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

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<th>Instructional Period 6; August - October</th>
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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: Diagnostic 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.