

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



2026–2027

## PROFESSIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK

### *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine*



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
TENNESSEE  
KNOXVILLE

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COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE

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# Terms and Abbreviations

ACVIM = American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine  
AVMA COE = American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education  
AWE = Avian, Wildlife, and Exotics  
CVF = Christian Veterinary Fellowship  
ECCS = Emergency and Critical Care Society  
FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
GPA = Grade point average  
LVMA = Latinx Veterinary Medical Association  
MPH = Master in Public Health  
NAVLE = North American Veterinary Licensing Examination  
POD = Provisions on Demand Market  
SDS = Student Disability Services  
SCAAEP = Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners  
SAVMA = Student American Veterinary Medical Association  
SVECCS = Student Chapter of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society  
UT = University of Tennessee  
UTCVM = University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine  
UTK = University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
VBMA = Veterinary Business Management Association  
VBOT = Veterinary Bookstore of Tennessee  
VMC = Veterinary Medical Center  
VSWs = Veterinary Social Work Services

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admission without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the university. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), the ADA (disability), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Investigation and Resolution, 216 Business Incubator Building, E J. Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, by email to [investigations@utk.edu](mailto:investigations@utk.edu), or by phone at 865-974-0717.

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## *The Veterinarian's Oath*

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine,  
I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills

for the benefit of society through  
the protection of animal health and welfare,  
the prevention and relief of animal suffering,  
the conservation of animal resources,  
the promotion of public health,  
and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously,  
with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of  
veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement  
of my professional knowledge and competence.

# *Our Values*

## Professionalism

Professionalism is our foundational value, as it encompasses all values we strive to follow as members of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Professionalism applies to each of us as we carry out our daily responsibilities. We are compassionate, honest, responsible, loyal, respectful, confident, and continuously striving to improve.

## Quality

Quality is a characteristic, innate or acquired, that implies a high level of value or excellence. We strive to deliver high quality in our teaching, research, and service commitments.

## Respect

Respect means taking someone's feelings, needs, thoughts, ideas, wishes, and preferences into consideration and valuing their contributions to the college.

## Inclusiveness

Inclusive organizations are composed of diverse individuals and value the perspective and contributions of everyone. We recognize, understand, and appreciate individual differences and strive to incorporate the needs and perspectives of all our people into the design and implementation of our programs.

## Creativity

Creativity is a phenomenon whereby something new and valuable is formed. We encourage and support the creation of new ideas and approaches to move our college and our profession forward.

## Commitment

Commitment is a quality that inspires individuals who make a promise to fulfill that promise. We are committed to creating and delivering high quality educational instruction for veterinary and graduate degree-seeking students, interns, residents, and graduate veterinarians; to providing exceptional healthcare; to treating clients and referring veterinarians with respect and dignity; and to discovering and sharing new knowledge broadly for the benefit of animals, people, and the environment.

# Marks of Professionalism

## Guidelines for Professional Behavior at UTCVM

It is understood that standards of professionalism are an important characteristic of the veterinary professional curriculum and the academic performance of professional veterinary students. As such, satisfactory professional conduct is assessed throughout the veterinary curriculum and is a requirement for graduation. The Academic Progress Committee decides remedial and disciplinary actions for students with deficiencies.

Preamble: Given that students, staff, and faculty are partners in the educational mission of the college, we accept the following as guidelines for professional conduct within the UT College of Veterinary Medicine community.

1. Professionals are committed to **EXCELLENCE** and strive to perform their best at all tasks. Professionals continuously strive for the acquisition of knowledge and development of skills necessary to provide optimal animal and human health care.
2. Professionals exhibit high **MORAL** and **ETHICAL STANDARDS**.
3. Professionals act with **COMPASSION** for self and others and demonstrate a high regard for animal life and welfare.
4. Professionals conduct themselves with **PRIDE**, **DIGNITY**, and **ALTRUISM**, placing the needs of their patients, clients, and colleagues above their own personal gain.
5. Professionals treat others with **RESPECT** and **COURTESY**, showing respect for diverse backgrounds and opinions, and restraining from derogatory comments about others. Professionals communicate with their colleagues, clients, and the public so as to merit their full confidence and respect.
6. Professionals act with **RESPONSIBILITY**, showing respect for institutional policy, performing tasks as expected, and being accountable for their actions. Professionals maintain a working environment that reflects cleanliness and respect for property. Their appearance, behavior, and dress reflect favorably on their profession.
7. Professionals act with **HONESTY** and **INTEGRITY**, preparing thorough medical records and conveying accurate information to clients and other members of the medical team.
8. Professionals are **TRUSTWORTHY** and are prepared and prompt for daily activities.
9. Professionals exhibit **COLLEGIALITY**, performing with a pleasant, cooperative, and positive demeanor.
10. Professionals act with **CONFIDENTIALITY** in their relationships with patients, clients, and colleagues.
11. Professionals value and respect **LEARNING** and recognize that students, staff, and faculty are continually learning from and with each other.

## University of Tennessee Honor Statement

An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As such, the university uses an Honor Statement that reads: "As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity."

# 2026–2027 Academic Calendar

## Fall Semester 2026

|                                    |                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Freshman Orientation               | Mon–Tues, Aug. 10–11                                                                                |
| Leadership Camp (freshmen)         | Wed–Thur, Aug. 12–13                                                                                |
| White Coat Ceremony                | Sat, Aug. 15                                                                                        |
| Classes Begin                      | Mon, Aug. 17                                                                                        |
| Labor Day                          | Mon, Sept. 7                                                                                        |
| Research Day (Freshmen/Sophomores) | Wed, Sept. 9                                                                                        |
| Midterm Week & Study Days          | Vary by class → Freshmen: Sept. 29–Oct. 7;<br>Sophomores: Sept. 29–Oct. 6; Juniors: Sept. 28–Oct. 6 |
| Fall Break*                        | Thur–Fri, Oct. 8–9                                                                                  |
| Election Day (no classes/labs)     | Tues, Nov. 3                                                                                        |
| UTCVM Career Fair                  | Thur, Nov. 5                                                                                        |
| Thanksgiving Break                 | Wed–Fri, Nov. 25–27                                                                                 |
| Last Day to Withdraw               | Tues, Dec. 1                                                                                        |
| Classes End                        | Freshmen & Sophomores: Dec. 3; Juniors: Dec. 2                                                      |
| Final Exams & Study Days           | Vary by class → Freshmen & Sophomores: Dec. 4–14;<br>Juniors: Nov. 30–Dec. 11                       |

## Winter Mini-Term 2027 (optional electives)

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Classes Begin | Mon, Jan. 4  |
| Classes End   | Fri, Jan. 15 |

## Spring Semester 2027†

|                                     |                                          |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Transition to Clinics (Juniors)     | Mon–Fri, Jan. 11–15 ( <i>tentative</i> ) |
| Scrubbin' In (Juniors)              | Fri, Jan. 15                             |
| Clinics Begin (Class of 2028)       | Tues, Jan. 19                            |
| Classes Begin                       | Tues, Jan. 19                            |
| Midterm Week & Study Days           | <i>To be determined</i>                  |
| Music City Veterinary Conference    | Fri, Feb. 26                             |
| Spring Break                        | Mon–Fri, Mar. 8–12                       |
| Spring Recess (No classes)          | Thur–Fri, Mar. 25–26                     |
| Last Day to Withdraw                | Wed, May 5                               |
| Classes End                         | <i>To be determined</i>                  |
| Last Day of Clinics (Class of 2027) | Mon, May 10 (8 a.m.)                     |
| Final Exams & Study Days            | <i>To be determined</i>                  |
| Graduation Rehearsal & Luncheon     | <i>To be determined</i>                  |
| Senior Banquet                      | <i>Fri, May 14 (tentative)</i>           |
| Commencement Ceremony               | <i>Sat, May 15 (tentative)</i>           |
| Official Graduation Date            | Sat, May 15                              |

\*Differs from UTK fall break

†Dates are subject to change



# UTCVM Buildings Map



# Introduction

Information related to the process of veterinary education, specifically within the veterinary curriculum, is to be provided for all veterinary students. This professional student handbook does not deviate from established university Graduate School guidelines noted in the Graduate Catalog, but rather specifies ways in which those guidelines are administered. Some procedures of the professional program vary from the Graduate School and are identified within this handbook.

## Purpose of Handbook

Professional veterinary students are expected to be aware of and satisfy all regulations governing their work and study at the university. However, since not all aspects of graduate and professional study can be included here, students are urged to consult the following resources:

- [Graduate Catalog](#)
- [Hilltopics](#)
- [Small Animal Departmental Handbook](#)
- [Large Animal Departmental Handbook](#)

# Organization of the College

## College Leadership

Paul Plummer, Dean

Martha F. Mallicote, Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs

David E. Anderson, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

Marcy J. Souza, Associate Dean, Outreach and Global Engagement

ShaRonda Cooper, Assistant Dean, Academic and Student Affairs

Agricola Odoi, Assistant Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

## Department Heads

Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences – Kim Newkirk

Large Animal Clinical Sciences – Carla Sommardahl

Small Animal Clinical Sciences – Angela Rollins

## Office for Academic and Student Affairs

The Office for Academic and Student Affairs is responsible for professional student admissions, student progress, scholarships, and registration. It coordinates the professional curriculum, handles evaluation of courses and instructors, and assists faculty in their instruction. In addition, the college strives to develop an engaged and vibrant student body and facilitate various student life programs and events. The office is headed by Dr. Martha Mallicote, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and Dr. ShaRonda Cooper, Assistant Dean for Students.

## Office of Research and Graduate Studies

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies administers extramural research grants and contracts awarded to faculty, residents, graduate students, and veterinary students. The office also conducts intramural grant competitions for funding of proposals from faculty, residents, and veterinary students and administers the Comparative and Experimental Medicine MS and PhD graduate programs and dual degree programs, with Ms. Morgan Tolbert as an academic advisor. The office is headed by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. David E. Anderson, and Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Agricola Odoi.

## College and Veterinary Medical Center

The academic program of the college is carried out by faculty in three departments: Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, and Small Animal Clinical Sciences

The veterinary medical hospitals are administered under the dean by head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Dr. Carla Sommardahl, head of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Dr. Angela Rollins, and Hospital Director, Dr. William Thomas. These individuals are responsible for the professional services of the VMC. A director of diagnostic laboratory services has oversight for diagnostic laboratory operations.

A variety of groups, including councils and committees, have been established to increase college and hospital input into the decision-making process. The college faculty make up one group. Their organization is set forth in the Faculty Bylaws of the UTCVM. A UTCVM Leadership Council comprises a team of 20 administrators, faculty, and staff who are central to the success of the college.

## Academic Departments

### *Large Animal Faculty*

|                                                      |                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carla Sommardahl, Department Head, Equine Medicine   | Casey Neal, Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery                 |
| David E. Anderson, Farm Animal Surgery               | Kady Powell, Equine Field Service                          |
| Marc Caldwell, Farm Animal Field Service             | Tulio Prado, Theriogenology                                |
| Sandro Colla, Equine Performance and Rehabilitation  | Sarah Sailors, Field Service                               |
| Elizabeth Collar, Equine Surgery                     | Reza Seddighi, Anesthesia                                  |
| Madhu Dhar, Research                                 | Daniel Sim, Precision Animal Health                        |
| Meggan Graves, Equine and Farm Animal Field Services | Joe Smith, Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery                  |
| Chiara Hampton, Anesthesia                           | Elizabeth Strand, Veterinary Social Work                   |
| Melissa Hines, Equine Medicine                       | Lew Strickland, Animal Science / Extension                 |
| Phillip Jones, Equine Surgery                        | Sarah Templeton, Emergency & Critical Care                 |
| Margaret LaFlamme, Farm Animal Field Service         | Tena Ursini, Equine Rehabilitation                         |
| Andrea Lear, Farm Animal Field Service               | Neal Valk, Equine Field Services                           |
| Eric Martin, Equine Field Service                    | Brian Whitlock, Farm Animal Field Service / Theriogenology |
| Karen McCormick, Equine Medicine                     | Katrijn Whisenant, Emergency & Critical Care               |
| Pierre-Yves Mulon, Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery    |                                                            |

*Small Animal Faculty*

|                                                      |                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Angela Rollins, Department Head, Nutrition           | Kristen Marshall, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care     |
| William Thomas, Interim Hospital Director, Neurology | Olya Martin, Oncology                                  |
| Jonathan Abbott, Cardiology                          | Jennifer Merkle, Radiation Oncology                    |
| Julia Albright, Veterinary Behavior                  | Darryl Millis, Orthopedic Surgery & Rehabilitation     |
| Kimberly Anderson, Neurology                         | Talisha Moore, Neurology                               |
| Lane Anderson, Community Practice                    | Federica Morandi, Radiology                            |
| Thomas Bevelock, Surgery                             | Maryanne Murphy, Nutrition                             |
| Alexis Boone, Surgery                                | Bethany Myerow, Internal Medicine                      |
| Geneviève Bussieres, Anesthesiology                  | Rajeev Nair, Community Practice                        |
| Thomas Chen, Ophthalmology                           | Zenithson Ng, Community Practice                       |
| Andrew Cushing, Zoological Medicine                  | Shelly Olin, Internal Medicine                         |
| Becky DeBolt, Shelter Medicine                       | Michelle Pazzi, Community Practice                     |
| Andrea Dedeaux, Oncology                             | Paolo Pazzi, Internal Medicine                         |
| Elizabeth Drake, Dermatology                         | Julie Schildt, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care        |
| Marti Drum, Rehabilitation                           | Andrew Schlueter, Oncology                             |
| Cassio Ferrigno, Orthopedic Surgery                  | Sarah Schmid, Internal Medicine                        |
| Braidee Foote, Ophthalmology                         | Julie Sheldon, Zoological Medicine                     |
| Alessandra Franchini, Cardiology                     | Christopher Smith, Anesthesiology                      |
| Ashley Hartley, Internal Medicine                    | Jillian Smith, Internal Medicine                       |
| Silke Hecht, Radiology                               | Brittany Sullivan, Anesthesiology                      |
| Diane Hendrix, Department Head, Ophthalmology        | Chie Tamamoto-Mochizuki, Dermatology                   |
| Roman Husnik, Internal Medicine                      | Danielle Tarbert, Zoological Companion Animal Medicine |
| Emi Knafo, Zoological Companion Animal Medicine      | Karen Tobias, Soft Tissue Surgery                      |
| Philip Krawec, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care      | Jenny Weisent, Shelter Medicine                        |
| Chad Lothamer, Dentistry                             | Jessey Willis, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care        |
| Cassie Lux, Soft Tissue Surgery                      |                                                        |

*Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences Faculty*

|                                                  |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Kim Newkirk, Department Head, Anatomic Pathology | Jeremy McKeever, Anatomic Pathology            |
| Misty Bailey, Curriculum & Assessment            | Deb Miller, Anatomic Pathology and Wildlife    |
| Jeong Byoung Chae, Immunology & Virology         | Hiroyuki Mochizuki, Clinical Pathology         |
| Tim Chamberlain, Anatomy                         | Girish Neelakanta, Vector-borne Diseases       |
| Sherry Cox, Pharmacology                         | Agricola Odoi, Epidemiology                    |
| Linden Craig, Anatomic Pathology                 | Chika Okafor, Epidemiology                     |
| Michelle Dennis, Anatomic Pathology              | Maryanna Parker, Anatomic Pathology            |
| Kelli Fecteau, Endocrinology                     | Sree Rajeev, Bacteriology                      |
| Bente Flatland, Clinical Pathology               | Robert Reed, Anatomy                           |
| Richard Gerhold, Parasitology                    | Jacqueline Risalvato, Immunology & Virology    |
| Lauren Guarneri, Anatomic Pathology              | Dodd Sledge, Diagnostic Laboratory Services    |
| Brian Herrin, Parasitology                       | Deanna Schaefer, Clinical Pathology            |
| Sarah Linn-Peirano, Anatomic Pathology           | Nora Springer, Clinical Pathology              |
| Denae LoBato, Anatomic Pathology                 | Marcy Souza, Public Health and Wildlife        |
| Jennifer Lord, Public Health & Epidemiology      | Hameeda Sultana, Vector-borne Diseases         |
| Dennis Makau, Public Health & Epidemiology       | Sharon Thompson, Food Safety and Public Health |
| Michael Mahero, Public Health & Epidemiology     | Csaba Varga, Epidemiology                      |

# Admission

Each year, the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM) admits approximately 100 applicants (consisting of 70% in-state residents and 30% out-of-state residents) to the 4-year program for the doctorate in veterinary medicine. Students prepare for the professional veterinary curriculum by taking 3 to 4 years of pre-veterinary course requirements as undergraduates.

## Qualifications

A candidate must have completed the minimum pre-veterinary course requirements as listed at the time of matriculation.

- All pre-veterinary course requirements must be completed by the end of the spring term of the year in which the student intends to matriculate.
- All prerequisite courses must be completed with a **grade of C or better**.
- Pre-veterinary course requirements may be completed at any accredited college or university offering courses equivalent to those at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

A full list of pre-veterinary course requirements may be found [online](#).

## Application Information

Submission deadline: **September 15, 2026, 11:59 p.m. EST**

Application process: All applicants (resident and non-resident) must apply through the web-based [Veterinary Medical College Application Service](#) (VMCAS).

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to apply early to avoid online transmission congestion.

Full application information is available on the [UTCVM admissions web site](#).

## Selection Procedure

Selection of applicants is a three-phase process and is normally completed by mid-February.

- **Phase One Evaluation:** Objective; A point value is derived from evaluation of academic transcripts
- **Phase Two Evaluation:** Subjective; A point value is derived from faculty evaluation of complete application and hardship statement
- **Phase Three Evaluation:** Evaluation of non-academic attributes of those individuals selected after phases one and two. Not all applicants will be invited for personal interview.

More information on evaluation criteria is available on the [UTCVM admissions web site](#).

## Technical Standards for Admission & Successful Progress

### Introduction

The UTCVM professional degree program is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation of knowledge in veterinary medicine, surgery, biomedical research, animal husbandry, animal production, animal behavior, and other basic skills required for clinical practice and the breadth of careers available in veterinary medicine. The program emphasizes not only academic excellence, but also the development of both personal and professional skills to ensure strong communication, teamwork, empathy, reliability, stress management, and emotional health.

The following abilities and characteristics are defined as technical standards, which, in conjunction with academic and professional standards established by the faculty, are requirements for admission, academic advancement, and graduation at the UTCVM.

Technical standards outline the necessary intellectual and physical abilities, and behavioral and social attributes of all applicants and students. These standards are intended to support all applicants, including those who may require reasonable accommodations, to complete the curriculum successfully. Students or applicants with questions regarding technical standards are encouraged to contact the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Those with questions about accommodations are encouraged to contact [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS) to begin to identify needed accommodation(s)

to assure equal access to the program. Admission to the UTCVM is conditional on the applicant having the ability to satisfy these technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The veterinary professional program prepares students for the demands of veterinary practice. This includes rigorous academic training in semesters 1–5, requiring long hours in class, extensive after-class study, and intensive midterm and final exam periods. Clinical training in semesters 6–9 requires long hours, limited breaks, and the physical agility and stamina needed to conduct diagnosis, treatment, and general husbandry of various animal species. It is essential for applicants and students to have the physical and emotional capacity to competently meet the demands of hospital, classroom, and laboratory settings, including settings that may involve heavy workloads; long hours; fractious, frightened, or dangerous animals; and stressful situations.

### *Equal Access to the Educational Program*

The UTCVM intends to support its students and graduates in becoming competent and compassionate veterinarians who are capable of entering practice, advanced training, or alternative careers as “practice ready.” All students are expected to meet requirements for state licensure and USDA accreditation.

Both the university and UTCVM are committed to providing equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities who are accepted into the veterinary medical professional degree program. The UTCVM has a strong commitment to state and federal laws and regulations (including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990). Any individual with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, is eligible to apply and be admitted to the UTCVM educational program.

To ensure that every student has equal access to the program while maintaining the integrity of the curriculum and standards, students with disabilities are assisted, on an individual basis, in determining the availability of options or reasonable accommodations that would permit the student to satisfy these technical standards. In evaluating accommodations, the UTCVM must ensure the health and safety of the student and other personnel, preserve the essential elements of the curriculum and program, maintain the academic standards, and avoid undue burden on the college. Except in rare circumstances, the use of a third party (e.g., an intermediary) to perform any of the functions described in the Technical Standards is not permissible, as it could compromise the student’s ability to achieve essential skills and learning outcomes. Intermediaries do not include note takers, those assisting with sign-language translation, animal holders, personal assistants, or other accommodation assistance, as long as those individuals do not perform the cognitive, professional, or technical skill required of the student.

Once admitted, continuation and advancement in the program relies on active participation in and completion of all core courses and clinical requirements as outlined in the student handbook for the veterinary medical professional program. In addition, students must adhere to the university Student Code of Conduct and Honor Code, and the UTCVM Principles of Professionalism.

Admitted students who have a known disability and need accommodations should initiate private discussions with the university’s SDS office as soon as an offer of admission is accepted. Given the clinical nature of our programs, time may be needed to create and implement the accommodation(s).

Students with disabilities are responsible for providing current information to SDS and documenting the general nature and extent of their disability and the functional limitations proposed to be accommodated. SDS will evaluate the documentation and collaborate with UTCVM (without divulging diagnoses) to determine reasonable and achievable accommodations. Please note that the university reserves the right to request new or additional information as needed, that accommodation requests must be renewed each semester, and that accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

Should a student have or develop a condition that could potentially endanger patients, the student, or others, or that may affect their need for accommodation, an evaluation with UTCVM leadership and SDS may be necessary. This assessment will thoroughly reconsider all aspects of the student’s skills, attitudes, and capabilities, including an assessment of their willingness, desire, and ability to complete the professional curriculum and fulfill all requirements for veterinary licensure. The UTCVM actively collaborates with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and creates a respectful, accountable culture. We are committed to excellence in accessibility and encourage students with disabilities to seek accommodations. However, standards for graduate veterinarians and licensure include the full scope of medical and surgical practice treating all non-human species. As such, it is necessary that the professional curriculum be completed with satisfactory performance in its entirety.

*UTCVM Technical (Non-Academic) Standards*

- I. **Observation:** UTCVM applicants and students, with or without accommodations, must be able to directly obtain information from demonstrations and procedures in pre-clinical and clinical coursework, including but not limited to cadaver dissections, anatomy specimen examinations, pathology and clinical pathology laboratory sessions, animal handling classes, and microscopic study of microorganisms, parasites, and tissues in normal and pathologic states. They must be able to accurately observe animal patients and assess findings together with a medical history, physical exam, and other diagnostic findings.
- II. **Communication:** Applicants and students must be able to communicate accurately, effectively, and efficiently with animal owners or agents, classmates, and members of the healthcare team with or without the use of accommodations or assisting devices. They must be able to obtain a medical history in a timely fashion, interpret non-verbal aspects of communication, and establish doctor-client-patient relationships.
- III. **Motor Function:** Applicants and students must possess the capacity to perform physical examinations, diagnostic maneuvers (e.g., blood draws, catheterization, and needle and syringe manipulation), instrument handling, suturing, and other surgical techniques, with or without accommodations. They must be able to respond to emergency situations in a timely manner and provide general and emergency care. They must be able to adhere to universal precaution measures and meet safety standards applicable to inpatient and outpatient settings and other clinical activities. They must be able to prepare for different work environments (e.g. indoors, barns, field services) and conditions such as extremes of warm and cold temperatures.
- IV. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities:** Applicants and students must have sufficient cognitive abilities and effective learning techniques to assimilate the detailed, voluminous, and complex information presented in the curriculum. They must be able to learn through a variety of modalities, including but not limited to classroom instruction; one-on-one small group, team, and collaborative activities; individual study; and preparation and presentation of reports. Applicants must be able to memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit information across modalities. In addition, after a reasonable amount of instruction, they must be able to recognize and draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships among events. They must be able to formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem solving in diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of clinical modalities. They must be able to integrate observations with comprehensive history, physical exam, and existing diagnostic findings to develop an appropriate diagnostic, treatment, and monitoring plan, as well as develop a reasonable prognosis for recovery or treatment success.
- V. **Behavioral and Social Abilities:** Applicants and students must demonstrate the maturity and emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities. They must accept responsibility for learning, exercising good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients. Students must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the veterinary healthcare team, and to interact with animal patients, clients or agents, healthcare personnel, and the academic community in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. They must be able to tolerate demanding workloads and long work hours, including overnight shifts, and continue to function effectively, given the uncertainties and stressors inherent in the clinical problems of many of their patients. They must display flexibility and adaptability to changing schedules and work environments. They must be capable of regular, reliable, and punctual attendance at classes and clinical rotations. Laboratories and some classes have mandatory attendance. Students must be able to commit to active engagement in educational and clinical activities, with limited exceptions as defined by the excused leave policy or other university policies. Students must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback as part of the training and assessment process; and take personal responsibility for learning and for addressing any needed improvements. Accommodations may be requested with regard to the standards set forth in behavior and social attributes; nevertheless, such attributes are the foundation of professionalism and must be met by each applicant, with or without reasonable accommodations.
- VI. **Ethics, Professionalism, and Legal Standards:** After a reasonable period of time, students must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the profession. They must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice veterinary medicine within the United States. As such, applicants must acknowledge and provide written explanation of any felony offense or disciplinary action taken against them prior to matriculation in the UTCVM. In addition, should a student be convicted of any felony offense while in veterinary school, they agree to immediately notify the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs as to the nature of the conviction. Failure to disclose prior or new offenses can lead to disciplinary action by the office of UTK Student Conduct & Community Standards or the UTCVM Academic Progress Committee; disciplinary action may include suspension or dismissal.

Approved by the UTCVM Curriculum, Assessment, and Executive Committees. Spring 2020. Updated, with input from the AAVMC Exemplar Technical Standards document, Spring 2024.



## Deferred Matriculation

An admitted student may request deferred matriculation after being admitted to the professional DVM program. Admitted students who wish to defer matriculation must consult with the Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services or the Assistant Dean for Students. Permission for a **one-time** deferral will be granted by the Associate Dean for a period of 1 or 2 years following the initial year of admission. Students must **confirm** their intent to enroll by April 15 prior to the relevant fall semester.

# Professional Curriculum

Supervision and oversight of academic credits earned by enrolled students will be administered by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

## Degree Requirements

The curriculum of the UTCVM is a 9-semester, 4-year program. Each class begins in August and graduates 4 years later in May. The first 5 semesters generally follow the traditional fall and spring sessions with the summer break following years 1 and 2. The final 4 semesters of the professional curriculum begin immediately following semester 5 and are continuous clinical rotation experiences extending over 68 weeks.

**Semesters 1 & 2:** Development of a strong basic science foundation is emphasized in the first 2 semesters. Courses consist mostly of pre-clinical subjects of anatomy (gross and microscopic), physiology, immunology, bacteriology, virology, and parasitology. Also included in the first year are clinical subjects of physical diagnosis and normal radiology. Considerable integration of subject matter is incorporated during this year.

**Semesters 3–5:** The third through fifth semesters include the study of diseases, their causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. Courses are team-taught on an organ system basis.

**Semesters 6–9:** The final 4 semesters are devoted to intensive education in solving animal disease problems involving extensive clinical experience in the VMC. Each student will participate in clinical rotations in the VMC and in required externships (off campus), with options to participate in research and alternative career studies.

## Curriculum Features

Innovative features of this curriculum include student-centered, small group, applied learning exercises in semesters 1 through 3; two weeks of dedicated clinical experiences in the VMC in semesters 1 through 4; and elective course opportunities in semesters 2 through 9, which allow students to focus on individual educational/career goals. Students enrolled in the DVM program may register for up to 10 hours of graduate courses, and these hours will be credited toward DVM graduation requirements. Elective study offers a unique educational alternative for students in the UTCVM and is intended to enhance professional growth, concentration in an area of interest, and career opportunities.

In addition to education in the science and art of veterinary medicine, students receive instruction in subjects such as student success and wellness, conflict management, medical communication, professional ethics, jurisprudence, economics, and practice management.

The curriculum also requires demonstrated competency of a minimum of 200 clinical skills by the conclusion of the 9th semester and successful completion of 151 credit hours, of which 60 will be completed within the final four semesters.

During the clinical phase, students are eligible to participate in approved externships; externships are not granted prior to this time. The number of credits a student may earn by completing an approved externship is generally 2–6, but more in-depth content may necessitate lengthier externships. Students may accumulate 12 externship credits toward graduation requirements. Available externship sites may be viewed at the [UTCVM Educational Opportunities](#) page or the [AVMA Student Externship Locator](#). An [online form](#) exists for students to request an externship.

## Licensure Examination and USDA Accreditation

### NAVLE

In preparation for licensing in the field, the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) should be taken in the final year, during the fall (Oct.–Nov.) testing cycle. Should candidates fail to successfully pass the examination at this time, additional opportunities are offered during spring (Mar.) and summer (Jul.–Aug.) cycles, in order to be eligible to receive licensure to practice veterinary medicine. For information and deadlines on the NAVLE, visit [ICVA](#).

The practice of veterinary medicine is controlled by a central agency in each state. In Tennessee, it is the [Tennessee Department of Health](#). Practice acts vary, but most states rely, at least in part, on results of the NAVLE to determine which applicants are qualified to practice in their state.

