DVM in Veterinary Medicine

Overview

The DVM degree is achieved after a four-year course of study. Applicants generally have a B.S. or B.A. degree but can be admitted after completing prerequisite course requirements. [http://cvm.missouri.edu/prospective-students/](http://cvm.missouri.edu/prospective-students/)

At the University of Missouri, the first two years are largely spent in classrooms and laboratories with the second two years devoted primarily to clinical study in the Veterinary Health Center.

The curriculum at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine is designed to provide students with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to be competent entry level veterinarians. We prepare our students for general veterinary practice, for entry into graduate or specialty training programs and with the background necessary for careers in regulatory medicine.

In the first two years, all students follow the same schedule, and courses must be successfully completed in sequence. In the final two years of the professional program, the student must successfully complete the required and elective clinical rotations to fulfill graduation requirements.

To receive the DVM degree, students must pass all courses. In addition to passing examinations, attendance and participation in all lectures, laboratories and clinical exercises is required. The doctor of veterinary medicine degree is awarded after successful completion of the professional program.

Curriculum

Objectives and Summary of the Professional Curriculum

The primary objective of the CVM curriculum is to provide students with the knowledge and technical skills necessary to be competent entry level veterinarians. We prepare our students for general veterinary practice, for entry into graduate or specialty training programs, or for careers in regulatory medicine. The overall objective of the first two years of the curriculum is to provide students with a solid foundation in basic biomedical sciences. The courses in the preclinical professional curriculum include anatomy, physiology, cell and molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, microbiology, virology, and toxicology. The fundamentals of the clinical disciplines are also taught during this time and include anesthesia, clinical pathology, radiology, public health, medicine and surgery.

The organizational scheme of the professional curriculum differs from that of other schools in that the first two academic years are divided into eight-week instructional periods and our academic year runs from August through June. The students have a summer break between the first and second years and second and third years of instruction that is approximately seven weeks in duration. The overall objective of the clinical curriculum is to solidify basic knowledge and practice clinical skills in the Veterinary Health Center, VMDL, and external preceptorships. This portion of the curriculum is organized into 12 clinical blocks that begin in October of the third year of professional instruction. These clinical blocks are six to eight weeks in duration and may be divided into 1, 2, or 3 clinical courses. The required clinical rotations are listed below and organized by duration:

Required Clinical Rotations

**Full Block Rotations:** Food Animal Medicine and Surgery; Equine Medicine and Surgery; Small Animal Community Practice and Shelter Medicine; Diagnostic Pathology and Special Species Medicine.

**Third Block Rotations:** Theriogenology; Ophthalmology; Small Animal Internal Medicine; Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care; Oncology; Soft Tissue Surgery; Orthopedic Surgery; Neurology and Neurosurgery

**Half Block Rotations:** Clinical Radiology; Clinical Anesthesia

Note that students are required to complete four credit hours (four weeks) of external evaluated preceptorships as part of the required curriculum. Students also select 10 credit hours of elective rotations (cardiology, nutrition, production medicine, special imaging, etc.). In addition to required and elective blocks, students are allotted two blocks as "free time." Most students utilize their free time to study for licensing examinations, complete preceptorships at practices, or interview with prospective employers. A total of 154.5 semester credit hours are required for graduation. Most students accumulate a higher number of credit hours as a result of enrollments in extra didactic or clinical elective courses.

**VM-1 Required Courses (Instructional Periods 1-4)**

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<tr>
<th>Instructional Periods 1 and 2; August - December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V_BSCI 5500</td>
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<td>V_BSCI 5502</td>
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<td>V_BSCI 5504</td>
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<td>V_BSCI 5506</td>
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**Instructional Period 3; January - February**

| V_BSCI 5011 | Veterinary Anatomy | 3 |
| V_BSCI 5020 | Developmental Anatomy | 0.5 |
| V_BSCI 5053 | Veterinary Microscopic Anatomy | 2 |
| V_BSCI 5051 | Veterinary Gastrointestinal | 2 |
| V_M_S 6005 | Clinical Skills | 0.5 |
| V_M_S 6140 | Nutrition with Laboratory | 1.5 |

**Instructional Period 4; March - April**

| V_BSCI 5012 | Veterinary Anatomy with Laboratory | 3 |
| V_BSCI 5021 | Developmental Anatomy | 0.5 |
| V_BSCI 5052 | Veterinary Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology | 2 |
| V_PBIO 5511 | Veterinary Immunology | 1.5 |
| V_PBIO 5555 | Epidemiology and Biostatistics with Laboratory | 2 |
| V_M_S 6006 | Clinical Skills | 0.5 |

