, recreation or fitness. Riders can improve their partnership with the horse by refining their aids in the ring, enjoying a quiet hack across campus or donning a costume for a Halloween-themed show of fun and games.

**Training/Schooling Horses.** We offer schooling-oriented classes for riders interested in training concepts. Classes start with groundwork and natural horsemanship, then progress using a systematic approach to developing skills applicable to a range of horses and specialties.

**Field Riding.** From relaxing walk-and-talks to exhilarating fox hunting, field riding has always been integral to Sweet Briar’s program. Riders develop confidence as they explore Sweet Briar’s campus and trails, which provide ample opportunities to hack out. Advanced riders may have the chance to experience an actual hunt with a local club.

**Equine Studies Certificate.** The certificate program requires 22 to 24 credits of course work. It offers concentrations in management and teaching and schooling. The program combines a strong liberal arts foundation with preparation for a potential career in equine-related enterprises.
USEF/Cacchione Cup Winner
Makayla Benjamin ’18
Sweet Briar Riders Know

HOW TO WIN

Our championship-level teams compete in National Collegiate Equestrian Association (NCEA), Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) and Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) events. Qualified Sweet Briar riders also have the opportunity to compete in local and rated shows off-campus in the USHJA Zone 3 region.

Recent Team Successes

2020
- NCEA Farnum All Academic Riders - 2 First Team and 1 Second Team
- ECAC Rider of the Week six times
- ECAC Freshman Rider of the Year
- ECAC All Team Flat Rider and Fences Rider
- Four riders received ECAC All-Academic Awards
- ODAC Scholar Athlete of the Year
- 26 riders on the ODAC All-Academic Team
- IHSA Zone 4, Region 4 Champion Team
- 11 riders received IHSA National All-Academic Awards

2019
- NCEA quarterfinals in jumping seat equitation over fences at nationals
- NCEA top-10 seed jumping seat
- NCEA Team Sportsmanship Award
- IHSA Nationals 8th place team
- IHSA Zone 4 Reserve Champion Team
- IHSA Zone 4, Region 4 Champion Team
- ODAC Champion Team

2018
- NCEA Team Sportsmanship Award
- NCEA Jumping Seat Over Fences Event Championship — top-10 seed
- IHSA National Champion U.S. Equestrian / Cacchione Cup
- IHSA Zone 4, Region 4 Champion Team
- ODAC Reserve Champion Team
- ODAC Rider of the Year
- ODAC Rookie of the Year
- Two All-Conference ODAC riders

2017
- ODAC Reserve Champion Team
- Two All-Conference ODAC riders
- IHSA Champion Zone 4 Region 2 Open Equitation Over Fences
- IHSA Reserve Champion Zone 4 Region 2 Cacchione Cup
Room to ROAM

Sweet Briar’s 2,840-acre campus provides uneven terrain and unforgettable views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Such a beautiful setting is an advantage to both horse and rider.

Riders of every level develop confidence as they explore Sweet Briar’s spectacular trails and campus — our outdoor classroom of nature sanctuaries, dells, lakes and mountain tops.

For more information, visit sbc.edu/riding.
Extraordinary Facilities

Stable management and professional horse care are a priority at Sweet Briar.

Our newly-renovated facility is located a little more than a mile from the center of campus and includes:

- 80 large box stalls with rubber mats
- 45 well-mannered College-owned horses
- Five tack rooms
- 20 individual paddocks and 10 large pastures for turnout

Indoor and outdoor facilities provide an optimum riding and educational experience.

The Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center includes:

- One of the largest indoor college arenas in the nation: The Robin S. Cramer Hall measures 120 x 300 feet and features a climate-controlled viewing area and sound system.
- Three spacious outdoor rings, one with sprinklers and lights
- Covered lunging area
- Several teaching and schooling fields with a variety of natural obstacles
- Hunter/jumper fences suitable for USEF competitions

Two boarding options allow students to bring privately-owned horses with them to college.