### *Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (Tennessee Licensure)*

Division of Health Licensure and Regulation, 665 Mainstream Drive, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Nashville, TN 37243; 615-532-5090 or 1-800-778-4123; [Veterinary.Health@tn.gov](mailto:Veterinary.Health@tn.gov)

### USDA Accreditation

For a recently graduated veterinarian to be able to participate in state and federal disease control and eradication programs, and to issue health certificates as a veterinarian, they must hold accreditation by the USDA. Students participate in accreditation training during transitions seminars in their 6<sup>th</sup> semester. Once licensed, the student can complete the accreditation process through the online application. For further information, contact the [National Veterinary Accreditation Program](#) coordinator for Tennessee (David Dorozynski, [david.dorozynski@usda.gov](mailto:david.dorozynski@usda.gov); 615-781-5982).

## Accelerated Degree Programs

Opportunities for advanced studies include dual participation in the DVM curriculum via the dual DVM/PhD program, DVM/MS programs, or the Master of Public Health program. Each of these study plans can be found in the [Graduate Catalog](#) or online:

- [DVM/MPH](#); Contact Dr. Chika C. Okafor: [okaforch@utk.edu](mailto:okaforch@utk.edu)
- [DVM/PhD](#); Contact Dr. Agricola Odoi: [aodoi@utk.edu](mailto:aodoi@utk.edu)
- [DVM/MS, Animal Science](#); Contact Dr. Phillip Myer (Dept. of Animal Science): [pmyer@utk.edu](mailto:pmyer@utk.edu)
- [DVM/MS, Comparative and Experimental Medicine](#); Contact Dr. Agricola Odoi: [aodoi@utk.edu](mailto:aodoi@utk.edu)

## Master of Public Health Veterinary Public Health Concentration

A [veterinary public health concentration](#) is available for students enrolled in the DVM curriculum. This concentration is part of the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. The UTCVM shares governance of the concentration through the MPH Academic Program Committee, and student advisors within this concentration are faculty in the UTCVM. This concentration requires a separate application to the MPH program.

**Important registration instructions** – to assure accurate classification of classes, before registering for MPH/DVM, DVM/PhD, or other combined DVM program courses, students must consult with the UTCVM Office of the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

## International Externships & Study Abroad

International externship and study abroad programs are available through several organizations, including the summer program through the UT Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health and Boehringer Ingelheim. Recent opportunities include experiences in Argentina, Belize, Ecuador, and South Africa. We encourage students to consider the value of such intercultural exchange.

Financial aid may be available. Possible sources of financial aid are through the [UT Graduate Student Senate](#), [McClure Scholars](#), Elanco, and [UTIA's Smith International Center](#). Reach out to the UTCVM [Office of Outreach and Global Engagement](#) with further questions about aid. All students participating in programs abroad, including international externships, must register with the UTK [Division of Global Engagement](#).

## Class Schedules

Class schedules for all veterinary students are prepared and distributed through the UTCVM Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Since an attempt is made to optimize the use of limited resources and time, a uniform weekly schedule is not always possible. Thus, the distributed schedule includes each day of the semester, indicating the course and room for each period. To allow ready use of the lecture halls, the schedules for the first through fifth semester courses conform to the following timing of class periods. Elective courses and surgical labs may sometimes fall during the noon lunch hour or after 6 pm.

### *UTCVM Class Times*

| Class Period | Meeting Time        |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1            | 8:00 am – 8:50 am   |
| 2            | 9:00 am – 9:50 am   |
| 3            | 10:00 am – 10:50 am |
| 4            | 11:00 am – 11:50 am |
| 5 (Lunch)    | 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm |
| 6            | 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm   |
| 7            | 2:00 pm – 2:50 pm   |
| 8            | 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm   |
| 9            | 4:00 pm – 4:50 pm   |
| 10           | 5:00 pm – 5:50 pm   |

**Pre-Clinical Curriculum****Year 1**

| Term          | Course No. | Course Name                                | Credit Hours |
|---------------|------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall          | VMP 810    | Veterinary Anatomy I (All SA)              | 4            |
| Class of 2030 | VMP 811    | Bacteriology and Mycology                  | 2            |
|               | VMP 812    | Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics I  | 1            |
|               | VMP 813    | Immunology                                 | 2            |
|               | VMP 814    | Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy I       | 4            |
|               | VMP 815    | Introduction to Animal Behavior            | 1            |
|               | VMP 817    | Normal Radiology I (All SA)                | 0.5          |
|               | VMP 819    | Clinical Applications & Integrations I     | 2            |
| Spring        | VMP 820    | Veterinary Anatomy II (All LA)             | 3            |
| Class of 2030 | VMP 821    | Virology                                   | 2            |
|               | VMP 822    | Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics II | 1            |
|               | VMP 823    | Parasitology                               | 2.5          |
|               | VMP 824    | Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy II      | 4            |
|               | VMP 825    | General Pathology                          | 2            |
|               | VMP 827    | Normal Radiology II (All LA)               | 0.5          |
|               | VMP 828    | Pharmacology                               | 2            |
|               | VMP 829    | Clinical Applications & Integrations II    | 1            |
|               | *          | Elective I/II                              | 0-2          |

**Year 2**

| Term          | Course No. | Course Name                                 | Credit Hours |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall          | VMP 831    | Clinical Pathology                          | 2            |
| Class of 2029 | VMP 832    | Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics III | 0.5          |
|               | VMP 833    | Public Health & Epidemiology                | 3            |
|               | VMP 834    | Anesthesiology                              | 2            |
|               | VMP 835    | Principles & Practice of Surgery            | 2            |
|               | VMP 839    | Clinical Applications & Integrations III    | 2            |
|               | VMP 841    | Respiratory System                          | 3            |
|               | VMP 845    | Cardiovascular System                       | 2            |
|               | VMP 846    | Business Management                         | 0.5          |
|               | *          | Elective I/II/III/IV                        | 1-3          |
| Spring        | VMP 830    | Alimentary Systems                          | 3            |
| Class of 2029 | VMP 837    | Endocrine System                            | 2            |
|               | VMP 838    | Dentistry                                   | 0.5          |
|               | VMP 840    | Musculoskeletal System                      | 3            |
|               | VMP 842    | Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics IV  | 0.5          |
|               | VMP 843    | Integumentary System (Dermatology)          | 2            |
|               | VMP 844    | Special Senses (Ophthalmology)              | 2            |
|               | VMP 849    | Clinical Applications & Integrations IV     | 2            |
|               | VMP 853    | Oncology                                    | 2            |
|               | *          | Elective II/III/IV/V                        | 1-3          |

**Year 3**

| Term          | Course No. | Course Name                            | Credit Hours |
|---------------|------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Fall          | VMP 836    | Toxicology                             | 2            |
| Class of 2028 | VMP 850    | Reproductive System                    | 3            |
|               | VMP 851    | Urinary System                         | 2            |
|               | VMP 852    | Nervous System                         | 3            |
|               | VMP 854    | Multispecies Medicine                  | 2            |
|               | VMP 855    | Radiology/Ultrasound                   | 3            |
|               | VMP 856    | Veterinary Nutrition                   | 1            |
|               | VMP 859    | Clinical Applications & Integrations V | 1            |
|               | *          | Elective III/IV/V                      | 1-3          |
| Spring        | VMP 860    | Transition & Accreditation Seminars    | 2            |

\*Multiple possibilities. 5 elective credits must be accumulated across the pre-clinical years.

**Clinical Curriculum (Semesters 6–9)***Required Core Rotations/Courses: 36 credit hours (weeks), including externships*

| Course No. | Course Name                                       | Credits |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| VMC 800    | Pathology                                         | 2       |
| VMC 801    | Diagnostic Laboratory Skills                      | 2       |
| VMC 802    | Diagnostic Imaging                                | 2       |
| VMC 803    | Anesthesiology                                    | 4       |
| VMC 810    | Small Animal Medicine                             | 4       |
| VMC 811    | Small Animal Community Practice                   | 2       |
| VMC 812    | Shelter Medicine–Spay/Neuter Mobile               | 2       |
| VMC 813*   | Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery                  | 2       |
| VMC 814†   | Small Animal Emergency Medicine                   | 2       |
| VMC 820    | Equine Medicine                                   | 2       |
| VMC 821    | Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery                  | 2       |
| VMC 823*   | Equine Surgery, Lameness, and Rehabilitation      | 2       |
| VMC 824†   | Large Animal Emergency Medicine and Critical Care | 2       |
| VMC 825‡   | Farm Animal Field Service                         | 2       |
| VMC 826    | Equine Field Services                             | 2       |
| VMC 890    | Externship (off-campus educational experience)    | 2–6     |
| VMC 891    | Externship (off-campus educational experience)    | 2–6     |

\*Either rotation may be used to fulfill core requirement. †Either rotation may be used to fulfill core requirement. ‡Either rotation may be used to fulfill core requirement (see next page).

*Elective Rotations/Courses: 24–30 credit hours (weeks)*

| Course No.                                              | Course Name                                                           | Credits |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| VMC 830                                                 | Dermatology                                                           | 2       |
| VMC 831                                                 | Ophthalmology                                                         | 2       |
| VMC 832                                                 | Neurology                                                             | 2       |
| VMC 840                                                 | Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery                                       | 2       |
| VMC 841                                                 | Small Animal Physical Rehabilitation                                  | 2       |
| VMC 842                                                 | Cardiology                                                            | 2       |
| VMC 843                                                 | Oncology                                                              | 2       |
| VMC 844                                                 | Exotic Companion Animal and Wildlife Medicine                         | 2       |
| VMC 850                                                 | Advanced Pathology                                                    | 2–4     |
| VMC 852                                                 | Laboratory Animal Medicine                                            | 2–4     |
| VMC 853                                                 | Advanced Anesthesia                                                   | 2–4     |
| VMC 854                                                 | Research Participation                                                | 2–4     |
| VMC 860                                                 | Advanced Dermatology                                                  | 2–4     |
| VMC 861                                                 | Advanced Small Animal Medicine                                        | 2–4     |
| VMC 862                                                 | Shelter Medicine                                                      | 2–4     |
| VMC 863                                                 | Small Animal Nutrition and Animal Behavior                            | 2       |
| VMC 864                                                 | Zoological Medicine                                                   | 2–4     |
| VMC 865                                                 | Small Animal Dentistry                                                | 2–4     |
| VMC 871                                                 | Swine Medicine Production (IA State—Consent of SMEC faculty required) | 2–8     |
| VMC 872‡                                                | Bovine Production Medicine (1 rotation/year)                          | 2       |
| VMC 873                                                 | Theriogenology                                                        | 2–4     |
| VMC 874                                                 | Equine Performance & Rehabilitation (limited availability)            | 2       |
| <b>Special Topics Selections (limited availability)</b> |                                                                       |         |
| VMC 880                                                 | Academic Veterinary Medicine/Peer Teaching                            | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Advanced Equine Imaging (1 rotation/spring)                           | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Argentina Rural Veterinary Medicine (study abroad)                    | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Belize Zoo Medicine (study abroad, 1 rotation/spring & fall)          | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Clinical Rotation in Equine Podiatry and Farrier Sciences             | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Equine Practitioner (1/2 rotations/spring)                            | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Small Ruminant and Camelid Health (1 rotation/spring)                 | 2       |
| VMC 881                                                 | Advanced Equine Lameness (1 rotation/spring)                          | 2       |
| VMC 881                                                 | Intensive Care of Small Animals (spring only)                         | 2       |
| VMC 880                                                 | Elective Clinical Rotation I (Special topics)                         | 2–4     |
| VMC 881                                                 | Elective Clinical Rotation II (Special topics)                        | 2–4     |
| Vacation (6 weeks)                                      |                                                                       |         |
| Flex Block (2 weeks, assigned in semester 9)            |                                                                       |         |

‡Either rotation may be used to fulfill core requirement (see previous page).

## Course Descriptions

### *Pre-Professional, Non-Credit Course*

**Veterinary Anatomy Boot Camp** – A 10-day, not-for-credit summer course in small animal gross anatomy. Introduces participants to anatomic terminology and anatomic dissection of the canine, prior to taking the required gross anatomy course (VMP 810) in the fall of the first semester. Dissection-oriented and designed as an introduction in anatomy to introduce a broad number of concepts taught during VMP 810 and to familiarize students with new terminology and structure names. Held each weekday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an hour free for lunch. Content includes three lectures and twenty 3-hour laboratories. Dissection guides and dissection tools are provided. The goal in providing this short course is to assure student success in the first-year veterinary curriculum and provide an overview for those who may have limited anatomy experience or those who would like an in-depth review. This course is open to the first 40 individuals to sign up and pay the registration fee.

### *Veterinary Medicine – Pre-Clinical (VMP)*

#### **VMP 810 – Veterinary Anatomy I**

4 Credit Hours. Lectures, laboratories, and demonstrations are used in an integrated approach to the study of macroscopic (gross), clinically-relevant anatomy, including neuroanatomy, and embryology of common domestic animals. Dissections of embalmed specimens, prosections, plastinated specimens, and radiographs of common domestic species are examined for comparative purposes. Small animal focus.

#### **VMP 811 –Bacteriology and Mycology**

2 Credit Hours. Fundamental aspects of microbiology and cell biology relative to pathogenesis of bacterial and fungal diseases of animals: antimicrobial actions and mechanisms of bacterial resistance. General approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

#### **VMP 812 – Professional Skills, Wellness, and Ethics I**

1 Credit Hour. Development of essential non-technical skills needed for veterinary professional competence. Some of the areas covered include leadership, finance management, ethical decision-making, and wellbeing. Students learn skills in medical academic achievement, personal finance management, stress management, career paths in veterinary medicine, communication and leadership needed in effective teamwork, the basics of mental health in the veterinary setting, and thoughts on a wide spectrum of current veterinary ethical issues.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit Grading only.*

#### **VMP 813 – Immunology**

2 Credit Hours. Basic biology and practical aspects of immunology: cells of the immune system, immune function and dysfunction, immunoprophylaxis, diagnostic testing, and specific diseases involving the immune system.

#### **VMP 814 – Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy I**

4 Credit Hours. Introduction to physiologic concepts and problems that form the basis for clinical applications and for formal training in pharmacology, medicine, pathology, and surgery. Cellular, neural, cardiovascular, renal, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, and reproductive physiology. Lectures and laboratories for the study of embryology, microscopic anatomy, and radiographic anatomy in common domestic animals and to relate structure with function.

#### **VMP 815 – Introduction to Animal Behavior**

1 Credit Hour. Basic principles of normal and abnormal animal behavior in domestic animals; clinical case discussions to illustrate common behavioral problems and current approaches to therapy.

#### **VMP 817 – Normal Radiology I**

0.5 Credit Hour. Basic principles of radiology, including physics and artifacts, and normal radiographic anatomy in small animals.

**VMP 819 – Clinical Applications & Integrations I**

2 Credit Hours. Integration and application of theoretical material using case- or problem-based approaches toward creating knowledge frameworks for patient care, including the human-animal bond. Emphasis on physical examination and diagnostic techniques in the small animal patient, collaboration within a medical team, student-centered learning, and self-discovery of new information. Includes a clinical experience component.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 820 – Veterinary Anatomy II**

3 Credit Hours. Lectures, laboratories, and demonstrations are used in an integrated approach to the study of macroscopic (gross) clinically relevant anatomy, including neuroanatomy, and embryology of common domestic animals. Dissections of embalmed specimens, prosections, plastinated specimens, and radiographs of common domestic species are examined for comparative purposes. A continuation of VMP 810. Large animal focus.

**VMP 821 – Virology**

2 Credit Hours. Structural and genetic bases for classification of animal viruses into separate families. Molecular biology of viral replication and viral pathogenesis.

**VMP 822 – Professional Skills, Wellness, and Ethics II**

1 Credit Hour. Development of essential non-technical skills needed for veterinary professional competence. Some of the areas covered include leadership, finance management, ethical decision-making, and wellbeing. Students learn skills in medical academic achievement, personal and business finance, stress management, career paths in veterinary medicine, communication and leadership needed in effective teamwork, the basics of mental health in the veterinary setting, and thoughts on a wide spectrum of current veterinary ethical issues. Successive courses in this series teach advanced skills. A continuation of VMP 812.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 823 – Parasitology**

2.5 Credit Hours. Principles of parasitology: protozoology, helminthology, and entomology and relationship to diseases in animals.

**VMP 824 – Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy II**

4 Credit Hours. Introduction to physiologic concepts and problems that form the basis for clinical applications and for formal training in pharmacology, medicine, pathology, and surgery. Cellular, neural, cardiovascular, renal, respiratory, digestive, endocrine, and reproductive physiology. Lectures and laboratories for the study of embryology, microscopic anatomy, and radiographic anatomy in common domestic animals and to relate structure with function. A continuation of VMP 814.

**VMP 825 – General Pathology**

2 Credit Hours. Principles of pathobiology: causes of disease, disturbances of cell growth, and inflammation.

**VMP 827 – Normal Radiology II**

0.5 Credit Hour. Basic principles of radiology, including physics and artifacts, and normal radiographic anatomy in large animals. A continuation of VMP 817.

**VMP 828 – Pharmacology**

2 Credit Hours. Principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamic properties of veterinary drugs; mode of action and pharmacologic effects including important metabolic aspects, chemical and physical properties, side effects (toxicities), and clinical application.

**VMP 829 – Clinical Applications & Integrations II**

1 Credit Hour. Integration and application of theoretical material using case- or problem-based approaches toward creating knowledge frameworks for patient care, including the human-animal bond. Emphasis on physical examination and diagnostic techniques in equine and farm animal patients, communicating with diverse audiences, student-centered learning, and self-discovery of new information. Includes simulated clinical skills.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 830 – Alimentary Systems**

3 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of alimentary systems.



**VMP 831 – Clinical Pathology**

2 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology and diagnosis of hematologic and clinical biochemical disorders in domestic animals; interpretation of laboratory test results using illustrative clinical cases.

**VMP 832 – Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics III**

0.5 Credit Hour. Development of essential non-technical skills needed for veterinary professional competence. Some of the areas covered include leadership, finance management, ethical decision-making, and wellbeing. A continuation of VMP 822. *Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 833 – Public Health and Epidemiology**

3 Credit Hours. Study of distribution and determinants of disease in animal populations. Host-agent relationships, public health aspects of veterinary medicine and role of veterinarians in ecology and food hygiene. Use of knowledge (evidence) gained from management of clinical patients in past to improve future clinical decision-making processes.

**VMP 834 – Anesthesiology**

2 Credit Hours. Principles of anesthesiology: pharmacology of anesthetic agents, and introduction to anesthetic techniques in veterinary medicine.

**VMP 835 – Principles and Practice of Surgery**

2 Credit Hour. Principles of veterinary surgery: aseptic technique, patient and surgeon preparation, control of surgical hemorrhage and infection, and general operating room procedures. Proper methods of tissue handling, surgical instrumentation, and selection of suture materials and suturing patterns. Pathophysiology of surgical and accidental wounds: wound healing and management.

**VMP 836 – Toxicology**

2 Credit Hours. Principles of toxicology, molecular mechanisms, pathologic processes and clinical features of animal diseases caused by common toxic agents.

**VMP 837 – Endocrine System**

2 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, medicine and surgery of diseases of the endocrine system. Mechanisms of endocrine and metabolic diseases: therapy and prevention.

**VMP 838 – Dentistry**

0.5 Credit Hours. Dental anatomy, formulas, and development of basic diagnostic and treatment plans, as well as the pathophysiology, clinical description, and basic treatment modalities of common dental disorders of small animals. Course will briefly cover the care and use of instruments and equipment found in a modern dental practice.

**VMP 839 – Clinical Applications & Integrations III**

2 Credit Hours. Integration and application of theoretical material using case- or problem-based approaches toward creating knowledge frameworks for patient care, including the human-animal bond. Emphasis on conflict management, maintaining medical records, student-centered learning, and self-discovery of new information. Includes simulated clinical skills and a clinical experience component.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit Grading only.*

**VMP 840 – Musculoskeletal System**

3 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, clinical description and basic treatment modalities of common diseases and conditions of skeletal system of small and large animals: development of basic diagnostic and treatment skills. Special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of muscular and skeletal systems. Advanced principles, radiographic interpretation, and surgical procedures.

**VMP 841 – Respiratory System**

3 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of the respiratory system. Upper and lower respiratory systems: infectious and non-infectious diseases.

**VMP 842 – Professional Skills, Wellness, & Ethics IV**

0.5 Credit Hours. Development of essential non-technical skills needed for veterinary professional competence. Some of the areas covered include leadership, finance management, ethical decision-making, and wellbeing. A continuation of VMP 832.  
*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 843 – Integumentary System**

2 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine, and surgery of diseases of the integumentary system. Laboratory examination, pathology, diagnosis, and treatment.

**VMP 844 – Veterinary Ophthalmology**

2 Credit Hours. Ocular anatomy and physiology, as well as pathology, medicine, and surgery of ocular diseases. To provide a basis for students to engage in clinical ophthalmology in a variety of animal species.

**VMP 845 – Cardiovascular System**

2 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of cardiovascular system. Anatomic, physiologic and pharmacologic principles which provide basis for treatment.

**VMP 846 – Business Management**

0.5 Credit Hour. Veterinary ethics, jurisprudence, basic practice management, and other topics involved in practice of veterinary medicine.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 849 – Clinical Applications & Integrations IV**

2 Credit Hours. Integration and application of theoretical material using case- or problem-based approaches toward creating knowledge frameworks for patient care, including the human-animal bond. Emphasis on client communication, student-centered learning, and self-discovery of new information. Includes simulated clinical skills.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 850 – Reproductive System**

3 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of male and female reproductive systems and mammary glands.

**VMP 851 – Urinary System**

2 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of urinary system. Urinary system in health and disease.

**VMP 851 – Nervous System**

3 Credit Hours. Pathophysiology, special pathology, medicine and surgery of diseases of the nervous system: clinical neurology and neuropathology.

**VMP 853 – Oncology**

2 Credit Hours. Fundamental aspects of cell biology and pathology relative to etiology and natural behavior of various neoplasms of animals; general approaches to diagnosis, treatment and prevention of neoplasia.

**VMP 854 – Multispecies Medicine**

2 Credit Hours. Anatomy, pathophysiology, medicine, and surgery of avian species, laboratory and zoo animals and reptiles. Species and diseases seen by practicing veterinarian. Current topics on foreign animal diseases.

**VMP 855 – Radiology**

3 Credit Hours. Advanced and special techniques in radiology with interpretation and use of radiologic and related techniques in diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases.

**VMP 856 – Veterinary Nutrition**

1 Credit Hour. Principles of nutrition, and nutrition of animals in health and disease. Applied nutrition relating to individual small or large animal patient or to herd situations.

**VMP 859 – Clinical Applications & Integrations V**

1 Credit Hour. Integration and application of theoretical material using case- or problem-based approaches toward creating knowledge frameworks for patient care, including the complex relationships that result from the human-animal bond. Emphasis on building effective teams, case management, student-centered learning, and self-discovery of new information. Includes review of simulated clinical skills and preparation for clinical placements.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit Grading only.*

**VMP 860 – Transition and Accreditation Seminars**

2 Credit Hours. Discussion of USDA, state, and local animal laws and regulations: preparation of animal movement forms, veterinary ethics, jurisprudence, and other topics involved in practice of veterinary medicine.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only.*

**VMP 870 – Special Studies in Veterinary Medicine**

1-8 Credit Hours. Specially-designed studies for students in novel special-interest topics and/or for students participating in self-directed learning environments. Topics are unique and not associated with standard core rotations or elective topics within the veterinary or MPH curriculum.

*Grading Restriction: Satisfactory/No Credit grading only. Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 16 hours.*

**VMP 871 – Special Problems in Comparative Medicine**

1-8 Credit Hours. Extramural and specially-designed study for students interested in select topics in avian medicine, laboratory animal medicine, zoo animal medicine, epidemiology, public health, pharmacology or toxicology.

*A–F grading. Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.*

**VMP 872 – Special Problems in Pathology**

1-8 Credit Hours. Extramural and specially-designed study for students interested in select topics in morphologic pathology, clinical pathology, clinical microbiology and parasitology.

*A–F grading. Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.*

**VMP 873 – Special Problems in Small Animal Clinical Sciences**

1-8 Credit Hours. Extramural and specially designed study for students interested in select topics in medicine, surgery, anesthesiology, radiology and medical specialties of small (companion) animals.

*A–F grading. Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.*

**VMP 874 – Special Problems in Large Animal Clinical Sciences**

1-8 Credit Hours. Extramural and specially designed study for students interested in select topics in medicine, surgery, herd health, reproduction, radiology and medical specialties of large animals.

*A–F grading. Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 14 hours.*

**Electives****Comparative Medicine****VMP 870 – Laboratory Animal Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. Introduction to the life of a lab animal veterinarian. Didactic lectures, vivarium tour, mock IACUC meeting, and a rodent handling lab exposes students to different components that someone entering the lab animal profession as a full-time or part-time/consulting lab animal vet would need to be familiar with.

*Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 12. S/NC grading. Winter Mini Term.*

**VMP 870 –Veterinary Pharmacy**

1 Credit Hour. This class will better prepare students to be immediately involved in clinical patient care with confidence. Topics covered will include prescription writing, relevant laws, pharmaceutical calculations, owner counseling, drug interactions, specific patient population considerations, medication preparation, controlled substances, hazardous chemicals, errors and reporting. Students who complete this class will be much more prepared and confident when joining their assigned clinical team for clinical rotations. This course will further prepare the veterinary student to be confident in prescribing and filling their own prescription medications, as well as appropriately counseling owners about pet medications once in practice.

*Enrollment Minimum – 7, Maximum – 18. S/NC grading. Fall, Spring.*

**VMP 871 – Clinical Microbiology Laboratory**

1 or 2 Credit Hours. This course is tailored for individual students wanting advanced exposure to techniques and procedures of modern microbiology. Areas of study can involve bacteriology, mycology, virology, and/or immunology. Independent and directed work totaling 2–4 hours per week will be required.

*Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – Variable. Instructor approval required prior to sign up. A–F grading. Fall, Spring.*

**VMP 870 – Introduction to Avian Medicine (ONLINE)**

1 Credit Hour. In this course, students will learn to distinguish characteristics of species of birds that are commonly kept as pets. They will also identify and distinguish skeletal and physiologic differences of birds and mammals, describe the steps of basic medical procedures performed in birds, and describe recommended steps for biosecurity and quarantine of avian species.

*Online. Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. Spring.*

**VMP 876 – One Health (ONLINE)**

3 Credit Hours. Online course addresses the link between human, animal, and environmental health. Each online module focuses on some aspect of One Health and may include topics such as emergency preparedness, zoonotic diseases, antibiotic resistance and food safety, responsible pet ownership and the human-animal bond, and the effects of climate on disease prevalence. Methods of intervention and problem solving such as research design, program evaluation, community education, and policy analysis are also incorporated.

*Online. Enrollment Minimum – Variable, Maximum – Variable. A–F grading. Spring.*

**Pathology****VMP 872 – Advanced Ophthalmic Pathology**

1 Credit Hour. This elective demonstrates and correlates the clinical, gross, and histologic findings of various common ophthalmic conditions. The specific cases can be targeted to species interests of enrolled students (i.e. emphasis on large, small, or exotic animals). Clinical and gross images as well as histology slides are made available for review and then discussed in detail during the sessions. This course is targeted to students with a strong interest in either ophthalmology or pathology.

*Enrollment Minimum – 2, Maximum – 5. A–F grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

**VMP 873 – Comparative Musculoskeletal Pathology**

1 Credit Hour. This elective compares the pathology of musculoskeletal conditions of animals, including humans.

*Enrollment Minimum – 1, Maximum – 100. A–F grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring*

**VMP 870 – Pathology Case Presentation**

1 Credit Hour. For this independent study elective, students must first identify a pathology faculty mentor with whom they will work to identify a case suitable for presentation at the Southeastern Veterinary Pathology Associates Conference (SEVPAC). The student will research the case and prepare the submission forms for the conference, as well as prepare and give a 5-minute presentation (including photomicrographs) to the other enrolled students, pathology residents, and faculty (and possibly to the college as a lunchtime seminar). Students will be expected to provide feedback on the presentations given by other enrolled students or pathology residents.