**VM-2 Required Courses (Instructional Periods 5-9)**

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<th>Instructional Period 5; May - June</th>
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<tr>
<td>V_PBIO 5512</td>
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<td>V_PBIO 5552</td>
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<td>V_PBIO 5575</td>
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<th>Instructional Period 6; August - October</th>
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<tr>
<td>V_PBIO 5553</td>
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VM-3 Courses (Instructional Periods 10-11)

**Instructional Period 10; May - June Required Courses**

- V_M_S 6050  Small Animal Medicine  2.5
- V_M_S 6071  Small Animal Surgery  2
- V_M_S 6073  Fundamental Surgery Laboratory  1
- V_M_S 6081  Food Animal Medicine and Surgery  2.5
- V_M_S 6151  Equine Medicine and Surgery  2

**Instructional Period 10; May - June Electives**

- V_M_S 6072  Optional Surgery and Anesthesia Laboratory  1

**Instructional Period 11; August - October**

- V_M_S 6082  Food Animal Medicine and Surgery  2
- V_M_S 6090  Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care with Laboratory  1
- V_M_S 6110  Theriogenology  3
- V_M_S 6120  Veterinary Ophthalmology  1
- V_M_S 6152  Equine Medicine and Surgery  1.5

**Instructional Period 11; August - October Elective Courses**

- V_PBIO 5991  Introduction to Avian Medicine  1
- V_M_S 6986  Advanced Clinical Neurology and Neurosurgery  1
- V_M_S 6987  Problem-Based Learning Clinic Preparation  1
- V_M_S 6988  Small Animal Clinical Nutrition  1
- V_M_S 6989  Advanced Oncology of Animals  1
- V_M_S 6990  Zoological Medicine  2
- V_M_S 6991  Advanced Equine Lameness with Laboratory  1
- V_M_S 6993  Advanced Veterinary Anesthesia  1
- V_M_S 6994  Advanced Techniques in Small Animal Surgery with Laboratory  1
- V_M_S 6995  Clinical Cardiology  1

**VM-3 and VM-4 Required Clinical Rotations (October - Graduation)**

- V_M_S 6996  Advanced Dermatology  1
- V_M_S 6997  Food Animal Diagnostic Exercises  1
- V_M_S 6998  Small Animal Behavioral Medicine  1
- V_M_S 6999  Food Animal Surgery Laboratory  1

**Elective Clinical Rotations**

- V_M_S 6700  Food Animal Medicine and Surgery II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6710  Small Animal Medicine II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6711  Small Animal Internal Medicine Elective  2
- V_M_S 6712  Clinical or Research Rotation  2
- V_M_S 6720  Equine Medicine and Surgery II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6732  Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery II Elective  2
- V_M_S 6734  Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery II Elective  2
- V_M_S 6736  Veterinary Neurology/Neurosurgery Elective  2
- V_M_S 6741  Clinical Radiology II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6742  Clinical Anesthesiology II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6743  Radiology - Special Imaging Elective  2-3
- V_M_S 6750  Theriogenology II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6751  External Food Animal Service and Theriogenology Teaching Program  2-6
- V_M_S 6760  Small Animal Nutrition  2
- V_M_S 6800  Clinical Ophthalmology II Elective  2-6
- V_M_S 6810  Cardiology II Elective  2
- V_M_S 6821  Small Animal Emergency Critical Care Elective  2
- V_M_S 6830  Food Animal Production Medicine  6
- V_M_S 6850  Clinical Oncology  2-6
- V_PBIO 6676  Laboratory Animal Medicine and Management Elective  4-6
- V_PBIO 6678  Epidemiology and Community Health  2-6
- V_PBIO 6679  Diagnostic Pathology and Special Species Medicine  2-6
Preceptorships

Missouri students are encouraged to use free blocks for preceptorships to increase exposure to veterinary practice and to meet the requirements of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Practice Act. The University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine does not have the authority to approve the use of student free block time or the veterinarians with whom they gain experience.

Available preceptorships may be found by contacting the Office for Student Affairs.

Preceptorship requirements and forms required by the Missouri State Veterinary Medical Board can be found at their website: http://pr.mo.gov/veterinarian.asp

The level of supervision required by preceptors is detailed at: http://pr.mo.gov/boards/veterinary/VetSupervisionChart.pdf

The Missouri State Veterinary Medical Board preceptorship form may be found at: http://pr.mo.gov/veterinarian-application-forms.asp

Licensing Examination

Professional Licensing Information

In addition successfully completing a professional veterinary education, most states require state and national licensing examinations to meet requirements to practice. Please visit the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA) and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB (http://www.aavsb.org/)) websites for further information.