*Enrollment Minimum – 1, Maximum – 10. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring*

**VMP 870 – Surgical Pathology**

1 Credit Hour. The objective of this course is to increase pathology experience for **those students interested in a career in anatomic pathology or a related field** (oncology, clinical pathology, etc.). Surgical biopsy specimens submitted from UTCVM and outside practitioners will be examined and discussed with a pathologist at the multi-headed microscope for one hour per week. Round cell tumors, mesenchymal tumors, epithelial tumors, non-neoplastic lumps and bumps, and selected

dermatopathologic conditions will be covered by Dr. Craig in the first 5 sessions. The remaining sessions will be with the pathologist or resident on service reviewing cases submitted that day. Students will be taught to describe, diagnose, and review the literature regarding selected cases. The scope of this course will be determined by the case materials submitted to the surgical biopsy service. *Enrollment Minimum – 1, Maximum – 6. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

### Small Animal

#### **VMP 870 – Advanced Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

1 Credit Hour. In-depth discussions of clinical cases of dogs and cats with gastrointestinal and hepatic/pancreatic diseases, including diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Discussions of recent literature on small animal gastroenterology, hepatology, and diseases of the pancreas. In addition, there will be a laboratory session on gastrointestinal endoscopy. *Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 10. S/NC grading. Offered to sophomores and juniors. Fall.*

#### **VMP 870 – Advanced Small Animal Endocrinology**

1 Credit Hour. Covers select topics from small animal endocrinology in more detail than the core endocrinology course. Introduces new endocrine diseases, highlights controversies in the diagnosis and/or treatment of endocrine disease, and discusses the management of patients with multiple endocrinopathies. *Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 90. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

#### **VMP 870 – Advanced Soft Tissue Surgery**

1 Credit Hour. Students will understand and practice common soft tissue surgery techniques performed on dogs and cats by general practitioners. Specifically, the anatomy associated with the various surgical procedures, describing the steps of each procedure, and coming up with ways to solve technical problems or address procedural complications. *Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 18. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores and juniors. Winter Mini Term.*

#### **VMP 870 – Anatomy: Feline**

1 Credit Hour. Students will dissect the cat, focusing on the front and hind limb muscles, forelimb and hindlimb vessels and nerves, the thorax, the abdomen, the head, the skeleton, and clinical aspects of feline surgery. One lecture is included. *Enrollment Minimum – 3 (Fall/Spring), Maximum – 18 (Fall)/9 (Spring). S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall, Spring.*

#### **VMP 870 – Anatomy: Exotics**

1 Credit Hour. Students will dissect the snake, turtle, iguana, rabbit, rat, mink, pigeon, and chicken to gain an appreciation for their anatomical differences and similarities. Students will be required to locate existing anatomical descriptions of these species and document and label their dissections in photographs. *Enrollment Minimum – 3 (Fall/Spring), Maximum – 12 (Fall)/18 (Spring). S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall, Spring.*

#### **VMP 870 – Applied One Health**

2 Credit Hours. In collaboration with World Veterinary Services and Mission Rabies, students will gain hands-on experience in domestic animal medicine, public health outreach, and One Health research at a veterinary clinic located on Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador. Treatment of injured wild animals may also occur. This is a study abroad course and will include information and clinical skills needed to address One Health issues in the Galapagos Islands. *Enrollment Minimum – 3, Maximum – 4. S/NC grading. Spring.*

#### **VMP 870 – Aquatic Animal Health**

1 Credit Hour. This elective introduces important and common diseases of aquatic invertebrates, fresh and marine water fish, aquatic birds, and marine mammals. The course, which includes a field trip to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies, emphasizes husbandry aspects as they pertain to normal health and specific disease processes in aquatic animals. *Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 22. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall.*

#### **VMP 870 – Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation**

1 Credit Hour. Students will perform an advanced small animal musculoskeletal examination, recognize common canine sports and injuries particular to those sports, recognize common diagnostics used for sporting injuries, understand lameness evaluation and gait analysis, understand how and when to use common modalities prescribed in physical rehabilitation, understand non-pharmacologic post-operative pain management, design an exercise prescription for conditioning, and understand basics of regenerative medicine. *Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 20, S/NC grading. Fall, even years.*

**VMP 870 –Dentistry**

1 Credit Hour. Hands-on experience with commonly encountered dentistry and oral surgery procedures. Students will become more comfortable with recognizing oral structures and diseases and performing basic procedures, including oral examination via proper dental charting, scaling with an ultrasonic scaler, polishing teeth, administering local anesthesia in preparation for oral surgery, performing basic extractions in canine and feline patients, practicing non-invasive stabilization techniques for mandibular fractures, and performing maxillectomies and mandibulectomies.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum –15. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

**VMP 870 – International Veterinary Public Health**

2 Credit Hours. Study abroad course to cover information needed to address the global public health problem of rabies and provide hands-on experience with a global rabies vaccination campaign.

*Enrollment Minimum – 1, Maximum – 10. S/NC grading. Summer.*

**VMP 873 – Intensive Care of Small Animals**

1 Credit Hour. This course is intended to assist students in developing appropriate fluid therapy and analgesic plans, detecting and correcting electrolyte balances, preventing and identifying transfusion reactions, developing correct nutritional plans, and managing feline urethral obstruction. Students will become familiar with the Rule of 20, as well as learn to best manage patients with parvovirus, trauma, and sepsis. These skills will be accompanied by improving client communication around critical illness, financial difficulties, and euthanasia.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 30. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall. Must have taken and passed Small Animal Emergency & Critical Care.*

**VMP 870 – Introduction to Veterinary Nutrition (ONLINE)**

1 Credit Hour. Students become familiar with various organizations involved in the regulation of commercial pet foods. They learn to use a pet food label to assess the nutritional composition of a diet while also understanding the limitations of pet food label information; become knowledgeable about the various trends in pet food manufacturing so they can be discussed with pet owners; understand the basic nutritional goals of feeding companion animals and livestock for various life stages; and learn to calculate the energy needs of companion animals and livestock in various life stages.

*Online. Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. Fall, Spring.*

**VMP 870 – Pet Swine Management, Medicine, and Surgery**

1 Credit Hour. Lecture-based course with heavy integration of clinical cases to foster student engagement and discussion. Topics include management of pet swine, medical and surgical pathologies, and treatments.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 12. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall.*

**VMP 870 – Pollinator Health**

1 Credit Hour. Education on the often-overlooked pollinator species, including European honeybees, native North American bees, bats, birds, butterflies, and everything in between. Basic pollinator strategies and their important with a One Health perspective; basic bee(hive) anatomy and physiology; bacterial, viral, and parasitic diseases of honeybees; North American native insect and wild, non-insect pollinators; and White Nose Syndrome in bats. Contains online modules and in-person meetings.

*Enrollment Minimum – 6, Maximum – 30. S/NC grading. Spring.*

**VMP 870 – Small Animal Advanced Anesthesia**

1 Credit Hour. Basic pathophysiology of common cardiac, endocrine, neurologic, pulmonary, and urinary diseases. Varying emergency conditions and designing an anesthetic plan for patients with these conditions. Includes anatomy/landmarks of common loco-regional anesthetic techniques and performing these techniques. Physiology of acute pain and pathophysiology of chronic pain and knowledge and effective use of various canine and feline pain scoring systems. Students will also design a perioperative pain management plan.

*Enrollment Minimum – 15, Maximum – 25. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

**VMP 870 – Small Animal Behavioral Topics**

1 Credit Hour. This course provides in-depth discussion and behavior modification skill practice for common behavioral issues of the cat and dog. Material is presented through clinical case discussion and laboratories at UTCVM and other animal facilities (e.g., animal shelter, research laboratory, zoo). Students must satisfactorily participate in all activities and write a topic paper at the end of course.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. Fall.*

**VMP 870 – Small Animal Medicine Problem Solving**

1 Credit Hour. Anemia, protein-losing enteropathy, fever of unknown origin, effusive disease (pleural and/or abdominal), and gastrointestinal disease. Case presentations and discussions focused on developing accurate primary problem lists, differential diagnosis lists, and first- and second-tier diagnostic plans in the context of the patient's signalment, history, physical exam findings, and/or diagnostic test results.

*Enrollment Minimum – 8, Maximum – 30. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

**VMP 873 – Advanced Diagnostic Imaging**

2 Credit Hours. This course is designed to introduce the student to imaging modalities and procedures not covered in the general radiology course and will provide an introduction to CT, MR, and nuclear imaging. (Ultrasound is not covered.) The course will consist of lectures and image interpretation sessions on CT, MR and nuclear medicine; at the end of the course, students will have gained a basic knowledge of the indications and contraindications of CT, MR and nuclear medicine; and will be able to interpret the most commonly performed CT, MR and nuclear medicine studies.

*Enrollment Minimum 3, Maximum – 20. A–F grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

**VMP 873 – Advanced Small Animal Orthopedics**

2 Credit Hours. This course exposes students to basic small animal surgical orthopedics. The laboratory exercises include stifle and hip surgery, and fracture stabilization techniques using plates, external fixation splints, and pins. All exercises involve cadaver specimens with emphasis on surgical anatomy and proper use of orthopedic instruments and implants.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 20. A–F grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

**VMP 873 – Issues & Opportunities in Shelter Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. Lectures and discussions on topics related to animal sheltering, geared towards helping the student understand and be able to become involved in animal shelter medicine in their community upon graduation. The student is expected to participate in at least 9 hours of clinical exposure at Young Williams Animal Center, including dog adoption floor screening, community spay/neuter programs, animal intake – lost & found, animal adoptions, animal control, and veterinary clinic.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 8. A–F grading. Fall, Spring.*

**VMP 873 – Seminars in Zoo Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. Course will introduce reptile anatomy, physiology, husbandry, diagnostic testing, anesthesia, surgery, euthanasia, and common diseases. Sessions will include lectures by clinicians, journal article presentation by participants, and case discussion. Grading is based on attendance, participation, and journal article presentation. Topic changes every year.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 25. A–F grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

**VMP 873 – Small Animal Dental Education (ONLINE via University of Illinois)**

1 Credit Hour. This course is an intensive study of modern dentistry techniques for dogs and cats. Each online module stresses the importance of a thorough knowledge of canine and feline dental and paradental anatomy in the recognition and treatment of dental problems in dogs and cats. Clinical applications of anatomic information are used to reinforce important concepts. Specific topics feature dental pathology, radiology, extractions, and periodontal disease.

*Online. Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – 30. Online. A–F grading. Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer.*

**VMP 878 – Small Animal Preventive Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. This course provides veterinary students with a knowledge base and access to resource materials that allow students to prepare and implement public education programs on various aspects of responsible pet ownership. Course objectives are to: 1) provide the community with high quality responsible pet ownership programs, and 2) provide an opportunity for veterinary students to further develop their communication skills.

*Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 24. A–F grading. Spring.*

**VMP 879 – Practice Management**

1 Credit Hour. Preparing new veterinarians for the business of their practice. Five primary focuses are trends in veterinarian industry, important decisions about working as an associate veterinarian, major decisions about buying into an existing practice, critical decisions about starting a new practice from scratch, and tools that a veterinarian may use to make the above decisions. **Not currently being offered.**

*Enrollment Minimum – 5. A–F grading. Fall.*

**VMP 890 – Pain Management**

1 Credit Hour. This elective explores clinical pain and pain management with emphasis on typical veterinary clinical problems. Fundamentals of nociception and comparative algology underlie the focus on clinical pain relief. Nociceptive, procedural,

postoperative, maladaptive, chronic, and cancer pain and related syndromes are addressed. Case scenarios and practical examples serve to reinforce the principles of pain management, including preemptive and balanced analgesia, and recognition of varying patient needs. We will discuss typical and atypical uses of the principal classes of analgesics, including NSAIDs, opioids, and local anesthetics, as well as adjunctive medications and non-drug methods of providing pain relief. A cadaver lab session provides hands-on practice with regional and local techniques.

*Enrollment Minimum – 15, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

#### **VMP 891 – Basic Small Animal Surgical Principles**

1 Credit Hour. Elective course presents the basics of aseptic technique, including pack preparation, gowning, gloving, and waterless hand scrubs; instrument handling; knot tying; suture placement; and ligation. More advanced practice and near-peer instruction opportunities available to upperclassmen.

*Enrollment Minimum – 6, Maximum – 48. S/NC grading. Spring.*

#### **VMP 892 – Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care**

1 Credit Hour. Elective covers specific topics related to small animal emergency and critical care. Topics may include triage of the critically ill animal, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, transfusion medicine, acid/base abnormalities, and math for the emergency veterinarian. Case-based discussion is incorporated, as are common ECC procedures, including placing central lines, nasogastric and esophageal feeding tubes, urinary catheters, and thoracostomy tubes.

*Enrollment Minimum – 12, Maximum – 30. Fall.*

#### **VMP 894 – Small Animal Surgery, Spay/Neuter Clinic**

2 Credit Hours. This course has major emphasis on students gaining hands-on experience in small animal surgery. Dogs and cats from a variety of humane animal shelters are brought to the surgery teaching facility once weekly for a sterilization procedure. The student acts in the capacity of a primary surgeon approximately 50% of the time. The remaining time is spent assisting classmates with surgery and anesthesia.

*Enrollment Minimum – 2, Maximum – 20. A–F grading. Fall (juniors), Spring (sophomores).*

#### **VMP 895 – Feline Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. This elective covers multiple aspects of feline medicine to a greater degree than is presented in the core curriculum. Topics covered include internal medicine (infectious disease, endocrine disorders, respiratory disease, etc.), cardiology, ophthalmology, nutrition, dermatology, analgesia and anesthesia, soft tissue and orthopedic surgery, oncology, and diagnostic imaging, as well as special considerations of exotic felids.

*Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall*

### **Large Animal**

#### **VMP 874 – Advanced Swine Production (ONLINE via Iowa State University)**

1 Credit Hour. Students will learn to apply personnel, facility, fiscal, and livestock management principles involved in swine production, perform basic swine husbandry skills, understand the impact of societal and industry issues on production management systems, and explain the pork chain structure and trends, including production, packing, and integration. Includes 13 core medicine lectures, slide handouts, and assessments at the end of each lecture. Also includes access to over 100 supplemental instructional videos.

*Online. Enrollment Minimum – None, Maximum – None. Fall.*

#### **VMP 874 – Theriogenology**

2 Credit Hours. This elective covers bovine and equine reproduction. Students are given the opportunity to advance previously taught skills and will be exposed to techniques not taught in the core Reproductive System course.

*Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 12. A–F grading. Offered only to sophomores. Spring.*

#### **VMP 880 – Case Discussion in Equine Internal Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. Incorporates information from other courses into discussions of equine internal medicine cases; encourages development of effective problem-solving skills by forcing students to make decisions regarding the management of cases; provides instruction in areas of equine internal medicine that are only briefly discussed in other courses.

*Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 20. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall*

#### **VMP 881 – Introduction to Equine Dentistry**

2 Credit Hours. This elective is designed to improve student knowledge in dental hygiene and disease in horses. It consists of a mixture of lectures and labs.

*Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 15. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall.*



**VMP 882 – Equine Special Topics**

1 Credit Hour. This elective is a series of lectures highlighting important information for the future equine practitioner. The information covered in these lectures is not covered in other lectures or will cover topics in greater depth than in other areas of the curriculum. The goal of these classes is to assist new graduates in their day-to-day activities as an equine practitioner. *Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – None. S/NC grading. First choice to sophomores. Spring.*

**VMP 883 – Large Animal Diagnostic Ultrasound**

1 Credit Hour. Students learn the basic techniques of ultrasound as a diagnostic tool in large animal veterinary medicine. The elective covers abdominal, thoracic, and tendon ultrasound techniques, along with ultrasound of swellings, masses, etc. The students learn the basics of the ultrasound machine and will be able to use the different types of machines available. *Enrollment Minimum – 2, Maximum – 15. S/NC grading. May not be repeated. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

**VMP 884 – Large Animal Clinical Skills**

1 Credit Hour. An elective to introduce students to skills common to equine and food animal practice. After completing this class, students should be able to perform many of the basic clinical activities that will be expected of them in practice. *Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – 20. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall.*

**VMP 870 – Large Animal Reproduction: Palpation and Ultrasound**

1 Credit Hour. This elective gives students the opportunity to improve techniques for transrectal palpation/ultrasound for cows and mares, and learn/practice the landmarks used to help identify the different anatomical parts of the reproductive tract through rectal palpation. Students will also be able to manipulate and ultrasound the reproductive tract to assess the stage of the estrous cycle by locating, identifying, and feeling the different structures of the reproductive organs. *Enrollment Minimum – 8, Maximum – 20. S/NC grading. Offered only to sophomores. Fall.*

**VMP 885 – Camelid Medicine**

1 Credit Hour. The goal of this course is to familiarize students with camelid handling, management, and their most common medical problems. *Enrollment Minimum – 5, Maximum – 15. S/NC grading. First choice to sophomores. Summer Mini Term.*

**VMP 886 – Food Animal Production Medicine Elective**

2 Credit Hours. This elective covers 1) introduction to production medicine, 2) mastitis, 3) internal/external parasite control, 4) update on toxicology in beef/dairy cattle, 5) castration, implants, 6) general management of beef cattle, 7) anesthetic protocols in the field for surgeries in cattle, 8) BVD, 9) topics on food animal pharmacology, 10) swine management, 11) foot care, 12) breeding management program in beef/dairy cattle, 13) bioterrorism/agro terrorism/biosecurity, 14) critical periods of nutrition in beef cattle and economics, and 15) dairy/beef health programs – vaccinations. *Enrollment Minimum – 4, Maximum – None. A–F grading. Fall.*

**VMP 887 – Large Animal Surgery**

1 Credit Hour. The primary objective of this course is to better prepare students for entry-level large animal veterinary practice by teaching and allowing them to practice surgical procedures commonly performed by large animal practitioners. Procedures will be divided into farm animal and equine portions. *Enrollment Minimum – 10, Maximum – 15. S/NC grading. Offered only to juniors. Fall.*

**Veterinary Medicine – Clinical (VMC)****VMC 800 – Clinical Rotation in Pathology**

2 Credit Hours. Clinical training in post-mortem examination and laboratory diagnostics, including clinical pathology, introductory histopathology of biopsy specimens, microbiology, and parasitology. *Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 801 – Diagnostic Laboratory Skills**

2 Credit Hours. Clinical training in veterinary laboratory diagnostics, including hematology, clinical chemistry, cytology, microbiology, parasitology, and surgical pathology.

**VMC 802 – Clinical Rotation in Diagnostic Imaging**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in radiographic techniques and interpretation, including ultrasonography. *Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 803 – Clinical Rotation in Anesthesiology**

4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in sedation and anesthesia of companion animals, food animals, and horses. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 810 – Clinical Rotation in Small Animal Medicine**

4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in medicine for small companion animals. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 811 – Clinical Rotation in Community Practice**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in primary veterinary care for companion animals. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 812 – Clinical Rotation in Shelter Medicine-Spay/Neuter (Mobile Unit)**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical experience in medical, behavioral and surgical problems in animals confined to animal shelters. Students gain extensive experience spaying and castrating animals. Students will identify methods of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of sheltered animals with emphasis on infectious and behavioral disorders.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 813 – Clinical Rotation in Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in soft tissue surgery for companion animals. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 814 – Small Animal Emergency Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in identification and treatment of emergency medical and surgical conditions in small animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 820 – Clinical Rotation in Equine Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in equine medicine. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 821 - Clinical Rotation in Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in farm animal medicine and surgery. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 823 – Clinical Rotation in Equine Surgery, Lameness, and Rehabilitation**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of surgical conditions of the horse, including lameness, podiatry, and rehabilitation.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 824 – Large Animal Emergency Medicine & Critical Care**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of emergency medical and surgical conditions affecting large animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 825 – Clinical Rotation in Farm Animal Field Services**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in medicine, surgery, specialty disciplines, and herd health of food animals. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care, and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 826 – Clinical Rotation in Equine Field Services**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in medicine, surgery, specialty disciplines, and herd health of horses. Direct responsibility for diagnosis, care and treatment of clinical patients.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 830 – Veterinary Dermatology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases of small and large animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 831 – Veterinary Ophthalmology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in diagnosis and treatment of ocular diseases of small and large animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 832 – Veterinary Neurology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of medical and surgical diseases of the nervous system in small animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 840 – Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of small animal musculoskeletal conditions.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 841 – Small Animal Physical Rehabilitation**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of small animal musculoskeletal conditions, and physical rehabilitation.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 842 – Veterinary Cardiology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases of small and large animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 843 – Veterinary Oncology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer in companion animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 844 – Exotic Companion Animal and Wildlife Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of avian and exotic animals and native wildlife.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 850 – Advanced Pathology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Advanced anatomic pathology training, including gross postmortem examination and histopathology of biopsy specimens.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 852 – Clinical Rotation in Laboratory Animal Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in laboratory animal medicine.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMP 853 – Advanced Veterinary Anesthesiology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training and additional medical responsibilities with complex anesthesia patients. Available to students who earn Honors in VMC 803: Clinical Rotation in Anesthesiology.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 860 – Advanced Veterinary Dermatology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Advanced clinical training in diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases of small and large animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 861 – Advanced Small Animal Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in diagnosis and treatment of disease and medical problems of small animals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 862 – Shelter Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in shelter medicine and surgery, which includes the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases in populations of small animals, primarily dogs and cats.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 863 – Small Animal Nutrition and Animal Behavior**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in small animal veterinary nutrition and behavior. Students divide their time between the clinical nutrition and behavior services in the Veterinary Medical Center.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 864 – Zoological Medicine**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in husbandry, preventive medicine, and medical treatment of zoological species. This rotation is for students with an interest in pursuing zoological medicine as a career.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 865 – Small Animal Dentistry**

2-4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in small animal dentistry, including dental prophylaxis, and advanced surgical and dental therapeutics in small animal and zoological species.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 4 hours.*

**VMC 871 – Clinical Rotation in Swine Medicine Production**

2–8 Credit Hours. Clinical training program in swine production medicine at the Swine Medical Education Center at Iowa State. Students will train in an on-farm setting in swine production, management, consultation, pharmacology, and PRRSV diagnosis and management.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 872 – Clinical Rotation in Bovine Production Medicine**

2 Credit Hours. Teaches techniques and procedures used by veterinarians in modern dairy and beef cattle production practice. Course includes travel and overnight stay at various production facilities. Training includes data analysis and use of common reproductive and productivity software. Students will participate in developing productivity plans, disease surveillance, and herd health maintenance programs.

*Repeatability: May be repeated with consent of the instructor. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 873 – Clinical Rotation in Theriogenology**

2–4 Credit Hours. Clinical training in veterinary theriogenology.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 874 – Equine Performance Medicine and Rehabilitation**

2-4 Credit Hours. Clinical education in Equine Performance Medicine and Rehabilitation, including lameness diagnosis, advanced orthopedic surgery, podiatry, and rehabilitation of the equine.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 880 – Elective Clinical Rotation I**

1–4 Credit Hours. Special rotations in applied clinical education in Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Comparative Medicine, and Pathology. Novel experience not associated with required clinical rotations may be arranged.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**VMC 881 – Elective Clinical Rotation II**

1-4 Credit Hours Special rotations in applied clinical education in Small Animal Clinical Sciences, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Comparative Medicine, and Pathology. Novel experience not associated with required clinical rotations may be arranged.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 6 hours.*

**880/881 Academic Veterinary Medicine/Peer Teaching**

2 Credit Hours. For students with an interest in academia; highly tailored to student interests. Potential experiences include involvement in academic leadership activities, peer teaching in laboratories or discussions, completion of the online Fundamentals of Classroom Teaching certificate, interviewing veterinary educators, attending teaching conferences or workshops, visiting another veterinary school, taking part in educational research, etc.

*Limited availability & application process required.*

**880/881 Advanced Equine Imaging. One rotation, spring.**

2 Credit Hours. This rotation reviews the gross and functional anatomy of the distal limb of the horse, the process of obtaining diagnostic images (radiographs, ultrasound) of common musculoskeletal structures of the horse, and allows for the development of practical skills in obtaining and evaluating musculoskeletal-based radiograph and ultrasound images.

*One rotation offered each spring.*

**880/881 Advanced Equine Lameness (1 rotation/spring)**

2 Credit Hours. The rotation will cover the complete lameness exam in the horse. During the first week, lecture and observational labs will be included on topics such as advanced imaging, treatment options for joint disease, podiatry, case rounds, and other lameness topics. Week 2 will consist of hands-on lameness evaluations and treatments of teaching and client animals. Students will work in small groups and work up these cases as primary clinicians. A faculty clinician will be available for mentoring and oversight.

*One rotation offered each spring.*

**880/881 Argentina Rural Veterinary Medicine**

2 Credit Hours. This study abroad course exposes students to the challenges associated with practicing veterinary medicine in a rural, underserved community in a foreign country. Students will practice hands-on skills in small and large animal species. Students will be required to complete online modules or classroom sessions as an introduction to the culture of the community and to learn more about animal diseases that are prevalent in the area.

*One rotation per year. Application process required.*

**880/881 Belize Zoo Medicine**

2 Credit Hours. This study abroad rotation will expose veterinary students to wildlife and zoological cases, beyond what is offered through rotations in the exotics clinic and with the zoological service on site at the University of Tennessee. The course will expand upon teaching at UTCVM, and apply it to a developing country, with more limited resources. Involves active clinical work for Monday–Friday of the first week and Monday–Wednesday of the second week, flying out that evening or Thursday. After completion of the rotation, students will be expected to complete a case report for one of the cases seen. This will entail investigative research of literature for the condition and species to provide a deeper understanding of that particular scenario.

*One rotation offered in fall and spring semesters. Application process required.*

**880/881 Equine Podiatry and Farrier Science**

2 Credit Hours. This elective rotation is designed to expose the student to all aspects of Equine Podiatry and Farrier Science. The student will be involved in simple-to-advanced routine and therapeutic cases seen on an outpatient basis in the Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Center, as field service, or as consults for other clinical services (Equine Surgery, Equine Medicine, etc.). Students will be exposed to lameness evaluations and podiatry-based treatment for conditions diagnosed via advanced diagnostics such as radiographs, ultrasonography, MRI, and CT. Students will be responsible for assisting with therapeutic plan development and application based on clinician discretion. In-depth rounds will discuss clinical cases and the fundamentals of therapeutic podiatry and routine farrier science, and specific wet labs and cadaver dissections will help develop clinical skills.

**880/881 Equine Practitioner**

2 Credit Hours. This rotation equips veterinary students with essential skills for general equine practice through hands-on experiences with teaching, client, and cadaver animals. Students will refine clinical reasoning and protocols for sedation, biosecurity, and treatment while gaining confidence in managing common field scenarios such as colic workups, lower limb wound assessments, ocular exams, routine dental care, shoe removal, and neurologic cases. The course emphasizes practical application and prepares graduates to excel as entry-level equine practitioners.

*One or two rotations offered each spring.*

**880/881 Intensive Care of Small Animals**

2 Credit Hours. Management of critically ill inpatients, including development of diagnostics and treatment plan, monitoring progression and determining interventions needed, among septic patients, polytraumas, intoxicated patients, etc.

*Spring semester only.*

**880/881 Small Ruminant and Camelid Health**

2 Credit Hours. The goals of this rotation are to expose veterinary students to small ruminant and camelid practice, including herd health management, production models, and individual animal care. Upon completion of the clinical elective, students should be able to evaluate and implement herd-based preventive health programs, apply concepts and principles that contribute to management and marketing of animal products, and effectively and safely handle small ruminants and camelids to perform routine medical care.

*One rotation offered each spring.*

**VMC 890 – Externship I**

2–8 Credit Hours. Educational experiences in private practice, research facility, zoological preserve, aquarium, or other veterinary-related facility outside the Veterinary Medical Center, to provide experiences not frequently available in large referral veterinary teaching hospitals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 8 hours.*

**VMC 891 – Externship II**

2–16 Credit Hours. Educational experiences in private practice, research facility, zoological preserve, aquarium, or other veterinary-related facility outside Veterinary Medical Center, to provide experiences not frequently available in large referral veterinary teaching hospitals.

*Repeatability: May be repeated. Maximum 16 hours*

# General Duties and Responsibilities of Faculty and Professional Students

## Mattering & Belonging

As Volunteers, we are encouraged to act, to use our voices, and to bear the torch. As a campus community, we strive to develop and sustain a nurturing university where everybody matters. We believe that cultivating welcoming communities is an enduring source of hope and strength. We put actions behind our words and ensure that everyone feels like they belong.

From the moment students arrive on campus, we want them to know that their stories and experiences matter, and they belong here. We aim to support students in their journey on Rocky Top as they find their place on campus and explore all that UT and the UTCVM have to offer. Engaging in meaningful and proactive dialogue helps us all grow and learn. We challenge students to examine their capacity to act as members of a welcoming campus community and nurture change that supports a culture of respectful dialogue.

Learn more at UT's [Division of Student Life](#).

## Access and Engagement

The college and university are committed to supporting a culture of respect, access, belonging, and community. We are dedicated to expanding access to educational opportunities and striving to remove barriers. Consistent with the university's commitment to high academic standards, student achievement, and the preparation of responsible citizens, the college believes that engaging with individuals from all backgrounds and perspectives fosters a vibrant learning environment that enhances critical thinking and intellectual growth.

Furthermore, the UTK [Division of Access and Engagement](#) is committed to promoting an atmosphere where all members of the university community feel welcomed and can thrive and achieve success.

## Guidelines and Expectations for Instructors

### *Atmosphere for Teaching and Learning*

It is important that the instructor creates, from the beginning, and preserves an atmosphere conducive to learning. Both instructor and student should feel they have come together in the common cause of the pursuit of learning. This includes eliminating barriers for students with disabilities and working with them and Student Disability Services (SDS) to provide these students with access to adequately meet their needs. This includes, but might not be limited to, providing extended time on practical and written exams (per a student's alternative testing agreement on file with SDS), replying promptly to requests and questions from SDS staff, and avoiding discouraging students from using their approved accommodations. Instructors should ensure their students are progressing through their course of study in a timely fashion.

To preserve the trust and respect that are essential to the instructor-student relationship, instructors should not have an amorous or sexual relationship (consensual or otherwise) with a student who is enrolled in a course being taught by the instructor or whose academic or work performance is subject to supervision or evaluation by the instructor.

### *Conducting a Course*

It is the instructor's responsibility to organize class material as efficiently and effectively as possible at the beginning of each term of instruction. In the UTCVM, it is an expectation that Canvas should be used to post course materials, slide presentations, and grades for access by students in a timely manner. For lecture capture, Panopto should be used. Courses should be designed to achieve clearly defined learning outcomes with appropriate evaluation tools and teaching methods. At the beginning of the semester, course coordinators will distribute to students the syllabus (see [template](#)) that makes clear the basis of the final grade with regard to the value placed on each course component. All instructors should set an example for students by being faithful in attendance and punctual in starting and ending classes. Students should be informed of all planned instructor absences or other changes as early as possible. Changes to the course schedule or syllabus should be minimal after the semester starts.

In presenting course content, the instructor should always endeavor to adhere to their subject; the classroom should not be used as a theater for expression of personal views that are not germane to the course. In addition, instructors should demonstrate professional behavior and avoid disparaging or exclusive language in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical setting. Expected behavior of all UT employees falls under the [UT Code of Conduct](#).

The instructor should be reasonably available to students to answer their questions and provide supplemental support to ensure learner success, including during scheduled laboratories and preceding exams. Preferred contact times and methods during regular business hours should be communicated to students in the syllabus and reinforced in class.

### *Timely Feedback*

Instructors should return all assessments as soon as possible and provide feedback to students so that assessments remain an educational instrument.

## **Guidelines for Students**

### *Commitment to the Program*

The veterinary professional curriculum is a full-time program. Students are expected to fully participate in all curricular activities.

### *Adequate Preparation*

Regarding learning, students have the responsibility to seek the information necessary to participate in classroom activity. Students must accept responsibility for adequate preparation for each class, arrive at all classes able and willing to interact through classroom participation, testing, writing, in-class exercises, and other methods used by the instructor. Basic to these activities is the need for students to employ appropriate resources, as assigned by the instructor, such as textbooks, other supplies, and outside reading materials.

### *Satisfying University Requirements*

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of and follow guidelines, schedules, and deadlines provided by the DVM program, the UT Graduate School, the university, and its instructors. All responsibilities must be satisfied in a timely fashion.

### *3 + 1 Students*

It is the student's responsibility to request the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the UTCVM Registrar provide a letter of satisfactory completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> terms in fulfillment of their 3 + 1 requirements for a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee.

### *Code of Conduct*

A professional approach to learning, including prompt class attendance, attentive behavior during classes and laboratories, and respectful interpersonal interactions, is expected from students. Behavior associated within the university community fall under the regulations of the University of Tennessee [Student Code of Conduct](#).

### *Basic In-Class Expectations*

Basic expectations of students include attendance, promptness, preparation, participation, professionalism, and respect. Much of the instruction that makes up the professional curriculum is conducted in UTCVM lecture halls and laboratories. It is the responsibility of the students to ensure that the environment for learning is as close to optimal as possible. Conduct that interferes with the opportunity of other students to hear or view a presentation cannot be tolerated. Instructors have the authority to remove offending students from the classroom or lab. Students are not permitted to bring personal pets or children into the lecture room theater, laboratory classroom, JRTU, or VREC.

### *Professionalism Guidelines for Live Zoom Classes*

All instructors are encouraged to record lecture presentations using Panopto and to make them available in a timely fashion for review purposes. Most standard recordings will be available within hours and make Zoom unnecessary. For class meetings that are conducted via Zoom, the UTCVM Curriculum Committee, with input from the faculty, has set guidelines to help ensure that all students and faculty have a great Zoom experience. This [baseline guide](#) includes information on technical preparation and logistical reminders and may be amended by course coordinators and instructors.



### *Laptop Requirement*

UTCVM requires a laptop for use in class and, most importantly, for computer-based assessments using a software called Examplify from ExamSoft (by Turnitin). Currently, Examplify only supports Mac and Windows operating systems. Examplify will not run on Chrome, Android, or Linux operating systems. For use on tablets, only Microsoft Surface Pro is supported for exams. Other PC tablets and iPads are NOT supported for exams, nor are mobile devices. Laptops should be new enough to support all software updates during students' pre-clinical years.

**Screen-blocking filter.** All laptops must have a screen-blocking filter that fits over the screen and obscures the view from others.

**Anti-virus.** The college recommends the use of anti-virus software on all laptops, but know that this software must be able to be quickly and easily disabled prior to each exam.

Specific questions about laptop requirements may be addressed to Mr. Lars Kragness ([lkragnes@utk.edu](mailto:lkragnes@utk.edu)).

### *Professional Dress Guidelines*

All members of the UTCVM community, including faculty, staff and students, are expected to uphold university, state, and applicable federal guidelines regarding appropriate and safe dress in the workplace. Many dress guidelines are designed to protect students and the community from contaminants, health hazards, and potential disease outbreaks.

Additionally, because the UTCVM buildings are public areas and subject to visits and tours from many clients and other visitors, your appearance reflects on the college, the university, and the veterinary profession. A positive professional image is vitally important for maintaining the public support and caseload needed for your position or your education.

While respecting a diversity of styles, opinions, and interpretations regarding dress, the following are guidelines for student, staff, and faculty dress in major areas of the college and Veterinary Medical Center. Please communicate with your peers, supervisor, or supervising instructor if you have questions or need clarification about these guidelines. More defined guidelines of professional dress for clinical experiences are available within each department.

#### **General Guidelines:**

- I) Dress should always reflect a neat, clean, and professional appearance. Please be aware that professional dress may vary among individuals but does not resemble the casual clothing you might wear at home or during recreational activities, or the fashionable or revealing clothing you may choose for social settings.
- II) Visible identification of college personnel is important so that others can learn your name and so that unauthorized individuals in the building can be more readily recognized. NAME TAGS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES.
- III) Coveralls, protective boots, and laboratory coats must be removed before entering food preparation or eating areas, such as the P.O.D.
- IV) For public safety reasons and professional reputation, hospital attire (surgical scrubs, lab coats, large animal protective clothing, etc.) should not be worn outside the Veterinary Medical Center or Joe Johnson Research and Teaching Unit (JRTU).
- V) Proper footwear (closed toe shoes that sufficiently protect the feet) should be worn in all hospital areas and laboratories where animals, animal tissues, biohazards, or sharp objects are present.
- VI) Surgical attire is designed to protect the sterile environment of the operating suites. Within the sterile surgical area, scrubs are worn along with protective caps, masks, and shoe covers. Surgical scrubs must be covered by a buttoned, full-length laboratory coat or coveralls at all times outside the operating suite and are not considered proper attire for the classroom. Scrub tops that may be worn for technical work, large animal duties, or non-operating room procedures must be clearly distinguishable from surgical scrubs by color or pattern.
- VII) In addition to the specific guidelines given below, departments, diagnostic laboratories, and teaching laboratories may maintain and communicate additional clothing and footwear requirements for certain areas, classes, or teaching exercises.

VIII) **Specific areas:**a) **Diagnostic and Teaching Laboratories**

- i) Gloves and laboratory coats are required in areas with biohazards or radioactive materials (includes anatomy and parasitology laboratories).
- ii) Splash goggles are required when a biohazard splash risk is present.
- iii) Appropriate footwear should be worn in all laboratories.
- iv) Protective eyewear may be required in areas with laser hazards.

b) **Small Animal Clinical Sciences**

- i) Required dress consists of a clean, white clinic jacket or lab coat over clean, neat clothes, such as a dress, slacks, skirt, and blouse or collared shirt. Clean, appropriate, closed-toe shoes are required (no sandals).
- ii) Individuals in the anesthesia and surgery services may wear surgical scrubs under a buttoned white lab coat. This attire cannot be worn outside the hospital area.
- iii) Surgical footwear will include shoe covers in the areas designated sterile.
- iv) On weekends and during emergency duty, appropriate professional dress is expected when there is contact with clients or visitors.
- v) Sweatpants and shirts, hats, casual T-shirts, shorts, and casual (faded, worn, or ripped) jeans are unacceptable attire in the Small Animal Hospital and departmental offices during regular clinic hours or when clients are being seen.

c) **Large Animal Clinical Sciences**

- i) Proper hospital attire is required during all official hospital activities, including seeing clients, treating patients, participating in rounds, etc. Weekend and emergency activities are included.
- ii) Dress appropriately for cold weather, when necessary. All outerwear should be neat and professional. Hoodie sweatshirts are prohibited.
- iii) A clean second set of primary wear, scrubs, and a lab coat should always be available. No soiled (blood, feces, etc.) clinic attire can be worn out of the large animal facility. Standard outerwear must be changed if it becomes contaminated.
- iv) Dangling or loose jewelry (e.g. necklaces, earrings, rings, etc.) while working around large animals is strongly discouraged.
- v) Only UT-branded logos should be visible on hospital attire—including hats. Logos from other veterinary clinics, entities, or companies are not permitted.
- vi) Fingernails must be clipped short (not extend beyond tip of finger).
- vii) Footwear: Closed-toe footwear must be protective, clean, and cleanable. Where disinfection footbaths are available, they should be used. Rubber boots are required for field service (especially in food animal practice), Farm Animal Medicine & Surgery, and Equine Medicine/Emergency and Critical Care (isolation footwear only and stored in main anteroom). On services requiring pullover rubber boots, pant legs must be tucked inside the tops of the boots.

viii) **In-Hospital**

- Equine and Farm Animal Medicine—Pants should be blue, black, or khaki colored, jean or khaki variety, with minimal embellishments, relaxed fit, and free of any stains or tears. They should fit in a way to not allow skin or undergarments to become exposed on the lower back or ankle regions. Shirts should cover the point of the shoulder and bust; solid-colored scrub tops, polo/collared shirt, or professional long-sleeved pullovers are acceptable. Coveralls should be worn for any procedures where contamination or soiling is likely.
- Equine Surgery—Scrub suits and lab coats should always be available. Surgical attire should be worn in the major surgical suites; surgical attire may not be worn in the clinic, diagnostic, or

treatment areas unless covered by a lab coat or other protective outerwear; scrub tops and/or pants that are worn in the clinical areas may not be worn in the surgical suites.

ix) Field Services

- Equine—Khaki pants or non-distressed jeans and solid-colored scrub top
- Farm Animal—Clean coveralls and rubber boots; undergarments should be professional and clean (be prepared with khaki pants or non-distressed jeans, a scrub top, and coveralls on emergency)

d) Necropsy

- i) Clean, short-sleeved coveralls and clean boots are to be worn on the necropsy floor. Boots must be easy to clean and disinfect. Boots with laces, clips, or stitching will not be allowed.
- ii) No underclothing should be exposed. Do not wear T-shirts, sweatshirts, or long-sleeved clothing that will project beyond the coveralls or be visible at the neck.
- iii) Coveralls should not be worn home or in other areas of the hospital. If coveralls are dirty or contaminated, it is best to place them in a plastic bag and take them to the laundry.
- iv) Individuals with long hair need to use some method to keep hair away from contaminated areas (surgical cap, braid or ponytail placed under the overalls).
- v) Remove bracelets and watches. Do not bring pens into the necropsy area.

Prepared by the Office of Educational Enhancement and approved by the Executive Committee, Fall 2006; revised 2014

## Course & Rotation Information

### Canvas/Course Materials & Lecture Captures

The university uses Canvas to store course materials such as lecture slides, videos, supplementary readings, assignment prompts, etc. Canvas is used to post student grades for assignments, exams, and quizzes, and it might be used by instructors to take attendance, receive assignment submissions, and/or for quizzes. Students are automatically added to Canvas courses via the UT registration process. All Canvas courses in which students have been enrolled will remain available to students until their Net ID is deactivated through the university 1 year after graduation. The UTCVM Canvas liaisons are Mr. Lars Kragness and Ms. Misty E. Anderson.

**Lecture captures** are made available through Panopto software and are linked by semester and course in [VetNet](#).

### Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Use

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in coursework is dependent upon the course coordinator and/or instructors and may range from open use with attribution to strict prohibition of use (and academic misconduct). Refer to course syllabi and assessment prompts for guidance on the use of AI technology in specific situations.

When using AI tools, it is important to be aware that the user data supplied might be utilized for training AI models or other purposes. Consequently, there is no guarantee that the information you provide will remain confidential. Instructors and students should exercise caution and avoid sharing any sensitive or private information when using these tools. Examples of such information include personally identifiable information, protected health information, financial data, intellectual property, and any other data that might be legally protected.

### Assignments and Grading

Final grades are assigned only by course coordinators. It is their responsibility to assign a grade that reflects student performance on all assigned assessments: exams, laboratory exercises, reports, etc. Attendance and participation may be included as part of the assessment process. In certain courses, a portion of the grading process will be subjective. Students will be advised of the method and basis for the determination of this portion of the grade by the course instructor(s). Each coordinator is encouraged to set a standard of performance for the course and to grade in comparison to that standard. Grading and assessment policies should be clearly stated in the course syllabus.

**Number and types of examinations.** Instructors must clearly state the number of examinations and the point or percentage distribution for each from the outset of the course. Instructors are free to choose the type of assessments that best fit their course and approach to teaching. Examination formats should also be disclosed to students, i.e. multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay.

**Dates and times of examinations.** Examination dates must be clearly communicated to students at the outset of the course and are typically coordinated through the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Communication regarding examinations will normally occur via e-mail, and students are responsible for checking their e-mail daily.

**Examination proctors.** All in-person examinations will be proctored by a member of the teaching team or by a staff member from the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Staff proctors should be requested as soon as possible within the semester, but no later than 5 business days before the exam.

**Time allowed for examinations.** Students normally will have two (2) hours to complete each examination. In general, exams are prepared to take 60 minutes, with an extra hour allotted so that everyone can complete the examination comfortably (exceptions may include practical examinations and quizzes). In accordance with Student Disability Services (SDS) policies, students who require additional examination time based on the impact of a disability should contact SDS each semester to coordinate reasonable academic accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to verify that the instructor is aware of accommodation needs. Full testing accommodations, including extra time and/or individual, quiet spaces for exams, are provided through the UT SDS testing center (199 Blount Hall [BLH], 1534 White Ave.). Certain accommodations may be available within the regular exam room of the UTCVM.

**In-person exam materials.** Students may bring into the exam room only the following exam materials unless the faculty member has issued the exam as open-book or open-note:

1. **Electronic Exams:** Laptop, stylus, soft earplugs (headphones or ear buds will be allowed as detailed by the instructor if the exam includes sound or according to SDS accommodations), and a writing instrument.
  - a. Students will receive one piece of scrap paper immediately before the exam and must write their name on and turn in all scrap paper upon leaving the exam room. Additional paper will be available if needed during the exam.
  - b. Privacy screens are **required** to be used during electronic exams.
  - c. Laptops must be closed and left in the exam room if a student leaves the room for any reason (including room evacuation).
  - d. Students must show confirmation that the exam has been submitted before leaving the exam room.
2. **Written Exams:** Earplugs and a writing instrument.
3. **Prohibited Items:**
  - a. Electronic devices, besides the one being used to take an exam in ExamSoft/Examplify, are prohibited (this includes, but is not limited to, multi-function calculators, noise canceling headphones [except as allowed by SDS accommodations], cell phones, smart watches, any device with a camera or that connects to the Internet, etc.).
  - b. Hats and hoods.

Backpacks with personal belongings must be left at the front of the room or other secure location agreed upon by students and the instructor or exam proctor. Students should pick them up when leaving the exam room. No additional electronic or personal items should be accessed until outside the exam room.

**Off-site exams.** Off-site/remote exams will be delivered via ExamSoft or Canvas. Faculty may elect to administer proctored/monitored exams using visual or other electronic proctoring. For all exams, students must comply with the proctoring protocol and the UT Honor Statement.

**Exam changes.** Examinations are scheduled carefully to provide optimal opportunity for everyone and should not be changed except in extraordinary circumstances. If an examination change is desired, the class representative (Academic Chair) should contact the instructor and course coordinator first and gain class agreement according to established class policy. Following this process, all exam changes must be forwarded to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for approval. Classes are encouraged to review schedules prior to the semester start and request any exam scheduling adjustments prior to the start of class. Following the final publication of exam schedules and start of class, change of exam dates will be minimal.

**ExamSoft technology.** Unless they have specific accommodations that require an alternate format, all students are required to take didactic mid-term and final exams via [ExamSoft assessment software](#) (school name code: utcvm).

**SimCapture.** In some courses, [SimCapture software](#) will be used to record and assess clinical scenarios.

**Make-up for missed exams.** Should a personal emergency or illness arise causing a missed exam, the student must notify the course coordinator and the Health and Safety Coordinator (865-221-0055) as soon as possible. The make-up examination should be scheduled with the course coordinator as soon as possible after submitting a [leave request](#). Final determination for make-up exams will be at the discretion of the Assistant Dean or Associate Dean. For more information, see [Exam Absences](#).

Other requests for a missed examination should be submitted to the course coordinator well in advance. The provision for a make-up examination will be determined by the principal instructor(s) and may be denied. If a make-up examination is provided, the final course grade will be determined by the principal instructor or instructors.

**Method for reporting in-progress grades.** Grades will normally be posted through Canvas. Students may be notified by e-mail when grade posts are ready for viewing. Instructors will make every attempt to have grades posted within a week of the examination. If not recorded in Canvas, faculty will report D and F grade student performance to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Students with D or F grades on any assessment are encouraged to meet with the course coordinator or instructor to plan an in-course or post-course remediation and improvement strategy.

**Method for reporting pre-clinical final grades.** Final grades will be available online according to UT policy. Final grades should follow the UTCVM Pre-Clinical Grading Scale.

### *UTCVM Pre-Clinical Grading Scale*

| Numeric Grade | Reported Grade | Quality Points |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| 90–100%       | A              | 4.0            |
| 88–89%        | B+             | 3.5            |
| 80–87%        | B              | 3.0            |
| 78–79%        | C+             | 2.5            |
| 70–77%        | C              | 2.0            |
| 60–69%        | D              | 1.0            |
| <60%          | F              | 0.0            |
| >69%          | S              | 0.0            |
| <70%          | NC             | 0.0            |

Numeric scores that fall between grade categories (e.g. 89.5%) may be mathematically rounded or stand without rounding. Faculty will designate their process for rounding and grading within the course syllabus. If the rounding process has not been stated, standard mathematical rounding will be applied to the final scores. Courses and their evaluation should be structured so that the median course grade is not less than 80%. If the median grade falls below 80%, the scale *may* be adjusted so that the class median will be 80% with other points in the scale adjusted accordingly. The scale will not be adjusted if the class median is above 80%.

Satisfactory (S)/no credit (NC) grading is used for those courses where the UT Graduate Catalog stipulates such a grade. Grade point averages are computed using only grades from letter-graded courses. Courses with S/NC grading are not meant to be less rigorous than courses with A–F grading and may have multiple methods to assess student learning and progress.

**Incomplete pre-clinical grades.** In most circumstances, a make-up examination must be administered and graded so that the final grade for the course can be reported within the period prescribed by the registrar for that term. However, instructors, at their discretion, have the prerogative of issuing a grade of Incomplete (“I”) or Satisfactory Incomplete (“SI”) when circumstances, such as illness, warrant such action.

A grade of incomplete must be removed satisfactorily from the student’s record by the end of the first 5 academic days of the following semester; otherwise, a grade of “F” or “NC” may be given. During extenuating circumstances, such as prolonged absences related to health or family emergencies, and at the discretion of the Associate Dean or Dean, satisfactory removal

of “I” and “SI” grades may be extended to completion within 1 calendar year of course end. All “I” and “SI” grades must be removed prior to graduation.

See [UTCVM Exam and Exam Security Guidelines](#) for complete information.

### *UTCVM 4<sup>th</sup>-Year Clinical Grading*

**Method of grading.** Clinical grades are expected to be recorded in the online evaluation platform within 14 days of the end of a rotation and are entered into the UTK online grading system at the end of each semester (summer, fall, spring). Clinical grade types include:

|    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| H  | Honors                  |
| S  | Satisfactory            |
| NC | No Credit               |
| SI | Satisfactory Incomplete |

**Grading standards.** Rotation objectives, expectations, and grading standards should be communicated in the rotation syllabus and orientation materials. In general, Honors grades are reserved for exceptional performances (e.g. the top 5–10%). No quality points are awarded for clinical rotations, so clinical grades do not affect GPA calculations.

In addition to the final clinical rotation grade, clinical performance is assessed using a competency assessment rubric and specific written comments. As in some preclinical courses, all or portions of the clinical grading process will be subjective. Students will be advised of the method and basis for the determination of this portion of the grade by the course instructor(s). In particular, students are expected to always perform in a professional manner. They will be evaluated on professionalism within the clinical grading rubric. An unsatisfactory mark for professionalism results in a grade of NC for the entire rotation, irrespective of the performance in other areas.

**Unsatisfactory clinical grades.** Students are required to satisfactorily complete each rotation. **For rotations that use numerical grading, grades at or above 70% are considered Satisfactory.** All students receiving an NC for a rotation will come before the UTCVM Academic Progress Committee to develop plans for improvement and remediation. With the approval of the Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, a student may repeat an S/NC rotation. Any student receiving an NC for more than two rotations will be suspended for the remainder of the academic year. The Academic Progress Committee and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will determine the criteria for readmission, if any. Any student receiving more than one “low performance flag” (unsatisfactory marks on the clinical assessment rubric) within a single rotation, or repeated across three or more rotations, will also undergo a performance review by the Academic Progress Committee.

### **Incomplete Clinical Grades**

“SI” (satisfactory incomplete) is a temporary grade indicating that the student has performed satisfactorily in the rotation, but due to unforeseen circumstances, such as absence or illness, has been unable to complete all the requirements. Temporary “SI” grades are also used at times when clinical rotations span across more than one semester. All incompletes **MUST** be removed within 1 year. If a grade change has not been received in the UT Registrar’s office at the end of the appropriate year, the “SI” will be changed to an “NC.” No student may graduate with an “SI” on their record. If a student receives an “SI,” it is their responsibility to contact the instructor and find out what work remains to complete the rotation.

### **Pre-Clinical Attendance & Participation**

Attendance and active participation are essential components of the pre-clinical curriculum. Students are expected to attend all lectures, laboratories, and case discussion sessions, as these experiences provide the greatest learning value when all students are engaged fully and in person.

Lecture recordings will be available for review as study aids or to support students with excused absences or approved accommodations. However, students are responsible for all material, assignments, and announcements from every scheduled curricular activity, whether or not they are present.

Instructors may establish mandatory attendance policies and include unannounced assessments or participation evaluations during lectures or laboratories, and these will be communicated in the course syllabus at the start of the semester. Instructors may record individual attendance or participation and may reduce course grades for absences without an acceptable reason.

**Attendance is required in all laboratories and discussions.** Students must attend their assigned sections and subsections. If an absence is necessary, a leave request must be submitted in advance of the scheduled session. As laboratory and discussions are difficult to make up, students may request to attend an alternate section; however, attending an alternate section must first be approved by the instructor in charge, and permission granted prior to the scheduled session. Most laboratories or discussions cannot be fully made up, and students should be aware that missed work may result in a grade reduction. When make-up options are available, arrangements must be made with the instructor.

## Clinical Attendance & Participation

Full participation in clinical assignments (Clinical Exposure and clinical rotations) is expected based on the schedule and work of the rotation. Scheduled hours and on-call hours may vary from day to day and week to week. Detailed information regarding the clinical phase of the program is found in the [clinical handbooks](#). **Of note for all clinical students – students are expected to be within 20 minutes of the Veterinary Medical Center during periods of on-call duty.**

### *Clinical Absences*

In case of illness, the student must notify the attending clinician of the service early on the day of absence. An emergency absence is to be explained upon return to duty if it is not possible to do so at the onset of the emergency. No student is to leave duty or rotation assignments without notifying the attending clinician. All absences, including short appointments outside the VMC, require completion of a [leave form](#). Internal appointments with VSWs or college personnel do not require submission of a leave form.

For compelling reasons, such as illness or other personal matters, the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, at their discretion, may permit a student to take a leave of absence, repeat, or reschedule a rotation. To the extent possible, clinical students are expected to schedule anticipated personal events during their designated vacation blocks.

Service requirements, patient care, and workload take precedence. Students should not make travel plans until they have confirmed approval from their rotation's supervising clinician and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Only one student may be absent from a given rotation at a time, and students are responsible for assuring all on-call and backup duty is covered. Students may be required to complete make-up days or additional assignments at the discretion of the clinician and will receive a grade of SI until completed. Failure to complete a required make-up or to arrange appropriate back-up coverage will lead to an Unsatisfactory mark in professionalism and No Credit grade for the rotation.

### *Clinical Rotation Block Changes*

With few exceptions, clinical rotations (including externships) start and end at 8 a.m. on Monday morning. If a rotation is scheduled to conclude on a holiday (Labor Day, Memorial Day, etc.), the rotation extends until Tuesday morning at 8 a.m. Note that students may have to request leave at the end of a VMC rotation or adjust the starting date of an externship to meet these expectations. Students are responsible for hospitalized patients or other assigned duties until that time. Students are NOT to be scheduled for overnight shifts or on-call responsibilities after midnight the day of a block change (i.e. Sunday night at midnight) so they can be fully prepared to attend the first day of their next rotation.

### *Externship Attendance*

Students are expected to attend and satisfactorily complete all externship responsibilities. Should a student miss a half or full externship day, the student may be issued an incomplete grade and be asked to return to the externship to complete the missed clinical education; supervising clinicians have the flexibility to issue a grade to these students should they feel the student has demonstrated acceptable clinical competence. In some instances, supplementary assignments may be recommended, again at the discretion of the supervising clinician. Students who miss multiple days during an externship may receive an incomplete grade, depending on externship length; the externship grade and university credit will not be issued until the student has satisfactorily completed the equivalent time missed. Students are to complete [leave forms](#) for any missed time on externships. The form should be submitted to Alicia Robino, with a screenshot of communication from the externship supervising veterinarian. Students should not schedule non-essential leave (i.e., vacation, CE, personal events) during externships. For guidance on handling absences due to personal emergencies that occur during an externship, see college [guidance on emergencies and rescheduling](#). Specific information about [externship expectations](#) is available online.



## Requesting Leave

The universal Leave Request Form is available online through UTCVM's VetNet, under "Students," Leave Request.

There are four categories of leave: Emergency, Mandated, Professional Development, and Discretionary.

- ALL leave requests are subject to make-up requirements, based on the course or rotation performance of the student and, when applicable, patient care responsibilities.
- ALL requests require approval by both the instructor or clinical supervisor and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.
- Requests for scheduled events are expected to be submitted at least 30 days in advance, as feasible.
- Excessive absences will result in review by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.
- Discretionary requests may not exceed 2 days per academic year (August–July).
  - Requests to be off duty on weekend days do not count toward this limit, subject to approval.

## Emergency Leave

Emergency leave applies to absences that are unavoidable and time-sensitive due to circumstances generally beyond the student's control. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Health-related concerns** (physical or mental health, including acute illness or medical appointments)
- **Home or vehicle emergency**
- **Funeral attendance or bereavement** – Related to the death of an immediate or close family member. Leave is generally limited to 2–3 days, depending on individual circumstances and academic and clinical responsibilities.

Students requesting emergency leave may be asked to provide appropriate documentation, when feasible. While the college will make reasonable efforts to accommodate these absences, approval of make-up work, alternative assignments, or clinical time is subject to course, laboratory, and clinical service requirements.

## Mandated Leave

Mandated leave applies to scheduled events requiring the student's presence by an authority. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Legal obligations** – Including court appearances, jury duty, subpoenaed matters
- **Military orders** – Including training or deployment
- **University-mandated obligations** – Including required meetings with administration or institutional investigations
- **Religious observance\*** – Including religious holidays or practices not reflected on the university academic calendar

Students requesting mandated leave may be asked to provide appropriate documentation of their required appointment. Students are expected to notify the instructor/clinician and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs in advance to allow for discussion of any necessary schedule adjustments or make-up requirements. While the college will make reasonable efforts to accommodate these absences, approval of make-up work, alternative assignments, or clinical time is subject to course, laboratory, and clinical service requirements.

\*Questions regarding religious observance can be directed to the [Office of Equity and Accessibility](#).

## Professional Development Leave

Professional development leave is intended for students in *good academic standing* who seek to participate in activities that contribute to their professional growth and veterinary education. These activities typically occur during the academic or clinical semester and are recognized as aligning with professional preparation. Students must request approval from the instructor *and* the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, who will confirm the relevance of the opportunity and that the student is in good academic standing. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Academic or professional activities directly related to veterinary education**
  - Attending SAVMA meetings as an officer, college ambassador, or other official UTCVM role, where the student will represent the college and/or student body during their attendance.
  - Participation in college-endorsed educational programs, such as CDC Educational Day, Research Days, Legislative Fly-In, Quiz Bowls, Board of Advisor meetings, Day on the Hill, or similar events.
  - Students receiving awards or scholarships at ceremonies they must attend or those presenting a scientific paper or abstract.



- **Continuing education activities** – Meetings approved in advance that have strong student-centered content, laboratories, and educational agendas that complement the educational goals of special interest areas
- **Interviews** – Includes internships, employment, and residency. Clinical students are provided 6 weeks of vacation and should make every effort to plan job searches and interviews during available vacation time. Because this is not always feasible, students may request 1–3 days (inclusive of weekend duty) for job interviews during the clinical phase of the program.
- **NAVLE** – Each student is granted **1 day** of leave (2 days for students with approved accommodations) to take the NAVLE. Students must receive approval by submitting a leave request to the rotation coordinator in advance of confirming their testing date and location. Only one student may be absent from a rotation at a time unless explicitly approved by the rotation coordinator or supervising clinician.

Requests for professional development leave should be submitted in advance whenever possible. Approval to miss required lectures, laboratories, or clinical responsibilities, with or without academic penalty or required make-up, is at the discretion of the course instructor, rotation coordinator, or supervising clinician, and final approval by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

Approval of professional development leave does not exempt the student from responsibility for meeting all academic or clinical requirements. Instructors and clinical supervisors are not required to provide additional instructional time, alternative materials, or extensions beyond what is outlined in the course or rotation. Any accommodation or make-up arrangements are at the discretion of the instructor or supervising clinician.

### *Discretionary Leave*

Discretionary leave refers to absences requested for activities that are primarily personal in nature and are considered to have minimal direct relevance to the veterinary educational experience. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Personal travel
- Family events
- Extracurricular activities not directly related to the veterinary curriculum

Students may not exceed **2 discretionary leave days per academic year** (subject to approval; August through July), not including requests to be off duty on weekend shifts. Approved days remain subject to make-up requirements and/or credit deduction per the relevant clinician/instructor.

Approval of discretionary leave is not guaranteed. Permission to miss clinic responsibilities, required lectures, or laboratories (and whether academic penalties or make-up requirements apply) is at the discretion of the instructor/clinician and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs, based on the nature of the request and its impact on educational and patient care responsibilities.

### *Exam Absences*

While mandated and emergency leave requests are generally approved during midterm and final exams, approval for professional development and discretionary leave during exams is at the discretion of the instructor and should be rare. Students are expected to avoid personal event plans during these examination periods to the extent possible. Early or make-up exams must be arranged with the relevant instructor and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs upon final approval of the request by the Assistant or Associate Dean.

Students must alert instructors to emergency leave and mandated leave as early as possible and complete a leave request for each missed exam. Make-up solutions will be discussed with the instructor and the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

Request of ANY category in excess, especially during examination periods, will be subject to review by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

### *Pregnancy-Related Absences*

Students are encouraged to plan routine appointments around their course and clinical schedules whenever feasible. However, absences related to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions will be excused when deemed medically necessary, consistent with University Title IX, Pregnancy Accommodations Policy.\*

Students with anticipated due dates that overlap with midterm or final examination periods are encouraged to communicate with the Health & Safety Coordinator to develop an individualized and proactive examination plan. Such plans will ensure appropriate accommodation, including the ability to make up missed examinations or complete coursework through alternative arrangements, as needed.

Clinical rotation scheduling and requirements related to a projected due date can be coordinated with the Clinical Placement Coordinator to develop an individualized plan for continuation and completion of clinical requirements, including post-partum considerations and medically necessary leave.

\*Questions can be directed to the [Title IX office](#).

## Evaluation of Courses and Instruction

All students are expected to provide constructive evaluations for courses and instructors. Student evaluation of courses and instruction provides basic information that is used for three different functions:

- First, and foremost, feedback to the instructors assists them to better meet student needs. Just as exams provide necessary feedback in determining student progress and the success of instruction, student feedback assists in tailoring the course and instruction.
- Secondly, the faculty uses evaluations to monitor the curriculum. Students have a unique perspective in that they proceed through the whole professional curriculum. This input about content and coverage is often the only input on a course, independent of the instructors. Thus, it is an important and valuable form of feedback. Student input is often the stimulus for further review of a course or semester by the UTCVM Curriculum Committee.
- The third use of the evaluations is in consideration of faculty promotion, tenure, and salary decisions. Faculty evaluation is primarily the responsibility of the department head and peer review of teaching committees, but student participation in an evaluation has considerable impact. Evaluations that represent the opinions of a mature class of students can be very influential. Failure of students to take their part in the process seriously reduces the impact of these evaluations on advancement considerations.

**Evaluation of Didactic Teaching.** Each instructor involved in didactic teaching is evaluated by the students in the course if their involvement includes at least 4 contact hours. Evaluations are requested near the end of the course.

The following points are addressed by the evaluation, and individual instructor scores and mean scores for all faculty teaching in that semester are made available after the grade entry deadline each semester. Possible student responses to each statement range from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

1. This instructor seems concerned with facilitating my learning.
2. Lectures/labs, etc. conducted by this instructor (regardless of course) were organized and had clear objectives.
3. This instructor was willing to discuss course material with me outside of class time.
4. This instructor encouraged interaction and answered student questions during class meetings.
5. Any teaching aids (handouts, visual materials, demonstrations, illustrations) used by this instructor were helpful and relevant to me in learning the subject matter.
6. Major concepts were emphasized during classroom presentations.
7. I was clearly informed by this instructor on how I would be evaluated (tested/graded).
8. The instructor covered material in this course at a pace that was reasonable for me.
9. Directions for course assignments by this instructor were clear and specific.
10. My overall opinion of this individual's teaching skills is: (range of poor to excellent)

**Evaluation of Clinical Teaching.** For each rotation, students are expected to evaluate the clinical instructor(s) with whom there was major clinical involvement. The evaluation questions are listed below. The mean scores for those teaching in the clinical year are made available after the grade entry deadline each semester, and possible student responses to each statement range from strongly disagree to strongly agree.

1. I was clearly informed by this instructor on how I would be graded.
2. The instructor actively involved me in rotation activities and case management.
3. The instructor challenged me to solve problems and to explain my decisions.
4. The instructor effectively explained diagnostic and treatment plan options.

5. The instructor was professional and respectful with patients, students, staff, clients and others.
6. The instructor provided timely feedback to me regarding my performance.
7. The instructor provided regular case or topic rounds, or equivalent instructional interactions during this rotation.
8. Overall, this instructor is an effective clinical teacher.

Again, students are asked to comment on each clinical instructor's qualities or teaching skills that contributed to or hindered the success of the student in the clinics. In addition, comments are requested to determine the students' overall opinions regarding their clinical experience.

Students are encouraged to take this responsibility of evaluation seriously and to consistently give it their best effort. Only with complete participation can the evaluations have the impact necessary to bring about improvements. Comments should be constructive, actionable, and professional. Personal attacks are violations of the professionalism code.

## Academic Honesty, Professionalism, and Student Conduct

### Academic Honesty and Reporting

Each student is responsible for their own personal integrity in academic life. Although there is no affirmative duty to report the academic dishonesty of another, each student, given the dictate of their own conscience, may choose to report any violation of the Honor Statement or a breach in professionalism by using an [online reporting form](#).

**The following Honor Statement must be signed by each student upon entry to veterinary school and upon entering the clinical phase of the program.**

"An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity."

### *Violations of Academic Honesty*

Students are prohibited from engaging in the following types of misconduct: cheating, plagiarism, reuse of assignments or any other act of academic dishonesty, including, without limitation, an act in violation of the Honor Statement. Violations of academic honesty are a serious breach in academic integrity and can result in dismissal from the program with no option for re-entry. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. Furnishing false information to the university is also considered a breach of academic conduct.

While collaboration between students in problem-based learning exercises and many other group activities is encouraged and expected, the written work produced by students (lab reports, notes, papers, problem lists, reflective journals, etc.) is each individual student's work. These written materials should not be shared with students in earlier years of the professional curriculum. Sharing of written information with students in the earlier years of the curriculum is considered academic cheating or plagiarism and is a breach of the university's honor code.

In the event of an allegation of academic dishonesty, an instructor and/or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will notify the student of the allegation and describe information supporting the allegation. The student will have the opportunity to respond in a meeting or by written letter. If academic dishonesty has been found to occur, the instructor may impose an academic penalty, such as a failing or reduced grade on an examination or in a course, or an assignment to repeat the work. The case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for further investigation, due process, and additional sanctions, if indicated.

### *Violations of Professionalism*

Although the primary guidance for student conduct and prohibited conduct is found in the UTK [Student Code of Conduct](#), the unique features of health professional education and its clinical training environment create additional conduct expectations for veterinary students. This handbook includes broad descriptions of [professionalism](#); students acknowledge these

expectations at admission to the program and at transition to the clinical phase. However, assessment and interpretation of professional behavior can be subjective and interpreted differently by a variety of individuals.

The list below includes representative examples of unprofessional behavior that would be grounds for academic or disciplinary action. The list has been developed to provide some guidance for students, supervising clinicians, and the Academic Progress Committee but is by no means inclusive of all actions or behaviors considered unprofessional in the veterinary curriculum. As outlined in this handbook, it is the responsibility of the Academic Progress Committee to evaluate each potential infraction and determine the most appropriate outcome.

Student peers are able to anonymously submit concerns about professional deficiencies or incidents of concerning behavior using the same [form](#) for reporting concerns about academic honesty.

#### **Excellence**

- Failure to complete duties as assigned or expected.
- Failure to contribute to learning and service activities.
- Repeated failure to prepare and take initiative to learn for optimal performance.

#### **Compassion**

- Neglecting patient care responsibilities or failing to follow proper protocols for treatment and handling.
- Mishandling animals, carcasses, or cadavers in a way that is disrespectful or causes unnecessary stress or harm.
- Comments or actions that denigrate others or may be considered discriminatory.

#### **Moral and Ethical Standards**

- Dishonesty in communications with faculty, staff, clients, or peers.
- Plagiarism or submitting work that is not your own; failing to use proper citation or attribution for artificial intelligence-generated information.
- Assisting others in committing academic dishonesty.
- Falsifying academic records, patient health records, or skills logs.
- Practicing veterinary medicine without appropriate supervision (e.g., performing procedures beyond the scope of training).
- Failure to report medical errors or adverse events involving patients.
- Misrepresentation of qualifications or credentials (e.g., claiming skills you do not possess).
- Accepting gifts or bribes from clients that could influence professional judgment.
- Engaging in conflicts of interest that compromise patient care.

#### **Pride, Dignity, and Altruism**

- Failure to adhere to dress code policies in clinical environments, educational simulations, or other professional settings.
- Damage or disruption to clinical areas, equipment, etc., including damages due to neglect of maintenance, cleanliness, or other negligent behavior.
- Attending class, clinical rotations, or externships under the influence of illicit drugs or alcohol.
- Possession of illegal substances on university property or during university-sponsored activities.

#### **Respect, Courtesy, and Collegiality**

- Disrespecting instructional time by arriving late or preparing to leave before class and disrupting the presentation.
- Failing to privately and constructively express concerns.
- Disrespectful or inappropriate communication with or about faculty, staff, peers, clients, or patients (e.g., rude or profane language, dismissive tone).
- Harassment, bullying, or intimidation of others in any form (verbal, physical, or digital).
- Disruptive behavior that interferes with the learning environment for others.
- Sharing on social media any inappropriate content that reflects poorly on the veterinary profession or the institution.
- Using personal devices during class, laboratories, or clinical hours for non-educational purposes without permission or in a disruptive or dismissive manner.

#### **Confidentiality**

- Failure to maintain confidentiality of client or patient information, including sharing images without permission or commenting about patients or clients outside the UTCVM (including on social media).

**Responsibility, Accountability, and Trustworthiness**

- Repeated unexcused absences from classes, labs, clinical rotations, or mandatory meetings.
- Chronic tardiness that disrupts learning environments or patient care.
- Failure to work effectively with medical team members or classmates.
- Leaving or failing to appear for clinical duties without proper notification or approval.

**Respect for Learning**

- Ignoring safety protocols in labs and clinics (e.g., improper use of personal protective equipment, improper food or drink in laboratories and clinics).
- Refusing to follow instructions from faculty or supervisors during educational activities.
- Failure to take responsibility for mistakes and learn from feedback.

For complete information and a complete list of conduct violations, visit [Hilltopics](#) and [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#).

***Grievances and Appeals***

Students with grievances (grades, instructor decisions, professionalism sanctions, etc.) should first seek resolution at the instructor and college levels. At a minimum, the student must first confer with the appropriate faculty member, advisor, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. After proceeding through these levels of conversation, further appeals related to student grievances may be made to the Dean of the UTCVM. Such appeals should be made in writing within 7 days of written notice transmittal of the Associate Dean's decision.

For complete information and full appeal procedures regarding allegations of misconduct or academic dishonesty, see the [Hilltopics Student Handbook](#) and [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#). Misconduct appeals should be directed to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, 102 Andy Holt Tower.

***Campus Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policies***—Students with grievances related to campus equal opportunity or non-discrimination policies (including race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law) should file a formal complaint using the university's [All-in-One reporting form](#).

Any UT Knoxville graduate or professional student who feels that he or she may have a grievance against the university shall have the right to appeal a decision of the Dean of the Graduate School to the Provost, and then the UT Knoxville Chancellor.

## Academic Standards

Academic evaluation of students is not based solely upon examination grades but is also a matter of continuing objective and subjective evaluation of student academic performance and/or progress. Satisfactory clinical performance and adherence to standards of professional conduct are required of each student in the UTCVM, regardless of cumulative grade point average. These factors are considered in the evaluation of each student and will be critical in determining the student's continuation in the professional curriculum.

***Subjective Grading***

In certain courses, a portion of the grading process will be subjective. Students will be advised of the method and basis for the determination of this portion of the grade by the course instructor(s). Clinical rotations are graded by [performance rubrics](#). Evaluation of skills performance is by observation of competency within medical standards of care. A skills/case log is used to record successfully performed skills. A minimum of 200 total and 110 core skills are required for graduation.

***Class Rank***

Class ranks are calculated at the end of each semester and include all courses that are graded A through F and intended to be used as course credit toward graduation. For any course that has been repeated, only the last or highest grade will be used to calculate class rank. Students desiring to know their class ranks should contact the administrative assistant to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

## Academic Progress

Satisfactory completion of the professional curriculum requires a cumulative grade point average of 2.2 or greater in core courses and completion of the minimum required skills. Both requirements must be completed in order to receive the DVM degree.

**Expectations for Progress.** Students are considered in “good academic standing” if both the most recent semester and cumulative DVM program GPAs are 2.2 or above for core courses. Similarly, students are normally advanced in the curriculum if the most recent semester and cumulative GPA are 2.2 or above for core courses and no final grades fall below C. In this professional program, however, mastery of content and skills is paramount to build a foundational and growing body of knowledge to achieve the goals of the program and to succeed in clinical endeavors and on licensing examinations, so students should strive for an academic performance well above the minimum.

**Professionalism.** Academic evaluation of students is not based solely upon examination grades but is also a matter of continuing, objective and subjective evaluation of student professional conduct. Adherence to standards of professional conduct is required of each student in the UTCVM, regardless of cumulative GPA. These factors are considered in the evaluation of each student and will be critical in determining the student’s continuation in the professional curriculum. Expectations for professionalism are described elsewhere in this handbook.

To ensure patient safety and professional standards, any student who reports for clinical duties while impaired will be immediately relieved of clinical responsibilities. Such students will be required to make up missed clinical time and must meet with the Academic Progress Committee to determine any additional academic or professional consequences. For complete information and a complete list of conduct violations, see the [Hilltopics Student Handbook](#) and [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#).

**Academic Progress Reviews.** The Academic Progress Committee reviews student standing if any one or more of the following occurs.

1. A student’s cumulative grade point average for core courses, or grade point average for core courses in any academic semester, falls below a 2.20.
2. A student fails a course or receives a grade of “D” in a course.
3. A student demonstrates unsatisfactory clinical performance, as evidenced by an NC grade, more than one “low performance flag” (unsatisfactory marks within the clinical competency rubric) within a single rotation or low performance flags repeated across three (3) or more rotations.
4. A student fails to adhere to the standards of professional conduct.

The UTCVM Academic Progress Committee, composed of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the committee chair, and at least one faculty member each from the three departments in the college, will interview and evaluate each student whose performance and/or progress is below the minimum acceptable level. Normally, the meeting will occur within 3 weeks of the last final examination of the semester (excluding holidays). The student will be asked to prepare a written narrative response prior to the meeting, including reflection on their progress and challenges, along with plans for improvement. The responsible instructor or instructors will be contacted by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and all pertinent information—including the student’s academic history, all examination grades for the semester (pre-clinical students), and all prior evaluations (clinical students)—will be presented to and evaluated by the committee.

After reviewing this information, the committee will determine appropriate action based on majority vote and academic guidelines. The committee chair will communicate the committee’s decision in writing to the student with copies to the Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Such action may include remediation and re-examination; requirement that a course(s), term(s), or year(s) be repeated; suspension; dismissal with ability to reapply; permanent dismissal; or other appropriate measure(s).

Reviews by the committee are holistic in nature and highly individualized. Normally, students with a D or F grade in a core course and a low semester or cumulative GPA, and students accumulating more than two D grades in the pre-clinical curriculum, will be advised to repeat semester content. In other circumstances of D grades, remediation and retesting, or advancement without retesting, may be recommended. Committee recommendations of an academic plan, actions, or resource acquisition to promote academic success will be provided to the student in writing, usually within 10 calendar days of the meeting. Such actions will be defined as mandatory or as recommendations. It is the student’s responsibility to complete or seek assistance in meeting the ascribed recommendations or actions outlined by the Academic Progress Committee. Failure to meet academic standards or the written requirements outlined by the Academic Progress Committee may result in academic probation, suspension, or dismissal from the UTCVM professional program.

### Academic Probation

Academic probation is an indicator of academic standing that designates performance short of college expectations. Continued deficiencies during a probationary semester are likely to result in suspension or dismissal. Under academic probation, students must stay in regular contact with their advisor and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, relinquish officer positions in class leadership and student organizations, and review commitments to other extracurricular activities with the Associate Dean. Existing and new scholarships (not financial aid) also may be impacted.

Students placed on academic probation must maintain satisfactory academic performance in the subsequent semester of study. Students on academic probation who are repeating semester course content will be expected to achieve a semester GPA of 2.20 in core courses with no grades below a C. Students will remain on Academic Probation at any time their cumulative GPA in core courses is less than 2.20 or as determined by the Academic Progress Committee. Probationary status for more than two semesters of the program may result in suspension or dismissal.

### Professional Probation

Professional probation is an indicator of one or more documented incidents where student behavior has fallen short of the college or university expectations for professional conduct. Review of these incidents is also under the purview of the Academic Progress Committee and will be conducted as described for academic reviews above. The committee may recommend additional written reflections, targeted training or remediation, suspension, or dismissal. Violations may be referred to the [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#). Other penalties may be assigned by the university, as described in the [Hilltopics Student Handbook](#).

### Academic Suspension (Leave of Absence)

Suspension is a temporary pause or deceleration of a student's progress. Suspension may be for a defined period (e.g. one semester or one calendar year) or an indefinite period (until key readmission criteria have been met). The suspended student is withdrawn from the UTCVM for the period outlined by the Academic Progress Committee.

Readmission requires the student to demonstrate readiness for successful completion of the professional program and completion of actionable plans outlined by the committee. Students must submit a letter of request for readmission. The letter should outline compliance with Academic Progress Committee recommendations or describe actions taken to achieve academic success. The letter should be received by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by April 15 prior to an expected fall semester return or 90 days prior to an expected spring semester return. Upon approval by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and/or Academic Progress Committee, a readmission form will be provided by the college registrar and must be completed for readmission to proceed.

### Academic Dismissal

Academic dismissal is the result of a pattern of receiving grades that are below the university's standards for good academic standing. Students who have been academically dismissed are not eligible to enroll in UTCVM classes, either full-time or part-time, are not permitted to live in university housing, and no longer have privileges provided through the UT VolCard.

The decision of dismissal means that the student is withdrawn from the UTCVM and may not apply for readmission with advanced standing. Dismissed students will be given one of two options on readmission based on their academic and professional performance. The options for post-dismissal reapplication will be outlined in the dismissal letter as follows: 1) no option for readmission, or 2) readmission by competitive process through the VMCAS application service.

Eligibility for a change of status to register in another area of study within the university will be evaluated by the Dean of the Graduate School at the request of the student.

### Academic Appeals

In general, students with academic grievances should first seek resolution at the instructor and course coordinator level, communicating clearly and professionally their reasons for concern about examination, course, or other assessment results. Additional internal levels of appeal are at the college level. At a minimum, the student must confer with the appropriate faculty member, advisor, and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs prior to college or university appeal. If resolution at this stage is unsatisfactory, further appeal may be made to the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Graduate Council Appeals Committee through the Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, and ultimately to the Dean of the Graduate School (see sections below).

**Appeals of Academic Progress Decisions:** The decision of the Academic Progress Committee (APC) may be appealed in writing within seven (7) business days of written notice of the decision. The initial appeal may be made to the APC if the student can show new information that is material to the original decision. Without new information related to an individual



case or academic records, APC decisions may be appealed to the UTCVM Dean only based on interpretation of and adherence to college or university policies and procedures or evidence of bias in the committee's evaluation or recommendation. Appeals may be made in writing to the Dean of the UTCVM, within 7 business days of the written notice transmittal by the APC. Such appeals include issues of academic policy, procedures, or grading (e.g. academic probation, suspension, or dismissal). Students may further appeal decisions by the Dean with the [Graduate Council Appeals Committee](#) within 10 business days of the UTCVM Dean's decision.

**University Appeals:** The [Graduate Council Appeal Procedure](#) can be obtained at the university Graduate School. Appeals may involve the interpretation of and adherence to university, college, and department policies and procedures as they apply to graduate education and the issuance of grades based on specific allowable reasons stipulated in the [Graduate Council Appeal Procedure](#). Initial appeals of academic penalties must be placed within ten (10) business days after the issuance of the academic penalty. Further appeals of policies or procedures must be placed within ten (10) business days after the final UTCVM decision.

If a student is not satisfied with the decision of the Graduate School Dean, they may appeal that decision to the Provost and then the UT Knoxville Chancellor.

## Academic Withdrawal

Matriculated students may withdraw from the professional curriculum before the term has ended for academic, health, or personal reasons. Students should consult with the Assistant Dean for Students or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to aid in the withdrawal process. Students who withdraw and are in good academic standing may be readmitted at the discretion of the Associate Dean. The process for withdrawal is defined by UTK and follows [UTK deadlines](#). Students should consult [Hilltopics](#) and the [Graduate Catalog](#), which describe withdrawal procedures, academic dismissal and suspension, and appeals. Students who withdraw from the professional program are asked to declare their withdrawal in writing to the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Instructions and/or reenrollment terms will be provided in writing upon receipt of the letter.

Failure to attend classes for the remainder of a term, without filing for withdrawal, results in automatic F or NC grades in each affected course.

**Tuition and Fee Refunds**—Because the veterinary admissions process is competitive and for a restricted number of seats, **tuition and mandatory fees paid to reserve registration may not be refunded**, and refunds may depend on the college's ability to fill the vacated seat. Full or partial refunds are issued by the UTK Bursar's Office. **Tuition and fees generally will NOT be refunded when withdrawal or deferral is requested after the first day of classes for the relevant semester of withdrawal.** Students have the right to submit an appeal for an exception to the refund policy as described here if extenuating circumstance(s) exist. Appeals may be made to the Associate Dean following the general procedures and for the approved reasons outlined for UTK students by the [Bursar](#). Decisions made by the Associate Dean can be appealed to the Dean of the college. Any pending tuition or fees owed to the university must be paid before re-enrollment will be allowed.

Additionally, **all or a portion of financial aid may require repayment**, depending on the withdrawal date, and financial aid must be repaid at once if withdrawn during the federal refund period. If a student withdraws from the university two or more times while receiving financial aid, they are no longer eligible to receive it.

## Advanced Placement and Transfer of Students to UTCVM

Acceptance into the UTCVM is a highly competitive process. The UTCVM has made a 4-year commitment to those students who have been offered admittance, and a mutual commitment by the student is similarly expected. Because our professional curriculum is developed as sequentially-dependent content, the ability to accept advanced placement students is limited. As such, the transfer or advanced placement of qualified veterinary student applicants from (or to) AVMA-accredited institutions will be considered on a very limited basis. When exceptional factors support consideration of a transfer or advanced placement, the following applies:

- Applicants to the UTCVM may be considered for entry to begin in semester 2 or semester 3 of the professional program only. Applications must be from individuals who are attending AVMA-accredited U.S. or foreign veterinary medical colleges and who have equivalent curricular and veterinary medical backgrounds. Priority will be given to applicants who are residents of Tennessee.
- Applicants will initially be evaluated by the Admissions Committee. Transcripts of undergraduate and professional education will be reviewed, as well as supporting letters from the dean and associate dean from the primary (transferring) institution. Additional evaluation to aid placement may consist of examinations



(written, oral, practical, or any combination thereof). The Admissions Committee will provide a recommendation to the Dean of the UTCVM.

- The Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will determine course selection and approve any and all transfer credit.

## Transfer from the UTCVM

Students wishing to transfer from the UTCVM to another institution should discuss their need with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. The college does not generally support transfers except for extraordinary need, as these positions are not easily replaced and have denied educational access to another qualified candidate. Should the need be approved, the Dean and Associate Dean will assist the student in contacting the target institution and providing supporting letters of good standing and any additional information needed by the transferring institution.

Should the petition to transfer not be approved, the student retains their right to withdraw from the UTCVM. They may continue to seek transfer to other veterinary medical institutions, and all transcripts will be sent via the [UTK Registrar's Office](#). They will not, however, receive a letter of support from the UTCVM Office of the Dean.

# Student Services

## Financial Support

### *HOPE Scholarship*

For Tennessee residents who are eligible and complete the FAFSA, the [HOPE Scholarship](#) provides up to \$2,850 per full-time enrollment semester. Please check eligibility requirements.

### *Loans*

Approximately 85% of UTCVM students received some form of federal financial aid during the 2025–2026 academic year.

The [UT Financial Aid Office](#) offers information on federal and private student loans. In addition, the UTCVM provides on-site financial aid review and oversight specific to veterinary professional students through the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Students applying for financial aid must complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) each academic year (an academic year is defined as consecutive fall, spring, and summer) before any financial aid award can be confirmed. The primary source of financial aid for veterinary students is Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans. Under new loan regulations, some students may be eligible to receive Direct PLUS loans (see below).

**Direct Unsubsidized Loans** are available to students (with or without demonstrated financial need) who have completed the FAFSA. While these loans are not need-based, they are budget-based, and students will not be eligible to borrow more than their budget. The current fixed interest rate for the Direct Unsubsidized Loan is 8.07%, and these loans begin accruing interest immediately. The interest on these loans may be paid while enrolled in school or may be added to the loan principal when it goes into repayment (6 months after graduation).

**Direct PLUS Loans** are available to students (with or without demonstrated financial need) who have completed the FAFSA. These loans are designed to assist students to reach their budget if they have not done so with scholarships or unsubsidized loans. These loans carry a credit base, and students will need to apply for them directly through the U.S. Department of Education. These loans have a current fixed interest rate of 9.07%. The Grad PLUS loan program is no longer available as of July 1, 2026. However, borrowers who already had received a Direct Loan of any kind for their current degree program as of that date (including a Direct Unsubsidized Loan) may continue to borrow Grad PLUS until July 1, 2029, if needed.

Tuition rates are set by the UT Board of Trustees each June. Students should plan for a 3–5% tuition or fee increase each year. Excess funds for the fall 2026 semester for students who have set up direct deposit will be sent to their banking institutions in late August. Students should allow 3–5 business days for the funds to appear in their accounts. Students are strongly encouraged to set up direct deposit with an [e-Refund account](#). For students not choosing direct deposit, checks will be mailed after the direct deposits have been processed. Loan fees (1.057% for Unsubsidized and 4.228% for Direct PLUS) will be subtracted from financial aid funds; fees are taken out of the loans first.

Should you have questions pertaining to these loans, contact UTK's [One Stop](#) Student Services.

### *UTCVM Scholarships*

Most UTCVM scholarships are awarded early in fall semester and thereafter distributed between fall and spring semesters. Although many UTCVM scholarships are awarded to students in the clinical year, approximately 40–50% of students in the 2025-2026 academic year received a scholarship award. Scholarship awards are based on academic excellence, financial need, and interest area. All students will be asked to complete a scholarship profile each spring in order to best identify scholarship opportunities. Federal regulations require the UTCVM to notify the Financial Aid Office of scholarships. Scholarships are calculated into total financial aid awards for the year and can affect the amount of other funding you may receive.

### *Student Emergency Aid Fund (SEAF)*

The UTCVM SEAF fund is established through contributions provided for this specific purpose and will apply only to UTCVM students who experience emergency situations for which funds are not otherwise immediately available.

**Limits:** A maximum of \$500.00 may be borrowed from the fund.

**Reimbursement:** Students are expected to repay the amount borrowed as soon as they are able, but no later than prior to graduation or departure from the UTCVM. Specific arrangements to repay the loan following graduation must be approved by the Associate Dean and Financial Aid Office in advance.

**Loan Interest:** No interest will be charged. However, to perpetuate the program and keep the SEAF solvent, it is expected that loan beneficiaries will wish to contribute to the fund in excess of the amount borrowed.

**Procedure:** Any student in severe financial need should present their request to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who is empowered to render a decision and have issued immediately a draft not to exceed \$500.00.

**Financial Aid:** Federal regulations require the UTCVM to notify the Financial Aid Office of emergency loans. Emergency loans are calculated into total financial aid awards for the year and can affect the amount of funding you may receive.

### *Food Pantries*

Multiple locations across campus provide food assistance for students. No IDs, financial information, or qualifying information are required.

- Room B301 in the Veterinary Medicine Building (3<sup>rd</sup>-floor breakroom near the elevator and A335)
- [Pocket Pantry](#) inside Pendergrass Library near the help desk
- [Big Orange Pantry](#) in the Student Union Suite 376C
- [Basic Needs Vending Machine](#) located on the first floor of TRECs
- [The Free Store](#) at 915 22<sup>nd</sup> Street
- [Smokey's Pantry](#) inside Tyson House on 824 Melrose Place.

### *Tennessee 211*

[Tennessee 211](#) is a community service help line that can connect you with health and human services programs, including food pantries and other food resources. The program is reachable by dialing 211 or texting 898-211 with your zip code.

### **Registration**

Registration is required of all students when using university facilities. Registration allows use of services such as library checkout, laboratories, and recreation facilities not open to the public.

Information concerning registration is available through Self-Service Banner via [My UTK](#) each term. Registration is accomplished for all veterinary students through the Office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Any veterinary student, **including those who are dual enrolled in graduate programs (i.e. DVM/MPH, DVM/MS or DVM/PHD programs)** should consult with the UTCVM Registrar to assure proper assignment of courses and course credits toward the correct degree.

### *Payment of Registration Fees*

During priority registration, a statement is e-mailed to the registrant. Payment is due by the deadline noted on the bill. Additional information may be obtained from the [Office of the University Registrar](#) at 865-974-2101 and at the [Bursar's Office](#) at 865-974-4495.

Failure to pay registration fees before the deadline, as noted each semester on the billing statement, will result in cancellation of the schedule. Retroactive registration is not allowed.

More information on tuition costs can be found at [One Stop Student Services](#).

Tuition is based on initial **residency** classification as either in-state or out-of-state. Residency guidelines are determined by state law and are restrictive. Complete information can be gained from the [Registrar's Office](#). In summary, the classification adheres to the following non-residency guidelines:

- if you depend on out-of-state parents/guardians for support
- if out-of-state parents/guardians claim you as a dependent on a tax return
- if you are attending school in Tennessee only for the purpose of schooling
- if you entered UT as an out-of-state, full-time student

Where status is unclear, students should discuss their status with Holley Springfield. An [appeal process](#) exists in controversial cases. As determined by the UTK [Veterans Success Center](#), active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. Armed Forces veterans may be eligible for in-state tuition.

More information is available through the UTCVM Residency Classifier (Hannah Palko): College of Veterinary Medicine, 2407 River Dr., Room A104C, Knoxville, TN 37996-4500; E-mail: [cvmadm@utk.edu](mailto:cvmadm@utk.edu).

## Accommodations for Disabilities

[Student Disability Services](#) (865-974-6087) provides appropriate accommodations and assists all students who anticipate or experience an educational barrier due to a hearing, vision, or neurological disability; a learning or attention-related disability; a chronic health condition; and/or a physical or mental health condition. Student Disability Services (SDS) is the designated office that obtains and files disability-related documents, certifies eligibility for services, determines reasonable accommodations, and develops plans for the provision of such accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to request in advance any individual assistance and to verify that the instructor is aware of accommodation needs. Accommodations may be course- or rotation-specific and will be provided as described by SDS. Full testing accommodations are provided through the SDS testing center (1534 White Avenue, Blount Hall First Floor). Certain accommodations may be available within the regular exam room of the UTCVM. Students should discuss with their instructor which accommodations might be available (e.g., text-to-speech software, noise-canceling headphones, etc.). If the regular exam room does not meet specific needs, students should take the exam at SDS and should sign up for an exam time online through the [Student Portal](#) at least 7 days in advance of the exam (2 weeks before study day for finals). Students who require additional time, a written exam, or individual, quiet space must take their exams at the SDS testing center.

Students with short-term disability needs (such as a broken arm) may seek the advice of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and/or the guidance of SDS for appropriate documentation and approval of temporary accommodations.

Dr. Misty Bailey ([mmcginn2@utk.edu](mailto:mmcginn2@utk.edu) or 865-974-7446) serves as the college liaison with SDS and can provide confidential assistance and/or guidance.

## VOLVet Connect Program

Each incoming veterinary student is assigned to a participating UTCVM community member (a CVM Guide) who helps them navigate their first year and feel part of the college community. The role of a CVM Guide is to serve as a welcoming resource for assigned students by offering perspective, encouragement, and guidance as they adjust to the academic and social environment of veterinary school. Listening and empathy play key roles in helping students feel supported and connected.

The Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Veterinary Social Work program are also available to all veterinary students for counseling on academic, financial, or personal problems. When appropriate, referral can be made to other on-campus or off-campus resources, such as marriage counselors, mental health clinics, etc.

# Student Life

## Study Spaces

Study spaces are available throughout the common areas of the Veterinary Medicine Building and the Agricultural and Natural Resources Building. Specific spaces may be reserved with [25Live](#). Within University Libraries, space reservations may be made at [Pendergrass Library](#) and [Hodges Library](#), using the LibCal system.

## Career Counseling

Students may receive career counseling at four different levels:

- **UTCVM Advisor:** Faculty advisors are available to assist students with long-term career goals. See [Faculty Advising Program](#).
- **UT Center for Career Development:** Evan Jamison, Career Coach, provides and arranges formal career services, such as resume review, mock interviews, job searches, etc. Evan offers on-site UTCVM hours on a limited basis. Students with a [Handshake](#) profile will receive a UTCVM-specific career e-newsletter with information about upcoming career events and job opportunities. For a full list of services, visit their [Web site](#).
- **Individualized Career Coaching** is available with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

### Internships/Residencies:

Students interested in pursuing an internship or residency for post-DVM clinical education should visit <https://www.virmp.org/>, the Veterinary Internship & Residency Matching Program.

Internships are 1-year programs, typically offering veterinarians broad-based clinical exposure to areas that include surgery, medicine, radiology, emergency medicine, intensive care, ambulatory services, theriogenology, and anesthesia. Residents participate in a 3-year program, specializing in a particular clinical area.

## Veterinary Social Work Services

VSW seeks to understand and provide social work services at the intersection of veterinary and social work practice. We operate under the guidelines of the [NASW Code of Ethics](#). Moreover, the team has its own set of values and guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, wellness for ourselves and others, effective communication, dedication to service, courage to advocate for self and others, and compassion.

Veterinary Social Work Services (VSW) provides time-limited counseling services for enrolled UTCVM veterinary medical students. These services are designed to help students address personal and psychological difficulties that may otherwise interfere with their academic, social, or psychological well-being. Services include individual, couple, and group psychotherapy, as well as a range of workshops and programs. Each veterinary student receives [10 free sessions](#) per academic year (fall/spring semesters) and unlimited attendance at workshops, programs, and groups. VSW may provide more sessions on a case-by-case basis. VSW exists to support veterinary students while they develop the skills necessary to engage in required self-care for being a successful veterinary medical professional.

### Procedures

VSW counseling sessions are kept confidential according to the guidelines set forth in Title 33 of the Tennessee legislative code. If they wish, students may sign a release of information to share information with selected individuals within and outside the college. The VSW team uses an electronic health record (EHR) for all documentation, scheduling of appointments, and releases for communication. This EHR is used by the VSW team outside of the UTCVM servers. Our EHR also allows us to offer secure chat and Zoom web meetings to offer tele-behavioral health. VSW seeks to provide evidence-based practice; therefore, students seeking services may be asked to complete assessment tools so the efficacy of the treatment approach can be monitored by the student and the social worker. Although we hesitate to become involved in disciplinary matters for veterinary medical students, there are times a student or administrator may request our advice or advocacy. We would only consider this with consent from the student.

VSW Services address a wide range of issues and concerns common to veterinary medical students. These concerns include, but are not limited to:

- Coping with common life concerns, such as adjustment to veterinary school, general dissatisfaction, specific stressors, and declining academic performance.
- Dealing with social or interpersonal problems such as the loss of a significant relationship, persistent interpersonal conflict, and difficulty finding adequate social support.
- Support following a distressing or traumatic life event, such as the death of a loved one or breakdown of a significant relationship.
- Dealing with developmental challenges such as coming out as LGBTQ, identity concerns, spiritual/religious crisis, and/or clarifying values, roles, and life goals.
- Treatment for psychological disorders that may be managed effectively with time-limited treatment (e.g., five sessions or less per year), such as acute depression or anxiety.
- Treatment for more chronic disorders such as bipolar disorder or trauma-related disorders when symptoms “come and go” and may respond well to brief intervention and medication adjustments.
- Consultation with students, faculty, or staff regarding how to get help for a student.

Psychological concerns that require intensive and/or long-term treatment may not be adequately addressed within a time-limited treatment frame or through “embedded” mental health services (embedded services are those offered from VSWS mental health professionals who work in the UTCVM, as opposed to an outside provider such as the UT Psychological Clinic or a mental health professional in the community.) In such cases, VSWS will work with the student to find an appropriate level of care through campus or community resources. Examples of such cases include, but are not limited to:

- Active addiction to alcohol or drugs, need for medical detoxification, or use of substances in a way that interferes with effective treatment and/or academic performance.
- Problems around eating and nutrition that may require medical support and an interdisciplinary team approach.
- Evidence/risk of progressive deterioration in mental or emotional functioning that requires intensive intervention.
- Acute risk of harm to self or others requiring emergency intervention in a controlled environment (i.e., hospitalization).
- History of long-term treatment and continued need for that level of care.
- Student requests or expects multiple sessions in a week.

A student’s sufficient motivation and emotional investment in treatment is essential to effective time-limited therapy. There are some circumstances where motivation and sufficient emotional investment may not exist. These circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- Coming to counseling primarily because of external pressure.
- Seeking counseling to fulfill class requirements.
- Fulfilling premarital counseling requirements.
- Seeking to meet imposed legal requirements or to reduce legal consequences without evidence of a personal desire to change.
- Inability to identify a focus of counseling and/or to take appropriate responsibility for identified concerns.
- Persistent non-compliance with treatment plan or recommendations.

In these circumstances, VSWS will assess your needs and provide you with feedback about how to move forward with VSWS or perhaps another path to care.

VSWS also is a training ground for all levels of social work practice, so social workers are often required to engage in supervision on their counseling cases with a licensed clinical social worker. Clinical cases are discussed among the VSWS team weekly for support, suggestions, and educational purposes.

[vetsocialwork@utk.edu](mailto:vetsocialwork@utk.edu)

865-755-8839

Office Numbers: B151 (Small Animal Hospital) & B317 (3rd floor inside break area)

Andrew Lufkin, MSSW, LCSW: 865-974-4924 ([dlufkin@utk.edu](mailto:dlufkin@utk.edu))

Haley Engelman, LMSW: 865-974-4931 ([hengelma@utk.edu](mailto:hengelma@utk.edu))

Bethanie Poe, PhD, LMSW: 865-974-4928 ([bpoe2@utk.edu](mailto:bpoe2@utk.edu))

## Housing

Students have the option of applying for housing that the University of Tennessee offers to students. However, because of the rigorous requirements of veterinary school, on-campus housing is usually not as conducive to study time as off-campus housing. The Division of Housing also maintains extensive listings of off-campus apartments, houses, rooming units, and mobile home units that are offered for rent to students, faculty, and staff. Inquiries about housing should be directed to the [Division of Housing](#) and [Off-Campus Housing](#). Available housing may also be advertised on [VetNet Classifieds](#) (requires login) and the UTCVM Buy/Sell public Facebook page.

## Facilities

Communal mailboxes for each class of students (years 1–4) are currently located in the A102 Dean’s Office Suite near the Associate Dean administrative assistant’s desk.

Lockers are available for 1<sup>st</sup>-year students in the **anatomy laboratory hallway**. For 3<sup>rd</sup>- and 4<sup>th</sup>-year students, locker rooms with showers are located on the second floor, above the hospital. The women’s locker room is **B214** (in the SACS hallway). The men’s locker room is **B203** (in the Large Animal Clinical Sciences hallway). Contact Alicia Robino if additional facilities or special accommodations are needed.

## Ride the T – Campus Transit Service

The University of Tennessee’s transit system, “The T,” provides students with a safe, convenient, and efficient campus-wide transportation service. Service is fare-free for all passengers, and real-time GPS tracking allows students to monitor current location and arrival time. The UT mobile app integrates The T’s GPS tracking map, route stop information, and news updates on route and service changes. All T vehicles are accessible to passengers with disabilities and have front-of-vehicle bicycle racks. Four USB charging stations are located at the back of each vehicle.

Routes, scheduling, and maps are available [online](#).

## Employment

Occasionally, research faculty and other laboratories, including histopathology, pathobiology, clinical pathology, and the small and large animal hospitals, require summer, holiday period, and/or semester student assistance. Hiring is performed by the faculty or heads of laboratories. It is suggested that DVM students not work more than 10–15 hours per week while classes are in session. Additionally, students are discouraged from working during their first semester of coursework. Important notes: Some student payments may affect financial aid eligibility. Additionally, all students who are paid wages are classified mandatory reporters for Title IX incidents. Student employees should review [regulations on mandatory reporting](#).

## Emergency Student Positions

Equine and small animal emergency & critical care employ students to cover on-call periods. These students are paid for their service. Oftentimes, they must perform simple laboratory procedures for patients in the off hours.

**Small Animal Surgical Emergency Team (SASET):** The 15–20-student SASET team provides an opportunity to see practical applications of the things students are learning in the classroom, as well as see some things before hearing about them in class. Students will learn about sterile technique and anesthesia monitoring, and will perform instrument handling, cleaning, sterilization, and naming during after-hours surgeries. Students average three shifts per month and are paid for a minimum of 2 hours for being on call Monday–Friday (a minimum of 4 hours on weekends and holidays).

An e-mail call for resumes goes out in fall, and interviews are held in early November. Students must be in good academic standing to be considered for a SASET position.

### ***Center of Excellence Veterinary Student Summer Research Program***

The Center of Excellence in Livestock Diseases and Human Health provides funding for research projects that are mentored by the veterinary school faculty. A match is organized to select the best 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year students to work on these projects each summer. The range of topics varies, and most departments and subjects are represented. The students may not work more than 400 hours. Many end up with poster or paper publications from the experience. Preference is given to students who are participating for the first time, but some students take part more than once.

## **Library**

Students have access to all university libraries and their extensive collections. This includes the [Pendergrass Library](#), which is located in the north wing of the Veterinary Medicine Building and has e-books, print books, journals, and other forms of media. Pendergrass offers poster printing and 3D printing at a reasonable cost. Also, Pendergrass offers technology such as laptops, calculators, chargers, and more for checkout. [Web pages for class years 1–4](#) list course books and resources for problem-based learning and clinical experiences. Use the Libraries' catalog, OneSearch, or veterinary databases such as CAB Abstracts to find scholarly information. These resources are available on the Pendergrass Library home page.

Knowledgeable library staff are available, and there is a chat button and other ways to contact library personnel on the library web page.

Pendergrass offers a variety of study spaces, such as a quiet study area, a group study area, a computer lab, and reservable study rooms. UT students, faculty, and staff may reserve study rooms in the library on a first-received, first-made basis and may be placed at any time. Study rooms may be [reserved online](#) for no more than 2 hours at a time. Reserved rooms must be claimed in person within the first 15 minutes of the reservation and are subject to cancellation if left unclaimed. Rooms not reserved are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons who did not make a reservation but are using a study room at the beginning of a scheduled reservation may be asked to leave the room.

Study room reservations may be canceled or modified at any time, specifically to accommodate classes, special events, university business, etc. Problem-based learning groups will continue to get priority for the study rooms. All library and UT policies apply to patrons using the study rooms. All study room policies are subject to change.

Students also have access to the John C. Hodges Library, which is located at 1015 Volunteer Boulevard. The [John C. Hodges Library](#) houses the majority of the libraries' collections and many unique services. Research assistance and technology services are available almost all hours of the week, and Commons areas are popular, student-centric venues for both studying and socializing. Technology-rich facilities and services include a multimedia digital production [Studio](#) and ever-expanding virtual resources that are easily discoverable. Located on the first floor of Hodges Library (room 131) is the Graduate Commons. This space hosts lounge seating, workstations, and private study rooms. Bring your VolCard to swipe in. Commuter Core parking is available in the Volunteer Blvd. Garage (CC9/G16) and CC6 near McClung Museum. Please visit the Parking and Transit Web site for a [complete map of parking options](#).

## **Tutoring Services**

The UTCVM chapter of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) provides students with an opportunity for peer-to-peer tutoring within the school. Tutors are typically students from a higher class tutoring a student in a lower class. Participation is voluntary. The SAVMA vice president oversees gathering names of volunteer tutors. Students who wish to use the tutoring service should contact the SAVMA vice president or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who will confidentially refer them to an appropriate tutor for the course of their asking. It is up to the student to decide if they want to access a tutor for a course. SAVMA pays for \$6/hour of the tutor's fees, up to a maximum of 10 hours (\$60)/student/semester. The student pays the tutor directly any difference between their hourly rate and the SAVMA reimbursement fee. Tutoring time is monitored through use of a Tutoring Log Form provided to the tutor by SAVMA at the beginning of the tutoring sessions. At the end of the tutoring service, or the end of the semester, the completed time logs should be returned to the SAVMA vice president or the SAVMA treasurer for the tutor's reimbursement. There is no guarantee a tutor will be available for every course; however, we will try to find one, when possible.

To request a tutor, please contact the SAVMA vice president or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.



## Veterinary Bookstore of Tennessee (VBOT)

Hours of operation are dependent on student schedules and are therefore at the discretion of the employees.

Appointments for meetings should be made at [vbot@utk.edu](mailto:vbot@utk.edu).

VBOT is a non-profit business that was established and is managed by UTCVM students to give students the advantage of bulk purchase discounts and wholesale prices. Because of low overhead, as well as educational and non-profit status, VBOT can offer exceptionally low prices on books and equipment. VBOT is also able to provide both student scholarships and donations to student events.

VBOT accepts payment using VISA, MasterCard, or American Express. All debit and credit card purchases will be done through a Square link sent via e-mail following placement of an order. A Square fee is applied for every purchase. VBOT will also accept payment via check, cash, or money order. There is no additional fee for these payment methods.

**A shipping charge per book will be added to cover any costs for shipping and handling.** International shipping rates are based on the current rate of shipping by boat and will be insured. **Otherwise, orders must be picked up from the office or delivered by employees to a destination within the UTCVM.** A late fee may be applied for orders not picked up at distribution. Shipping charged to VBOT due to non-bulk orders made during the semesters will be charged to the student for whom the order was placed.

**E-mail:** [vbot@utk.edu](mailto:vbot@utk.edu); **Mail:** Veterinary Bookstore of Tennessee, University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, Rm. A106A, 2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996

## Office for Campus Culture & Community

The [Office for Campus Culture & Community](#) enhances the Volunteer experience by fostering a supportive campus culture where Vol is a Verb. Helping students develop a sense of belonging, they invest in students' personal growth and development, helping shape them into well-rounded, globally engaged leaders. Foci include leadership development and holistic support, community engagement and responsibility, and connection and campus collaboration. The office is located at 1800 Melrose Avenue.

## Pride Commons

Vol Means All! The Pride Commons is the LGBTQIA+ resource center at UTK. The center strives to be a space for all members of the UT community. Additional engagement opportunities, resources, and other helpful information for the Knoxville community are listed on the [Knox Pride website](#). The university Pride Commons is housed in 373 Student Union, 1502 Cumberland Avenue.

## Division of Access and Engagement

The [Division of Access and Engagement](#) is dedicated to expanding access to educational opportunities, striving to remove barriers, and making academic pursuits more affordable. Consistent with the university's commitment to high academic standards, student achievement, and the preparation of responsible citizens, the division believes that engaging with individuals from all backgrounds and perspectives fosters a vibrant learning environment that enhances critical thinking and intellectual growth. Holding that our collective strengths make us stronger, they are committed to promoting an atmosphere where all members of the university community feel welcome, can thrive, and achieve success.

## International House (Center for Global Engagement)

The [I-House](#) at 1623 Melrose Avenue is proud to welcome international and domestic students to engage and grow as global citizens by hosting a variety of culturally immersive programs and events throughout the year.

## Veterans Success Center

The [Veterans Success Center](#) (VSC) offers assistance and guidance to active-duty service members, veterans, reservists, guardsmen, and family members using their VA educational benefits. The VSC works collaboratively with multiple campus partners to provide programs and opportunities to bridge the gap from military service to higher education to job obtainment, and ensure veteran success both in and out of the classroom.



# Student Participation on College Committees

Several college committees include students to increase college input into the decision-making process. Students are unique resources for views and ideas that can improve the college. Each class elects two representatives to the Curriculum Committee to attend and participate in meetings as voting members. Students, typically seniors, may be appointed to applicant interview teams. Students also participate in the Educational Enhancement Committee.

## Summaries for Committees with Student Relevance

### *Assessment Committee (Chair: Dr. Misty Bailey)*

The purpose of the Assessment Committee (AC) is to develop methods to measure the effectiveness of the college's professional educational program. This is accomplished using student evaluations of teaching, the use of outcomes measurements, developing and implementing stakeholder surveys, and other methods as needed. Responsibilities include:

- Overseeing course and instructor evaluations, including developing and refining instruments, and overseeing methods to obtain data from students
- Providing summary analysis of data and providing recommendations to the Curriculum Committee, Executive Committee, and others as necessary
- Developing methods to measure stated clinical competencies for program evaluation
- Preparing the outcomes assessment portion of the self-study required for American Veterinary Medical Association-Council on Education (AVMA-COE) accreditation
- Preparing the outcomes assessment section of the annual progress reports required by AVMA-COE

The AC consists of one faculty member from each department, selected by the department head and approved by the dean; the chair of the Curriculum Committee (ex officio); the college assessment coordinator (ex officio); and the associate dean for academic and student affairs (ex officio). Regular members will rotate off the committee in staggered 3-year terms. Members will have voting privileges, except the chair of the Curriculum Committee, who will serve in an advisory role.

### *Curriculum Committee (Chair: Dr. Geneviève Bussieres)*

The Curriculum Committee (CC) represents the faculty, who ultimately own the professional DVM curriculum. The purpose of the CC is to oversee the development of the curriculum with careful regard to the sequence of professional courses and content delivery, the adequacy of course educational content, and the appropriate degree of curriculum redundancy. The specific responsibilities of the CC include:

- Perform an annual curriculum assessment defining the strengths and weaknesses of the preclinical and clinical phases of the professional degree program. This annual assessment will be documented through a year-end written report to the college Executive Committee and will include curricular changes considered during the year (both approved and denied changes) and recommendations for curricular changes to be considered by the committee during the following academic year.
- Review to approve or deny requests for elective clinical experiences outside the UTCVM
- Review faculty requests for curricular change that would substantially impact other portions of the curriculum and prepare a recommendation to be voted on by the faculty
- Address curricular issues that arise on an ad hoc basis and, depending on the nature of the issue, either handle the matter within the committee or prepare a recommendation for faculty vote
- Provide the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, as needed, support to facilitate UTK Graduate Council approval of UTCVM faculty-approved curricular changes
- Perform annual course reviews and provide written reports summarizing committee discussion for course coordinator consideration and use, as appropriate

This committee shoulders a particularly important responsibility for the college and veterinary profession. Committee members should embrace the concept of educational creativity and are encouraged to continually survey the national and international educational environment for new, innovative forms of teaching, and when appropriate, develop and implement creative educational ideas into the professional curriculum to meet the college goal of advancing the art and science of veterinary medical education.

The CC consists of 16 to 19 members: two to three faculty members from each department, two student members from each professional DVM class, two alumni members, and four ex officio members to include the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator, chair of the Educational Enhancement Committee, and chair of the Assessment Committee. Department faculty members will be recommended by their respective department heads and appointed by the dean of the college.

Student members are determined by class election. All members of the committee have voting privileges, except ex officio members, who serve in an advisory role to the committee. The two student members from each class have one committee vote, rather than two votes. The CC chair is appointed by the dean.

The CC is a standing college committee and as such meets twice monthly throughout the academic year; additional meetings may be called as needed by the chair. The chair leads discussions or calls on individuals to lead discussions on various agenda items. Some business, discussions, and voting may occur electronically, when appropriate. The chair has authority to make assignments to CC members.

### ***Scholarship and Awards Committee (Chair: Dr. ShaRonda Cooper)***

The Scholarship Awards Committee is composed of faculty and staff members. The committee recommends students for scholarships based on stated scholarship criteria and satisfactory academic progress, recommends students for awards based on performance and specific award criteria, arranges for certain scholarships and awards to be presented at the annual honors convocation, and coordinates the convocation banquet. The membership consists of 5–8 faculty from the college departments, the Assistant Dean for Students, and a non-voting staff member from the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

### ***Educational Enhancement Committee (Chairs: Dr. ShaRonda Cooper & Dr. Virginia Corrigan)***

The goal of the Educational Enhancement Committee is to improve relations between students and faculty. This committee strives to promote a professional and positive learning environment for UTCVM faculty, staff, and students. The responsibilities of this committee are as follows:

- Organize and execute the White Coat Ceremony and Scrubbin' In Ceremony
- Lead the UTCVM community-student connection program (VOLVet Connect)
- Provide programming to enhance the academic learning environment and student development
- Discuss and provide input on issues impacting students or faculty in the classroom, hospital, and teaching laboratories
- Assist in programming for other student needs

In addition to these specific responsibilities, students should feel free to contact any member of the Educational Enhancement Committee regarding any concerns with their classes, lecturers, or advisors/mentors. Membership includes 3–5 faculty/staff representatives from each academic department, the Pre-clinical Program Coordinator, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Dean for Students, and two representatives from each sophomore, junior, and senior DVM class (selected and invited by the committee members).

# Student Representation on Campus

UTCVM students serve as representatives on the UTIA Advisory Council and UTK Provost's Advisory Council, as well as other ad hoc committees or task forces. Student selection and appointment recommendations are usually made by the Dean in consultation with the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs or via student nomination and study body vote.

**Graduate Student Senate (GSS)**—The [GSS](#) is a student-run organization that serves as a liaison between graduate students and university leadership. The DVM program has two representatives. The GSS helps to ensure that policies at the university are created and maintained to best serve the graduate and professional student population.

**Provost's Student Advisory Council** – The Provost's Student Advisory Council provides feedback on the programs, policies, initiatives designed to enhance the student academic experience.

## Student Organizations

For more information about any of the following student organizations, including representative contacts, see [VetNet](#) (login required).

### Avian, Wildlife, and Exotics (AWE)

AWE provides a forum for students with an interest in all aspects of avian, wildlife, pocket pet, reptile, and zoo medicine. Throughout the year, the organization offers lunchtime lectures, speakers for general SAVMA meetings, and opportunities for hands-on experience. It also provides a list of externships in exotic animal medicine.

### Christian Veterinary Fellowship

Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF) is a Christ-centered group that focuses on service to the veterinary community and forming fellowship with all. As a club, they offer a variety of club meeting types such as Bible studies, guest speakers, faculty panels, and Zoom meetings with club-sponsored missionaries. This club offers a flexible schedule of weekly meetings during the lunch hour as well as fun, community-building opportunities in the evenings or on the weekends. Outside of that time, this club strives to inspire, uplift, and share the love of Christ with students, faculty, and community. To do so, this club has previously sent encouraging notes before exams, provided free meals to faculty and students, and served communities within and outside of the United States that need veterinary assistance such as rural Kentucky, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica on mission trips.

### Companion Animal Club

The Companion Animal Club is for students who are interested in canine and feline medicine. They hold monthly meetings with speakers and/or case presentations relating to these species. The club focuses on modern medicine, as well as holistic and integrative methods of veterinary care. The club typically conducts at least one wet lab each academic semester so that students can get hands-on experience in several different aspects of companion animal medicine.

### Food Animal Club

The Food Animal Club is for students who are interested in production medicine of cattle, swine, camelids, small ruminants, and poultry. They hold monthly noon meetings with speakers and/or case presentations relating to these species, as well as perform hospital case rounds every Wednesday at noon. They also participate in national organizations such as the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and try to send students to these conferences each year. The club typically conducts a wet lab symposium one weekend in the academic year so that students can get hands-on experience in several different aspects of production medicine.

### International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care (IAAHPC)

With the emerging trend of respectful and dignified end-of-life services for pets, this type of educational focus can make a difference in communities. Student IAAHPC membership includes educational content with a focus on animal hospice, palliative care, and euthanasia experiences. Students will have the opportunity to attend annual IAAHPC conferences and to participate in a scholarship program for significantly reduced registration fees and assistance with travel expenses. Students also have first-hand access to existing IAAHPC members and their services for internships and mentoring in end-of-life care.

## **Latinx Veterinary Medicine (LVM), UTCVM Chapter**

The UTCVM's Latinx Veterinary Medicine chapter is an inclusive chapter open to all veterinary students, including, but not limited to, persons who identify as Latinx and their allies. We strive to fill a gap in the veterinary community by providing a place for Latinx to network, learn, grow, and mentor each other. The members of this chapter will have benefits via the national LVMA chapter, such as a national network of Latinx veterinarians and the opportunity for scholarships. Monthly meetings will be held with knowledgeable speakers from many backgrounds. This chapter is perfect for any and all veterinary students looking for a sense of community and a place to learn more about the Latinx heritage.

## **Shelter Medicine Club**

The Shelter Medicine Club is open to all veterinary students, especially those who are interested in small animal medicine, spay and neuter surgery, and animal sheltering issues. We are a chapter of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, which means that students can apply for scholarships to attend national conferences and other national opportunities through our club.

The club works closely with the Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee, helping them with fundraising for their projects and educating the public about animal shelters and spay/neuter. Each year, a wet lab is organized for members of the club to learn high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter methods. Students watch a demonstration and then have the opportunity to practice surgical techniques on cadavers. In the spring, a fundraiser is held to sell personalized lab coats and scrubs for students, faculty, and staff at discounted prices, and the proceeds have been donated to animal shelters and rescues.

## **Student American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition (SAAVN)**

The objectives of SAAVN are to promote more interest and better understand animal nutrition as it relates to disease and health, facilitate research toward those fields, promote closer cooperation between veterinarians and others well-educated in nutrition's role in animal health, and to provide a forum and exchange of information for common interests in the field of nutrition in its relationship to animal health.

## **Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA)**

UT SAVMA provides a forum for members to interact professionally and socially. It provides the opportunity to gain professional knowledge, an understanding of medical ethics and conduct, and the benefits of organized veterinary medicine. SAVMA's monthly meetings provide an opportunity for students from all 4 classes/years to meet and interact. SAVMA organizes dances and parties during the year and sponsors the spring Awards Banquet. Students who graduate as members in good standing are eligible for many benefits offered by the AVMA. SAVMA is dedicated to promoting friendly relations among students and between students, faculty, and the professional community.

To join SAVMA, a student can come to a meeting and pay dues or contact their student SAVMA representative. To become a member in good standing, it is necessary to actively belong to a committee sometime during the 4 years of veterinary school and be a dues-paying member. All students currently enrolled in the UTCVM are encouraged to become members and add another dimension to their professional education. SAVMA also acts as a link between the university and the AVMA, making available the many programs and opportunities this organization has to offer.

## **Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (SCAAEP)**

SCAAEP provides opportunities for students interested in equine medicine and surgery. The club offers lunch and dinner meetings with a variety of equine-related lecture topics throughout the year. Wet labs for each class year, as well as an AAEP-sponsored lab, are organized for students. Additional opportunities include attending conventions, volunteering at nearby equine events, and other member ideas that pertain to their particular interest area in equine practice.

## **Student Chapter of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM)**

The ACVIM is the national certifying organization for veterinary specialists in large and small animal internal medicine, cardiology, neurology, and oncology. Joining a student chapter is beneficial to those who plan to pursue board certification after graduation, as well as those who wish to work in a general practice setting. The student chapter organizes monthly educational lunch meetings with board-certified speakers in a variety of specialties, as well as holds an annual wet lab for students to gain more hands-on experience with different diagnostic techniques.

## **Student Chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (SCACVP; Pathology Club)**

Pathology is the study of the origin and processes of diseases, from the cellular and physiologic level to the whole animal. Pathology is exciting because it unifies all aspects of medicine.

Pathologists study all diseases: infectious, neoplastic, metabolic, inflammatory, or otherwise... and study all species and organ systems, from cardiology to neurology to dermatology and more. Pathology is fascinating, pathology is important, and pathology is beautiful! The Pathology Club at UTCVM stimulates student interest in clinical and anatomic pathology. It offers many fun activities and great ways to get involved!

### **Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (SVECCS)**

The SVECCS is a chapter of the national VECCS. The purpose of the club is to promote the education and involvement of veterinary students in all aspects of emergency and critical care medicine. Our club has informative noon meetings with doctors in the emergency/critical care field, promotes involvement by allowing students to volunteer in the critical care unit throughout the semester, and holds wet labs.

### **Surgery Club**

The Surgery Club allows students to gain more exposure to small animal, equine, and production animal surgery. Activities include lunchtime guest speakers, hands-on laboratories, and shadowing opportunities.

### **Theriogenology Club**

This club serves as a way for members to gain experience in theriogenology of various species. Guest speakers and wet labs provide insight, information, and training in all aspects of this facet of veterinary medicine, including artificial insemination, embryo transfer, gestational management, parturition assistance, common reproductive problems/diseases, pregnancy detection, estrus synchronization, etc. Students with interests in small and large animal theriogenology are given the opportunity to learn more about these topics in their fields of interest. Noon meetings are held monthly, and there is normally a wet lab for students each semester, along with events coordinated with Food Animal Club and SCAEP.

### **Veterinarians as One for an Inclusive Community for Empowerment (VOICE)**

VOICE is a student-run organization focused on awareness and civility for the unique perspectives and experiences of individuals and communities in veterinary medicine. Our mission is to acknowledge the breadth of experiences within the profession, promote collaborative campus environments, and support the success of all students. We also emphasize the importance of awareness in veterinary medicine to better serve the needs of our expanding clientele. Lastly, VOICE chapters are dedicated to providing leadership and mentorship to youth who are interested in careers as veterinarians. Come build a stronger veterinary community!

### **Veterinary Anatomy Club (VAC)**

This club is student driven and tailored to providing opportunities for veterinary students with regard to topics explored within and outside of the first-year anatomy courses to continue the pursuit of knowledge in animal anatomy.

### **Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA)**

VBMA is a student-driven organization dedicated to advancing the profession through increasing business knowledge, creating networking opportunities, and empowering students to achieve their personal and professional goals. VBMA aims to expand student awareness and knowledge by scheduling speakers for meetings and organizing seminars to cover topics relevant to veterinary practice that lie outside the current veterinary medical curriculum. By networking with professionals within and outside our discipline involved with business management, finance, leadership, marketing, law, and communication, VBMA ensures quality and relevant information for students in the way of financial affairs, entry into the job market, personnel management skills, and opportunities that are available to persons with a DVM degree. VBMA also offers a nationally recognized Business Certificate Program as an additional membership that consists of attending meetings for an allocated total of business education hours. Completion of the program then rewards students with validation by certification to present to future employers for increased hire-ability and giving everyone more opportunity for priceless networking with peers and professionals in the industry, and a more successful future in our profession.

### **Veterinary Global and Public Health**

We are for students with an interest in international veterinary medicine and public health. We provide an extensive list of international contacts for externship and volunteer opportunities, work with the international organization in assistance of student exchange programs, coordinate lunch lectures exhibiting a variety of world experiences, and plan a big social mixer every semester to build upon the school's natural cultural diversity. Every year, we also offer a travel scholarship for 1–2 students performing veterinary services abroad!

## Wildlife Disease Association, Student Chapter (WDA)

The mission of the WDA is to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and interactions with humans and domestic animals. The chapter's mission is to promote healthy wildlife and ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and environmentally sustainable solutions to One Health challenges. The club wants to educate students about career and research opportunities, qualifications required, skills needed to promote wildlife health, and connect students interested in wildlife health to mentors and professionals in the field. If you would like to become a member (open to all UTK undergrad and graduate students), join through your student [VoLink](#) account.

# Policies and Regulations

## Title IX and Sexual Harassment

The university has adopted a policy that prohibits sexual harassment (including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking), sexual exploitation, and retaliation. The policy applies to students, faculty, and staff. The university strongly encourages you to report incidents of sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, or retaliation to the UTK Office of Title IX.

All University of Tennessee employees are mandatory reporters and must report prohibited conduct of which they are aware to the Office of Title IX.

An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute prohibited conduct is not required to file a formal complaint with the university; however, supportive measures are available even if someone chooses not to file a formal complaint with the Office of Title IX.

If an individual is alleged to be the victim of what could constitute prohibited conduct, they are considered a complainant. When working with complainants, Office of Title IX staff will keep information as private as possible, within policy and process; work to evaluate care and support needs; discuss with the complainant their options under university policy; and empower complainants to obtain the care and support they need. At the time of reporting to the Office of Title IX, complainants do not have to decide to file a formal complaint or choose any particular course of action. Going to the Office of Title IX does not obligate a university investigation or reporting to law enforcement unless the complainant chooses to do so.

Choosing to file a formal complaint to initiate a university investigation enables the university to respond appropriately by conducting a prompt, thorough, and equitable investigation and, if warranted, taking disciplinary action against a respondent. A formal complaint is required to begin an investigation under the [Policy on Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Dating and Domestic Violence, and Stalking](#).

## Cell Phones and Cameras

Use of cell phones during class or laboratory sessions should be limited to emergency needs or work directly related to the topic at hand. **Texting, posting, and communicating with others during class, laboratories, or clinical rounds is distracting and disrespectful to the instructor and student peers.** Students are not permitted to bring electronic devices of any type into an examination room during written or practical examinations without explicit instructions from the instructor.

Additionally, cameras and cell phones are not permitted in the necropsy room, and **photographs may not be taken of any animals in this area.**

Additionally, photos of and/or information about client-owned animals may not be shared with anyone outside the college, e.g., in a text message or other private message to a friend or relative. The student will be held accountable for any photo/information that originates from a student and appears secondarily online.

## Social Media

**Images.** In accordance with the **Tennessee Veterinary Practice Act** and **UTCVM Policy**, photographs of and/or information about client-owned animals may not be shared or posted on any social media site, such as Facebook, Reddit, Instagram, YouTube, X (Twitter), or Snapchat, or any other Internet site, including but not limited to blogs, Flickr, or personal Web pages. This policy extends to sites that are set to "private." Posting identifiable case descriptions, images, or records related to

clinical or research activities is prohibited. The student will be held accountable for any photo/information that originates from a student and is posted online by someone else. While taking photos in the anatomy labs is permitted for learning purposes, posting photos of animal cadavers, anatomy specimens, or necropsy on social networking sites or any other Internet site is prohibited. Photographs of instructional materials, specimens, or animals should be used **only** for students' own educational benefit.

In keeping with the UTCVM professionalism guidelines, professional students are encouraged to "think before you post." While the UTCVM respects freedom of speech, posting veterinary opinions, inappropriate content, photos, disparaging remarks, etc., may not serve students' professional goals, their veterinary career, or the reputations of the college and the university. Posts using derogatory or disparaging remarks, although allowed by the legal definition of free speech, may require review by the APC for failing to meet professionalism standards. Use good judgment about content and privacy settings to minimize distribution.

**Group Messaging.** When engaging in group communication with classmates, students are expected to maintain respectful and civil conduct. Content shared on a class-wide basis must not include intentional misinformation or confidential information, especially including exam contents and personal/private information belonging to another individual. Group messaging during classroom activities may cause disruption to others and should be reserved for emergency situations.

### Smoke-Free Campus Policy

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, including the UTCVM, is a smoke-free campus. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette (including vaping using an electronic cigarette or similar device), pipe, or other lighted tobacco product, in any manner or in any form. This procedure applies to all university students, employees, contractors, and visitors. Smoking is prohibited in and on all university property, including smoking in private vehicles when parked or operated on university property. This procedure also prohibits littering on university property with tobacco products or the remains of any tobacco products. Violation of this policy may subject a student to disciplinary action in accordance with the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Students may report any good-faith concern about a violation of this procedure to the [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#).

### Family and Personal Conflicts of Interest in the Teaching Mission

Familial and other personal relationships are expected to occur occasionally in a large university setting. In large units, having multiple course sections and a large number of available faculty usually can be leveraged to prevent students from being supervised by a family member or romantic partner in a course or program activity. In the veterinary college, the core/cohort curriculum and limited interchangeable faculty in many areas make complete avoidance of conflict more difficult. Further, the innate benefit of in-state residency status would make applying to, being admitted to, and attending another veterinary school difficult for relatives of faculty or staff (both financially and due to out-of-state acceptance rates).

Unfortunately, when relatives or romantic partners are enrolled in a course or other setting supervised by a UTCVM faculty member, subjective assessments can be difficult, and perceptions of differentiated treatment (favoritism or more demanding behavior) are hard to avoid. The student is placed in a position of conflict as well. Other, peer students in the course may feel advantaged or disadvantaged and may feel uncomfortable raising concerns with the faculty member.

### Relevant University of Tennessee Policy

#### Faculty Handbook 2.2.6.3. Prohibited Relationships

*Amorous or sexual relationships between a faculty member and a student are prohibited when the faculty member has professional authority over, or responsibility for, the student. This professional authority or responsibility encompasses both instructional and non-instructional contexts as defined below:*

- 1. Relationships in the Instructional Context. A faculty member shall not have an amorous or sexual relationship (consensual or otherwise) with a student who is simultaneously enrolled in a course being taught by the faculty member or whose academic or work performance is subject to supervision or evaluation by the faculty member. The instructional context includes not only classroom teaching and direct instruction, but also academic advising, mentoring, or tutoring.*
- 2. Relationships outside the Instructional Context. Outside the instructional context, a faculty member shall not take any action or make any decision that may reward or penalize a student with whom he or she has, or has had, an amorous or sexual relationship. Faculty members must be especially cautious to avoid taking any action that rewards or penalizes the student, or influences others responsible for taking such action. (Faculty Handbook, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2024, p. 12)*

**UT System [HR Policy 0115](#) Employment of Relatives**

*Employment of relatives is permitted. However, no employees who are relatives shall be placed within the same direct line of supervision whereby one relative is responsible for supervising the job performance or work activities of another relative.*

**UT Conflict of Interest Information: [Managing Relationships with Family, Students, and Others](#)**

*Nepotism is the supervision or influence over an employee by another university employee with whom they have a familial or personal relationship. To avoid favoritism in hiring, promotion, supervision, evaluation, determination of salary, or working conditions, no employees who are relatives may be placed within the same direct line of supervision. This includes direction of work activities and assessment of job performance.*

*Outside activities that raise questions of favoritism or discrimination in the employment or acquisition of goods or services through a related party, such as a family member, student or another person having a close personal or business relationship with the University employee, may result in a conflict. Goods or services must not be purchased from an employee or related party of the employee unless there is a specific determination that the goods or services are not available otherwise.*

**Examples of when relationships may create a conflict:**

- Faculty member provides instruction and grade assignment for student who is their child.
- Spouse is a research assistant in spouse's lab and receives work direction and oversight from spouse.
- Employee's sister owns a catering company. Employee uses their services for departmental events.
- Using graduate students on personal, non-university consulting projects.

***Guidance for UTCVM Preclinical Education***

In the event a faculty member has a familial or personal relationship with any student over whom the faculty member has any assessment, clinical, instructional, or supervisory influence, the faculty member must immediately notify his or her Department Head to coordinate a management plan.

Familial or personal relationships are most likely to pose unavoidable conflicts in required courses where the relevant faculty member teaches. Most ungraded classroom or lab activities can be managed to avoid significant perception of bias or conflict. The faculty member should avoid calling out or heightening attention to the familial or personal relationship.

**Individual instructor/course coordinator:** Avoid any subjective assessments or practical assessments, if feasible. Have a colleague help with conducting or grading subjective or practical assessments, if necessary. Keep clear records of feedback, grades, and any academic decisions.

**Team taught courses/course coordinator:** If feasible, consider changing the course coordinator role for the semester in question.

Electronic grading of quizzes and exams (Canvas, ExamSoft) is less likely to contribute to bias. Any post-hoc adjustments to electronically graded assessments must be applied consistently among all students.

If changing the course coordinator role is not possible when a conflict exists, the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator will create a mechanism for the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs or the course coordinator's Department Head to complete grade entry for the student in question.

***Guidance for Clinical Education***

Avoid sole supervision of a clinical rotation where a conflict exists. Disclose conflicts to the clinical placement coordinator before the rotation begins. Limited interaction, without a supervisory role, is discouraged but allowable. Keep clear records of feedback and assessments.

On occasion, a faculty shortage will make clinical supervision or interaction with a relative or partner more difficult to avoid. Students seeking or requiring rotations where a single faculty member supervises the rotation should be encouraged to take the rotation at another veterinary college as an externship but will not be required to do so. For core rotations, approved substitutions for external rotations may be sought from the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs.

The relevant faculty member must not have final or sole assessment authority for a student in a clinical rotation. A colleague



or alternate supervisor must be asked to review input and feedback and complete the evaluation and Banner grade submission.

*Prepared and reviewed by Assessment and Curriculum Committees, September 2025. Reviewed and approved by Executive Committee, November 2025. Reviewed by OGC January 2026.*

## Fitness for Clinical Duty

To ensure patient safety and professional standards, any student who reports for clinical duties while impaired will be immediately relieved of clinical responsibilities. Such students will be required to make up missed clinical time and must meet with the Academic Progress Committee to determine any additional academic or professional consequences. For complete information and a complete list of conduct violations, see the [Hilltopics Student Handbook](#) and [Student Conduct and Community Standards](#).

## Parking

All parking areas and services fall under UTK rates and requirements. Veterinary students operating automobiles, motorcycles, and mopeds on campus are subject to these parking regulations. Parking permits are available at [Parking & Transportation](#). All students are required to purchase parking permits for the ACADEMIC year if they will park on campus. Clinical students must purchase summer parking permits, as well. Students must have a current parking tag during summer, or they are subject to being ticketed.

Clinical veterinary medical students are provided with designated parking in the half of lot C4 that is adjacent to the Large Animal Hospital entrance. Students having difficulty finding parking near the UTCVM must find other lots for their specific permit and use [the T Bus campus transit service](#). The G7 garage at the corner of Volunteer Blvd. and Andy Holt Blvd. may be used as overflow parking. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with parking options and lot designations. Paid student parking is **ONLY** in designated parking lots. Do not park in client spaces in front of the hospital. Violations will be subject to fines and possibly impounding of the vehicle. Please visit [Parking and Transportation](#) to locate designated student parking.

If a parking citation is incurred, it is in the best interest of the student to respond immediately; procrastination will result in penalties for tardy payment, as well as potential holds barring registration, graduation, and release of transcripts.

## Pets within the UTCVM

Pets are not allowed in any multi-user space, including, but not limited to, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, the Pendergrass Library, student lounge and break areas, and locker rooms. This policy applies to all teaching rooms, departmental conference rooms, seminar rooms, computer classrooms, the anatomy laboratory, and all small group teaching rooms. Pets scheduled as part of a teaching exercise (and service animals) are exempt.

Pets should never be brought into areas of food preparation or rooms commonly used for food service functions. These spaces specifically include the Sequoyah Room and kitchen, the Tickle break room, student lounges, hospital break rooms in the large and small animal hospitals, or any other room where food is being prepared or served. Only animals that are active working service animals may be in food service areas, as allowed by law. Those animals must be working service animals to be included in this exception. Service animals, including HABIT animals, are permitted only when they are working, in appropriate locations, or as part of the evaluation process. Those with service animals should consider potential hazards to the animal and work with the Office of Academic and Student Affairs to determine alternative solutions where service animals are not permitted (e.g., sterile surgical suites, near some client-owned animals).

Pets that are not patients are not to be brought into the Veterinary Medical Center hospital areas.

This policy applies 24/7/365 and was developed to inform students, faculty, and staff of their responsibilities and of the UTCVM's expectations when pets belonging to employees or students are brought onto college premises (Veterinary Medicine Building, JRTU, and VREC). The intent is to maintain a professional, safe, and functional work and educational environment in balance with one that is welcoming.

### Procedure if you must bring a pet

- Any pet or animal that accompanies an employee, student, faculty, or staff member to the CVM must be kept behind a closed or gated door when in a private office and appropriately restrained (leash, cage, carrying tote, etc.) when in the hallway or other areas inside the UTCVM buildings or on the surrounding premises.

- Pets and other animals must be kept under control at all times. This may necessitate the use of a crate when left unattended in offices. Pets cannot be a nuisance to others.
- Owners of pets that are not abiding by college policy or that are constituting a nuisance (e.g., barking) will be asked to remove the pet.

(The pet policy has been truncated here – to see full policy, please contact the Hospital Director.)

## Children in the Academic Setting

The UTCVM is a dynamic center of education, clinical service, and research, which encourages supervised events on campus for children as well as adults. The college is committed to promoting equity for all students and ensuring that individuals are not disadvantaged in their academic and career aspirations by actual or perceived family responsibilities. However, the college is a place of work and study, and the ability to concentrate for extended periods of time is a prerequisite within a healthy academic environment. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators can expect to attend and teach class, provide clinical service, or complete work or research in laboratories, libraries, offices, and other workspaces with minimal distractions or interruptions. Therefore, guidelines have been established to ensure that an appropriate academic environment is maintained for the safety of all. This policy provides for the safety of children while respecting the needs of parents/guardians given that the university and college may be held liable for the safety and health of children in the workplace. The Veterinary Medicine Building presents unique potential risks: animals, zoonotic infectious disease, biosecurity/biosafety, toxic and flammable chemicals, radiation, breakable glassware, medical instrumentation, etc. Parents/guardians should understand the importance of this policy in providing for the health and safety of their children.

For this policy, “children” and “child” refer to minors under the age of 18. Children are not permitted in the Veterinary Medical Center when the parent/guardian is on scheduled duty. Children visiting the Veterinary Medical Center must be directly supervised at all times by an adult responsible for the child or children. Because of the potential for serious injury or illness, children are NOT permitted in the following areas: radiology; nuclear medicine; radiation therapy; any small animal ward or run area or large animal stall area where a cage, run, or stall is marked with a “radiation” sign; in large animal facilities near a stall with “barrier” isolation; the necropsy floor; chemotherapy laboratories; isolation facilities; and laboratories with infectious agents, except when participating in programs and/or special events sponsored by the college and supervised by UTCVM personnel.

Children are prohibited from entering other potentially dangerous locations such as laboratories, Veterinary Medical Center facilities, and equipment rooms without the approval of the appropriate dean, department head, or supervisor. Children may not attend a class in session without prior approval of the course instructor and the college Health and Safety Coordinator. Children under the care of the instructor may not attend class without the prior approval of his/her department head and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Parents who disregard this policy will be required to remove their child from the building and will receive a written reprimand from the appropriate dean, department chair, or administrative supervisor.

Students who miss a class/clinical rotations for childcare needs are expected to make up missed time. Parents who are missing an in-person lecture(s) because they must be at home with a sick child should be able to view recorded lectures at home.

## Student Voting

Every registered voter, including students, is entitled to time to vote on Election Day. No pre-clinical classes are scheduled. Federal, state, and local governments are tasked with providing sufficient voting hours, early voting opportunities, and absentee voting for eligible individuals. Students may need to check with their home state or county to affirm their voting site or options. On-campus opportunities exist, as well. Detailed information is readily available [online](#).

### *Voter Registration*

Be sure to register to vote if you are not already registered. You may register to vote using your permanent or local address, and you may register to vote by mail, online, or in person. Be aware: You must vote in person the first time you vote after registering UNLESS you register at a Tennessee County Election Commission Office. Information about registering to vote for all states can be found [here](#). The registration deadline is typically 30 days prior to an election.

### *Voting Options*

**Early voting** (Oct. 14–29, 2026) is available at various locations around Knoxville; on-campus options will likely be available. Registered Tennessee voters can vote at any site during early voting.

**Absentee or Mail-In Voting** (request by Oct. 24). Eligibility varies and states vary. Check your situation early.

**In-Person Voting** (Nov. 3, typically 7 am – 7 pm). There will be no classes at UTCVM on the Nov. 3, 2026, Election Day so that everyone can participate in voting. Clinical students are encouraged to vote early or to vote before or after clinical responsibilities are met. Students may request up to 3 hours of excused leave to vote if other options are not feasible.

### **Legal Name Changes**

In addition to informing Holley Springfield, a [Change of Name Request form](#) must be completed to make a name change with the University of Tennessee. Before making a name change with the university, students are strongly encouraged to discuss the procedure for name changes with Holley Springfield to avoid potential issues with financial aid.

### **Inclement Weather Policy**

The University of Tennessee remains open except in the most severe weather conditions. If the university is closed, academic classes, laboratories, and examinations will be rescheduled as appropriate. If the university remains open, students are expected to attend scheduled academic classes but are advised to avoid undue risks in travel. Students are responsible for any academic work missed and are responsible for taking the initiative to complete such work.

Alerts will be sent by e-mail and/or text message as soon as the decision is made regarding inclement weather. Note that decisions may be made late in the evening prior to or on the morning of a delay or closure. Students are expected to report to their regularly scheduled classes only if there are 30 or more minutes remaining in the session. Local media generally list all closures on their web pages, and the [Tennessee Department of Transportation](#) reports on the road conditions.

For more information, see the university's [Inclement Weather and Short Disruption Procedure](#).

### *Clinical Rotation Students*

Students remain responsible for patients and clinical duties on the days when the university is closed due to inclement weather. Students are expected to report to the VMC if they can safely travel to and from the hospital. Students are not expected to subject themselves to unreasonable danger in traveling. If a student determines it is obvious that they cannot arrive at the VMC for the day's activities, the student should contact someone on their medical team by 8:00 am and inform their attending clinician of their absence. Students may leave a message with the operator or receptionist, but it is the student's responsibility to confirm receipt of the message. Students who can safely travel to and from the hospital on that day will then be reassigned for clinical duty to ensure that all essential services are maintained. A student on a shift must not leave until relieved by an individual on the next shift! Technicians, house officers, and faculty will be used as needed to supplement those students who are available so that appropriate clinical service can be maintained.

### **Dr. Samantha Beaty, State Veterinarian**

The state veterinarian is responsible for monitoring and protecting animal health in Tennessee. The state veterinarian also works with private veterinarians, animal pathologists, and the state's network of animal disease diagnostic laboratories in identifying diseases and making a definitive diagnosis in cases of animal deaths.

They are also responsible for the certification and enforcement of animal health standards required for interstate and international commerce of livestock and livestock products. This office cooperates with federal animal health officials in accrediting Tennessee's practicing private veterinarians. The State Veterinarian's Office may be contacted at 615-837-5120.

## **Student Safety and Potential Hazards**

The potential for human injury always exists in veterinary medical practice. The same risks are inevitable for the veterinary student. The possibility of injury increases whenever the person is careless, under chemical influence, has a disability, or pregnant (with increased danger for both mother and fetus). The college stands ready to provide full assistance to students in accommodating schedule and assignment changes made necessary by pregnancy or disability.

## Treatment of Animals

Unauthorized individuals are not allowed in the hospital. Only UTCVM students are allowed to assist with the treatment of animals. Family, friends, and other non-UTCVM individuals must not assist. Children are prohibited from accompanying students in the Small Animal and Large Animal clinics while the student is on duty or caring for patients in any manner. This is for the safety of the children and other individuals.

## Student Health Center & Health Insurance

**Neither the college nor the university carries medical insurance to cover student accidents, and students are not covered by state workers' compensation insurance. Considering the risks and hazards inherent in veterinary medical education and the potential for veterinary student accident and or injury, students are required to be covered by some form of major medical health insurance while in school.** It is not sufficient for the veterinary student to seek care only through the Student Health Center outpatient clinic. If a veterinary student is hurt or injured during the veterinary curriculum, the student needs insurance coverage for the expenses associated with any required medical care, including emergency care.

Insurance may be acquired through a family major medical policy, through a private insurance agency, or by purchasing the University of Tennessee [Student Health Insurance Plan](#) (SHIP). It is highly advisable that the insurance plan offer appropriate, comprehensive coverage in Knox County.

**International Students:** All international students are generally required to hold the UT Student Health Insurance Plan. They are charged automatically for the insurance plan but may opt to have it [waived](#) and that charge returned, if their private policy covers all items outlined under the [UT Student Health Center's documentation requirements for a waiver](#). International students must communicate with International Student and Scholar Services.

Additionally, a required Health Insurance Acknowledgement must be signed prior to participation in the clinical curriculum.

The [Student Health Center](#) provides a variety of services, including primary medical care, health education, health screening programs, and mental health consultation and counseling. **HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri–8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Wed–9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Students may also choose to see their primary care physician.

To use the on-campus Student Health Center, students must pay the Health Fee each semester; for students enrolled in at least 9 hours in a semester, this fee is automatically applied as part of the Programs and Services fee and cannot be reimbursed. Stand-alone Student Health and Counseling Center fees are \$101 for fall and spring and \$61 in summer during the 2026–2027 academic year. The Health Fee covers many professional services, but it does not cover hospitalization, laboratory tests, X-rays, drugs, etc. For any student not paying the student Health Fee in a given semester, the Health Fee will apply prior to service. Student counseling services may also require a separate fee.

**After Student Health Center hours, students (as well as non-UTCVM externs or visitors) may be seen at UT Medical Center (1924 Alcoa Hwy, Knoxville, 37920; 865-305-9000), or an urgent care facility of their choosing. The nearest include Lakeway Urgent Care (2461 University Commons Way, Knoxville, 37919; 865-673-6603) or Covenant Health Urgent Care (1915 Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916; 865-686-9544).**

## Student Injury

Any student injured during the course of their study or clinical duty must immediately report the injury to their instructor or immediate supervisor, regardless of the severity of the injury.

The instructor/supervisor must report student injuries occurring while the student is in the Veterinary Medical Center or participating in related educational activities. Notification should go to the Health and Safety Coordinator (865-221-0055), AND the appropriate supervisor/clinician. An [Incident Report](#) must be completed by the student and filed by the supervisor/faculty member with the Health and Safety Coordinator (see [appendix](#)) within 24 hours of injury. Students are advised, *but not required*, to seek medical attention, as needed. Students assume all risks and expenses of decisions regarding medical care.

## Rabies

In accordance with the [CDC's guidance on human rabies pre-exposure vaccination](#) (PrEP) series, the UTCVM requires\* all incoming students to complete at least a **2-dose PrEP**. For 1<sup>st</sup>-year students, this vaccine series must be completed before October 1 of the year of entry, before the student's first Clinical Experience (CE). For Ross and St. George's students, the series must be completed before the start of the first scheduled clinical rotation.

All DVM students are **Risk Category 2**, as they will perform animal necropsies during their education. Recommendations for this risk category are as follows:

- 2 doses, days 0 and 7
- Check titer every 2 years

A 2-year titer check will align with the scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> year of DVM education. In the semester before transitioning to clinical rotations, all transitioning students are required\* to submit proof of an adequate rabies antibody level of  $\geq 0.5$  IU/mL (World Health Organization guidelines) to the Health and Safety Coordinator. Results lower than 0.5 IU/mL will require a booster dose to be scheduled by the student as soon as possible and a subsequent titer test scheduled for 1 year later.

For the convenience of students, UTCVM hosts an on-site **Rabies Titer Clinic** every year before each class transitions to clinics. The cost of the test per student is usually \$50. Students employed by UTCVM in roles that subject them to significant potential for rabies exposure at the time of their titer test are paid for by their respective department. All results are delivered to the student via e-mail by the Health and Safety Coordinator. Rabies PrEP booster doses are not supplied or scheduled by UTCVM.

Incoming 1<sup>st</sup>-year, Ross, and St. George's students who completed the 2-dose or 3-dose PrEP 2 or more years prior to their entry to UTCVM are required\* to submit proof of adequate antibody response or a booster dose administered within their first semester. Alternatively, these incoming students may participate in the UTCVM Rabies Titer Clinic in September. Incoming first-year students who have completed the PrEP the year before entering UTCVM or established pre-clinical students who are repeating a year may postpone the 2-year titer testing until their year of transition.

*\*UTCVM does not offer vouchers or reimbursement for the rabies PrEP or titer testing. Students are encouraged to ask their insurance provider about coverage and/or request any reimbursement for the vaccine or titer test from their provider. Letters of verification of these rabies requirements can be supplied upon inquiry to the Health and Safety Coordinator or Office of Academic and Student Affairs, to be sent by the student to their insurance provider. Questions on rabies and related requirements can be directed to the Health and Safety Coordinator.*

### Professional Liability Insurance

This kind of insurance, also called malpractice insurance, assists students with legal expenses if allegations are made against them for errors or negligence while working with external practices as part of their educational program or for employment. While not required by the UTCVM, some external practices will require proof of coverage. While under the supervision of UTCVM faculty (on site or on a field call), students are covered under UTCVM's liability insurance policy. During externships and external employment, *students are not covered* under UTCVM's policy.

There are two ways to get coverage as a student: 1. SAVMA members can apply for [Veterinary Student Professional Liability Insurance](#) (AVMA PLIT). It is *complimentary* for DVM-seeking students who are active SAVMA members. Liability coverage through the AVMA is also available for purchase post-graduation. Contact the AVMA's information line with any questions, to apply, or if needing help accessing an AVMA PLIT policy: 1-800-228-7548 or [info@avmaplit.com](mailto:info@avmaplit.com).

For those who are *not* a SAVMA member and do not want to be, basic Student Professional Liability Insurance is available for purchase at \$10 a year through [UT Risk Management](#). Note this option may not be as comprehensive as AVMA PLIT, but it is better than having no coverage. Contact Risk Management for more information or to apply: 865-974-5409 or [riskmanagement@tennessee.edu](mailto:riskmanagement@tennessee.edu). Both routes may take some application processing time. Please consider these options to prepare for a situation that requires students to have their own policy.

### Radiation Safety

Each clinical student is assigned a radiation dosimeter badge, which must be worn when assisting with radiographic or nuclear medicine procedures. The badges are to be kept on the board in the radiology work area when not in use. The badges are not to be taken outside the building. The badges are changed at the beginning of every quarter (January, April, July, October), and the radiation dose for each student is determined. Badge holders can check their exposure by logging onto the dosimeters' Web site; the Radiation Safety Officer and Radiology section chief are alerted of any unusually high readings. Faculty, students, and some staff are considered occupational workers and have a maximum exposure total body limit of 5,000 mrem per year. All exposure levels should be kept below the "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) limit of 500 mrem/year.

Based on data from previous years, the average clinical student will receive an annual exposure of 110–120 mrem. Students will not get monthly reports, but they will be informed if their badge reading is high. If you have questions about dosimeter badge reading, contact the Radiology Service. A fee is charged for lost radiation safety badges.

## Lab Coat Safety

Prior to entering the clinical curriculum, it is ideal for each student to have at least two lab coats. Coats may be temporarily borrowed from the Health and Safety Coordinator.

For students in the clinic, lab coats should be washed on a cycle by themselves or with scrubs. Hospital garb should not be washed in the same cycle with domestic clothing. Coats should be washed monthly, at minimum.

It is not required to wash a lab coat after every laboratory – only in the event of a notable spill, splatter, mess, odor, etc. When cleaning lab coats after a messy pre-clinical laboratory or incident in the clinic, significantly soiled coats should be kept out of domestic washers, as they can harbor chemical and biological hazards, depending on the situation. Off-site dry cleaning is an option.

If a significant incident or hazard exposure occurs in a teaching laboratory or during a clinical rotation, lab coats can be washed in the UTCVM Laundry Facility. Students must write their name or Net ID on the coat tag if their name is not embroidered on the front, and specify to Central Sterilization that they are dropping off a student coat. Central Sterilization washes coats early Wednesday mornings, and they are ready for pickup in late morning. Always check pockets for pens and sharps before leaving a coat with them!

## Student Biosafety for Illnesses

It is critically important that students follow the guidelines for biosafety and onsite protocol related to illnesses, per Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Vaccination is strongly encouraged for all students who can be vaccinated.

All students are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Regularly monitor health for signs of illness.
- Students with a temperature rise of 2 or more degrees are advised not to attend in person and are still responsible for learning.
- Visit/speak with a healthcare provider to determine if testing is necessary.
- If a student is diagnosed with an illness, they are advised to follow current CDC guidelines and doctor recommendations per their diagnosis.
- Complete a [leave form](#) during a time of quarantine or isolation, and coordinate with the clinician/instructor on make-up requirements.
- Questions regarding expectations or requests for resources may be direct to the Health & Safety Coordinator.

## General Biosafety Procedures

By working in an area where animals may be present, students are at risk of being exposed to a variety of different organisms that might result in human disease. Risks include accidental ingestion, inhalation, contact with broken skin or mucous membranes, and bites. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the risks of acquiring an illness from animals and adhere to practices to minimize those risks to yourself and others. Wherever possible, eliminate exposure to hazardous material or substitute with a less hazardous alternative. Apply universal precautions, and treat all body fluids and exudates as potentially infectious material. Always wash hands before and after handling animals or their specimens and before exiting labs. Avoid touching the eyes, face, and unprotected skin while performing duties or lab work. Do not store or consume food or beverages in labs or in any area where hazardous materials or animals are present. Wear personal protective equipment as recommended (may include protective eyewear, lab coats, gloves, respiratory protection, etc.).

Full information for hygiene and infection control practices may be found [here](#).

Biosafety and biosecurity procedures are taught throughout all 4 years of the veterinary curriculum and emphasized in Transitions Seminars. Upon entry into the clinical curriculum, each student will demonstrate adequate knowledge of biosecurity and safety procedures in large and small animal isolation. Each student will observe the isolation training video and successfully demonstrate to clinical faculty or staff the proper biosafety protocol when entering and exiting small and large isolation facilities before continuing to their clinical curriculum. Individual biosafety procedures are also found in the [Small and Large Animal Student Handbooks](#).

Isolation protocols and the training video are available [online](#).



## Guidelines for Pregnant Veterinary Medical Students

The potential for injury during the education of veterinary students increases during pregnancy. The greatest potential hazards are accidents that may occur while working with animal patients or during necropsy of diseased patients. Such accidents may cause physical injury to the student and/or the unborn child. Additional potential hazards include exposure to toxic agents, hormones, infectious organisms, inhalation of anesthetics, radiation, and stress of physical exertion (See [State of Tennessee Right to Know Act](#)).

When working with animal patients, students should always be cautious to prevent injury to themselves and/or the patient. Precautions should also be taken to minimize necessary exposure to the pharmacologic, infectious, and radiation hazards listed above. Total avoidance of these potential hazards will not be possible in the veterinary curriculum. Students should use all previous training and current instructions to minimize hazards to themselves, their patients, and their unborn children.

The pregnant student should immediately consult with a physician for advice concerning ways to minimize exposure to potential hazards that may be associated with a veterinary student's educational assignments, including the advisability of interrupting their program of study during the pregnancy. To minimize the possibility of injury, it may be advisable for a pregnant student to continue as a regular student with schedule and assignment changes aimed at reducing such risk.

Students are encouraged, but not required, to consult with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs when learning of pregnancy and with the Occupational Health Nurse to review a course plan and identify areas of concern within the curriculum.

### *Rights and Responsibilities*

It is recognized that pregnant students maintain their established student rights. These rights fall under the university Office of Title IX.

Pregnant students are expected to complete every requirement of the veterinary curriculum. If the risks of completing certain components or specific assignments in the DVM curriculum are deemed unacceptable, pregnant students will develop, in consultation with the [Office of Title IX](#), an alternate equivalent plan or schedule deemed acceptable by the university, the student, and the student's attending physician. Pregnant students should also consult the following resources related to reproductive health: (1) AAHA's [Pregnancy Workplace Hazards in Veterinary Medicine](#), (2) [UTCVM Reproductive Health and Safety Guidelines](#), and (3) [UT Reproductive Health Safety Guide IH-040](#).

### *Curriculum Concerns*

Recommendations for protecting the reproductive health of individuals from occupational exposure to chemical, biological, radioactive, and other substances include the following (lists are not always exhaustive; always check with your physician for specific guidance based on your individual health needs):

#### **Laboratories**

- Formalin exposure in anatomy laboratories
- Anesthetic gas exposure in surgery laboratories

#### **Clinical Rotations**

- Long work hours, exposure to unruly small and large animals, exposure to toxic drugs, and exposure to infectious diseases
- **Diagnostic Imaging rotation** – Exposure to X-rays
- **Pathology rotation** – Physical labor of lifting heavy animals, slippery floors, zoonotic diseases (e.g., toxoplasmosis, cryptosporidiosis, brucellosis, salmonella, etc.), exposure to formalin, exposure to dimethyl sulfoxide
- **Field Services rotations** – Exposure to prostaglandins, parasiticides (i.e., organophosphates, etc.); *Brucella abortus* vaccine; infectious organisms (cryptosporidia, *Brucella*, *Salmonella*, *Chlamydia*, etc.); environmentally hot, humid, and sometimes dusty conditions, with much standing and walking required; exposure to large and sometimes unruly animals
- **Anesthesiology and Surgery rotations** – Exposure to anesthetic gases
- **Oncology rotation** – Exposure to chemotherapy drugs

### ***Best Practices***

It is in the best interest of a pregnant student to maintain regular contact with their physician and to take appropriate steps to minimize exposure to hazards inherent in veterinary medical education. However, the college cannot fundamentally alter its established curriculum or academic program. While pregnancy is not generally considered a disability, accommodations may be provided under the [Student Pregnancy Accommodations Policy](#) through the [Office of Title IX](#). Disclosure of pregnancy is voluntary.

For questions regarding chemical exposure and pregnancy, contact UT Environmental Health and Safety at (865) 974-5084 or [safety@utk.edu](mailto:safety@utk.edu). For questions regarding biological exposures and pregnancy, contact the UT Biosafety office at (865) 974-9586 or [utbiosafety@utk.edu](mailto:utbiosafety@utk.edu). Radiological hazards may be found in laboratories, medical facilities, and some analytical equipment. Radiological sources should be marked with warning/caution statements. Exposures to radiological sources may come from direct contact with materials or indirect exposures via proximity to radiation sources. For questions regarding radiological exposure, contact the UT Radiation Safety office at (865) 974-5580 or [radiationsafety@utk.edu](mailto:radiationsafety@utk.edu).

### ***Available Options***

Students may opt to continue regular student enrollment with selected schedule and assignment changes, as needed. This option is not without risks and could result in delay of completion of the DVM program, especially if maternity leave is required prior to completion. This option is dependent upon:

- Student's ability to participate in any revised educational program
- Ability of the college to make changes in the student's schedule of clinical assignments in advance
- Availability and willingness of classmates to exchange scheduled rotation assignments with the pregnant student

Briefly, accommodations typically provided under the [Student Pregnancy Accommodations Policy](#) include excused absences, the opportunity to make up any missed work, accessible seating, appropriate restroom breaks, academic adjustments related to childbirth, and access to the T van on campus. Accommodations must be requested through the [Office of Title IX](#). See [Pregnancy-Related Absences](#) for more information.

Students may also request a medically necessary leave of absence related to pregnancy through the [Office of Title IX](#). This option minimizes health hazards and risks associated with attempting to continue a veterinary medical education while maintaining a safe pregnancy. Students will be required to complete all assignments and course requirements that were missed during short-term leave. By taking leave, students may incur additional costs in tuition and fees should they require enrollment in additional semesters beyond the normative time for degree completion.

Similarly, parental leave may be granted for students to care for their partner or help with the arrival of a newborn. Students in good academic standing seeking parental leave may submit a written request to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs to withdraw from the DVM program for a period, not to exceed 1 academic year. Students who are allowed to withdraw may be readmitted, upon application approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and permitted to graduate with a subsequent class. Withdrawals longer than an academic year may necessitate repeat of prior course material or semesters.

### ***Mothering Rooms***

Three lactation rooms are available for students, staff, and faculty who return to school/work following maternity leave and prefer privacy to continue breastfeeding. One room is in the far-right corner of the women's locker room on the second floor (Room B214). While its use is on a first-come, first-served basis, there is a dry-erase board and paper log available to record usage. This room may better serve underclassmen and those in the Large Animal Clinic, due to location. The room has a comfortable chair, an additional chair, a power strip, and a refrigerator for milk storage. There is a second lactation room (B229C) on the second floor of the Tickle Small Animal Clinic, which may be more convenient for those located in the Small Animal Clinic. This room has a sink, desk, and chairs; a lock on the door; and is labeled as a privacy room. A refrigerator where milk can be stored is also available. Similarly, there is a log to record usage. The third location is on the ground floor of the Animal and Natural Resources (ANR) Building (Room G007).



# Hospital & Classroom Security

A picture identification badge must be worn at ALL times while in the Veterinary Medicine Building or on Field Services calls. Students on duty are to help make sure the building is secure by checking all doors after hours. No classroom or external doors are to be propped open. You must use your digital VolCard to enter mag-locked areas. Tours are not to be given after hours without prior approval, and all unauthorized persons are to be escorted out of the building. If you need help, call Campus Security at 865-974-3114. Stop and inquire about any person in question. Hospital security personnel are on duty from 6:00 pm to 2:00 am Monday through Friday and 7:00 am Saturday until 7:00 am Monday. Contact them with any questions or problems by dialing 865-404-0095. The front doors to the Large Animal Hospital are unlocked from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The Small Animal Hospital front doors are unlocked from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

Students are required to have a valid digital VolCard to enter the building and access certain internal sites. Students should not open doors for unknown visitors or prop open doors. Lecture hall doors should not be propped open, as this will disable security features. The VolCard must be added to a mobile device using the [GET app](#). Students do not have an option for a non-digital VolCard. For problems with VolCard access, contact Sheila Hatcher (865-974-5771; [shatcher@utk.edu](mailto:shatcher@utk.edu)).

Panic buttons are installed at reception desks in the small and large animal hospitals, as well as in the pharmacy; when these buttons are pressed, a police officer is dispatched.

## UT ALERT

The UT ALERT system is designed to enhance and improve communication and keep the campus community informed during an emergency. The service allows students, faculty, and staff to "opt in" to be notified via text message and e-mail in the event of an emergency or campus closure.

The system will be used only for emergency contact purposes. It will not be used to distribute advertising or other unsolicited content. Subscribers do not pay a fee for the service, other than regular fees associated with text messaging services. For more information and to sign up, see [Public Safety](#).

## Safe at UT

The "Safe at UT" app is an essential tool to enhance your personal safety while at the University of Tennessee. The app will send you important safety alerts and provide instant access to an array of safety resources. Users have convenient access to campus resources and services without having to search the internet for them. Safe at UT features: "Friend Walk" to invite friends and family from your smartphone contacts to walk or drive with you virtually, reach UT Police, "BlueLight Phone" to simultaneously call and share your location with the UT Police Department, etc.

## UTCVM Emergency Contacts

### Building Maintenance Problems:

|                                       |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Marcus Williford, Facilities Director | 865-XXX-XXXX (Cell)                                   |
| Austin Johnson, Maintenance Foreman   | 865-XXX-XXXX (Cell); 7:30 am–4:30 pm M–F only         |
| UTK Facilities One Call               | 865-946-7777; after 4:30 pm M–F, nights, and weekends |

|                      |                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| UT Police            | 865-974-3114                             |
| Dr. Angela Rollins   | 865-974-XXXX (Work); 865-XXX-XXXX (Cell) |
| Dr. Carla Sommardahl | 865-XXX-XXXX (Cell)                      |
| Dr. William Thomas   | 865-XXX-XXXX (Cell); 865-XXX-XXXX (Home) |

### Housekeeping

[cvmhousekeepingsupport@utk.edu](mailto:cvmhousekeepingsupport@utk.edu)

### Computer Operations

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Hotline | 865-755-7917 |
|---------|--------------|

### Security

|                                                         |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mon–Fri, 6 pm–2 am; Weekends, 7 am Saturday–7 am Monday | 865-XXX-XXXX |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|

**FIRE OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY: 911**

**CAMPUS SECURITY: 865-974-3114**

# Guidelines for Class Organization

The following is an outline for class organization and election of officers.

## Year 1 Elections

Elections are guided by the 2<sup>nd</sup>-year class presidents during the first several weeks of school. The process is initiated when an e-mail is sent out listing what leadership positions are available and a description of the responsibilities for each position. Additionally, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-year student executive board (E-board) meets with the 1<sup>st</sup>-year class to talk in more detail about the positions they hold. Nominations follow during the next week. Students have the option to run as individuals or as co-position holders, and there are no set rules about which positions are singular and which are co-positions; however, traditionally, president, social chairs, and fundraising chairs are all co-positions due to workload required and responsibilities. Presidents have traditionally included one female and one male to broadly represent the class. Once the nomination period is over, each self-nominated candidate or set of co-candidates gives a short speech to the class during a free lunch period. Then, the 2<sup>nd</sup>-year presidents run the actual elections. Usually, there are printed paper ballots where one's choice is to be circled. If electronic ballots are to be used, the voting process must be announced well in advance, and a process for accounting for individual student ballots must be in place. Second-year presidents oversee counting ballots and reporting the results to the first years.

## Year 2 and 3 Elections

Each class holds elections at either the end of the spring semester or the beginning of the fall semester. These are run similarly as 1<sup>st</sup>-year elections in that following the announcement of elections, there is a week for self-nominations. If there are multiple nominees for any position, then the current position holder and additional nominee(s) give speeches, and then voting occurs. The presidents oversee this unless they too are running against someone, in which case another unchallenged officer will oversee counting ballots to ensure fairness. If a position is unchallenged, the current position holder can choose to retain that position for the year or decline it, and the position will be opened and the class asked to fill it. If no one fills the position, the responsibilities of that position are absorbed by the rest of the executive board. Any challenge to the election process is managed through university policy described by the [Student Government Association](#).

## Class Financial Responsibilities

Classes are managed like clubs. With the assistance of SAVMA, they are responsible for filing taxes, and they may not solicit donations as a tax-deductible representative of the University of Tennessee, including the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Each class is responsible for a significant financial commitment each year, which is why the fundraisers, social chairs, and president positions are labor intensive. The 1<sup>st</sup>-year class oversees the Halloween Party as its major event. The cost is typically around \$3,000, and substantial fundraising is required, especially from this newly established class. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-year class oversees the Halfway to Clinics formal event, which varies in cost between \$6,000–\$10,000. A considerable portion of the cost is covered by ticket sales, but considerable fundraising efforts are also required by the class.

## Class Officers

Typically, each class will have each of these positions:

- **President** (2). Preside over all meetings and be a member of all standing and temporary committees. Meet regularly with the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs. Time commitment: considerable.
- **Vice President** (1–2). Provide support to the presidents. Time commitment: moderate.
- **Treasurer**. Open and sustain a class account and pay bills. Time commitment: moderate.
- **Secretary** (2). Keep minutes of class meetings and facilitate communications between class members. Time commitment: moderate.
- **SAVMA Representative** (1). Act as a liaison between classes, SAVMA, and the college and serve on the SAVMA Executive Board; collect membership dues and keep the Office for Educational Enhancement informed of SAVMA activities and actions that concern the college. Time commitment: moderate.
- **Academic Chair** (2). Serve as a liaison with faculty and staff to reschedule classes that are missed and set up exam reviews; serve as general liaison to Associate Dean regarding curricular and program delivery and issues. Attend and participate in meetings of the college Curriculum Committee as a member (one chair per class may vote).

- **Educational Enhancement Committee Representative (2).** Attend and participate in meetings of the college Educational Enhancement Committee. Each class recommends two student representatives by class election and must be approved by the committee. Representatives must be in their sophomore year or above.
- **Fundraising Chair (2-3).** Assist with class fundraising to oversee the Halloween party and Halfway to Clinics Formal.
- **Community Service Chair (2).**
- **Social Chair (2).**
- **Historian (2).**
- **Internet Resource Officer (1 or 2).**
- **Wellness Chair (1 or 2).**

## Special Student Events

### Freshman Orientation (August 10–12)

Prior to the start of classes, the incoming class participates in an orientation to the degree program, the college, and academic and student affairs staff.

### Leadership Camp (August 12–13)

Prior to the start of classes, the incoming class participates in a leadership camp. The students come together for a 2-day team-building experience accompanied by their rising sophomores and conclude with the Welcoming/White Coat Ceremony.

### White Coat Ceremony (August 15)

Typically held prior to the start of 1<sup>st</sup>-year classes, this ceremony recognizes the incoming class of students. At this informal event, each student is presented with a UTCVM white lab coat.

### Big Sib/Little Sib

Each incoming veterinary student has a “big sibling” who acts as his or her mentor and guide through the program. These students can provide advice on classes, studying, and other resources they found useful.

### VOLVet Connect Program

Each incoming student is assigned to a participating UTCVM community member (a CVM Guide) who helps them navigate their first year and feel part of UTCVM. The role of a CVM Guide is to serve as a welcoming resource for assigned students by offering perspective, encouragement, and guidance as they adjust to the academic and social environment of veterinary school. Listening and empathy play key roles in helping students feel supported and connected. Additionally, the Educational Enhancement Committee sponsors a lunch event in both semesters to allow guides and students to interact. Additional social events can be planned at the discretion of the guides.

### Study Days

Selected study days are held in the fall and spring semester during midterms and between the end of class and the beginning of exams. Various “pick-me-ups” are often available, and faculty stop by to provide encouragement for the upcoming exam period.

### Scholarship Celebration (September 8)

This event is attended by student scholarship recipients, faculty, and scholarship donors. Recognition and awards are given following a luncheon. Most of the awards are for students, and limited awards are given to faculty.

### Research Day (September 9)

The goals of the college research day are for students to learn the fundamentals of delivering scientific presentations to an audience of peers and to appreciate the role of research in veterinary medicine. Students in their first and second years must complete engagement requirements tied to a specific number of talks attended.

**Ag Day (October 2)**

Ag Day is an event during which the UT Institute of Agriculture is open to the public. Participants present educational information with numerous displays, for a day of fun, fellowship, and learning about all things agriculture. It is a great public event that draws local media attention.

**Scrubbin' In (January 15)**

This is an informal ceremony to welcome the juniors to clinics. It is attended by faculty, staff, and outgoing seniors. Juniors receive advice from faculty, staff, and outgoing seniors and are given a special gift.

**Senior Banquet (May 14 *tentative*)**

This event is attended by students and their guests, faculty, and staff. Awards are given during a formal event following dinner. In addition, the outgoing class selects and awards whom they feel are the college's best clinician, resident, intern, and technician. All senior students are invited to attend.

**Commencement (May 15 *tentative*)**

This is a formal event attended by faculty, students, staff, and families. It is held during the commencement period for the university and is at the Alumni Memorial James Cox Auditorium.

## **Advice for First-Year Students...from Upperclassmen**

**Study Skills**

"Don't be afraid to change how you study. I came into vet school dead set that the way I studied in undergrad was perfect and was going to work for me and quickly found out on the first anatomy exam that I was wrong. If you usually study alone, try studying with a group of friends, ask other people or upper classmates what they recommended, and try out everything you need to until you find something that sticks."

"Study smarter, not longer. Experiment with different study methods during the first few weeks instead of assuming what worked in undergrad will still work."

"Ask upperclassmen for advice. They're usually happy to share study resources, explain courses, and tell you which materials are actually useful."

"Your professors give you a study guide for every class without you even having to ask! They're called the learning objectives. If you work through those as the semester progresses and ask your professors questions early when you're having trouble with a topic, you'll find that test time is far less stressful."

"Be open to group studying because veterinary medicine is very collaborative, and sometimes your peers pick up on information that might not have stood out to you. Also pay attention to class objectives and do not wait until the day before the exam to read them; most exams are directly related to the objectives. Overall, be kind to yourself and do not be afraid to ask for help from your peers and professors!"

**Practicalities**

"Invest in an iPad—seriously. I was a person who took all of my notes in high school and undergrad on paper, and it worked for me then, but it will not in vet school. There's simply too much information too fast, and you'll need to be able to reference the slides while studying."

"Get ready to be the most organized you've ever been in your life. I would literally not be able to function if I didn't keep my inbox clean, keep an updated to-do list, and plan everything in my calendar app. Figure out what works for you and stick to it."

"iPad/tablet is a must for taking notes, annotating lecture slides, and staying organized throughout the curriculum."

"Wait to buy textbooks and anatomy supplies. Many classes don't use every required book, and upperclassmen often sell gently used copies at a fraction of the cost. Ask second-years what is actually worth purchasing before spending money."

"Join the UTCVM Facebook page(s). It's one of the best places to find housing, roommates, furniture, textbooks, scrubs, and other supplies from graduating students."

“Get organized early. Find a calendar or planning system that works for you before classes become busy.”

## Disability & Accommodations

“If you have a learning disability, set up your accommodations before starting vet school. I didn't think I would need mine because I didn't use my accommodations much in undergrad, but you'll want it for school.”

## Growth and Leadership

“Now that you've made it to vet school, it's not a competition anymore. There's no point in competing with your classmates about grades or experiences—remember you're going to spend a LOT of time with these people over the next 4 years! Everyone will have their strengths and weaknesses in vet med; learn to embrace yours and appreciate others.”

“Try to be flexible. Your vet school class schedule is much more fluid than in undergrad, and things may be cancelled, rescheduled, or just not go exactly the way you planned. Take it all in strides and try have perspective when changes happen last minute. How much does taking your Physiology exam at 9am instead of 10am really matter in the long run?”

“Don't be afraid to take advantage of all the opportunities offered. Join that club or e-board, join an emergency care team, attend that workshop, take that elective you know nothing about. Vet school is much more fun when you're involved!”

“Vet school is not like anything else you have done before—it will present a new set of challenges that will require you to adapt, be flexible, and lean on your peers—and that is all part of the process. One of the biggest obstacles for me was accepting that I will not know everything, and that is okay. No one expects you to master everything because that is not the point of school. The point is to shape you into an incredible doctor, and the best way to do that is to show up every day, do the best you can, and lean on your classmates—they will become your lifeline. This is certainly not a solo sport, so create relationships that add value to your life, and hold onto them. People recognize students who try, so if you put in the effort, keep your friends close, and are flexible to schedule changes, you will succeed.”

“Remember that it's okay not to know everything. Vet school is where you're supposed to learn.”

“Get involved—but don't overcommit. Join clubs that genuinely interest you, but leave yourself time to adjust to the workload. I personally recommend paying only the semester dues and then deciding which ones you want to stay in for the Spring.”

“Push yourself out of your comfort zone and join a leadership position during vet school! It is a great time to find something you are passionate about serving in and make a difference in the school community.”

“Even if you're set on working in a particular niche in vet med, explore other areas of the career. It's okay to change your mind, and you may find something you love even more!”

“I encourage you to get involved, talk to your classmates, ask your professors questions and don't be afraid to reach out to the classes above. There is an entire community that is ready to meet and support you!”

## Self-Care

“Remember to be a person outside of vet med. Grades are never worth sacrificing your sleep, happiness, relationships, fitness, etc. Everyone will be a doctor no matter the grade point!”

“Don't lose yourself to vet school. It is important to work and study hard, but it is also important to take breaks. Continue the hobbies you had before school, catch up with friends and talk about things outside of school. A lot of people say that this is your life now and you should sacrifice everything for it; but you should still be a person outside of this career and field.”

“Treat Vet School like a full-time job, 8-5 pm, even if you don't have to be here during those times! The in-between time in classes and labs are excellent study times. Some evenings and weekends, you'll put in 'overtime,' but vet school is what you are currently doing, not who you are!”

“Take care of yourself. Prioritize sleep, exercise, and meals. Veterinary school is a marathon, not a sprint.”

“My advice for your first year of vet school is to protect your break times. It can get very tempting to study during lunch, but protect that time to eat, decompress, and take a walk through gardens.”

“Not the most fun advice but be realistic about your money, especially if you're on student loans. Create a detailed budget and stick to it the best you can. Look for ways you can save through the next 4 years—live with roommates, shop at a different grocery store, limit how much you eat out, etc. You will thank yourself later, I promise.”

“It is important to make sure that you have a good school-life balance and make sure you give yourself breaks daily and throughout the semester to still do activities you enjoy.”

“Don't forget who you are and what you love to do outside of vet school! Taking time for your relationships, hobbies, and interests outside of studying will be so beneficial throughout your journey at UTCVM.”

“There are going to be times when you feel the loneliest you've ever been and like no one else understands. Hang in there - you're not alone, and everyone goes through it. You'll find your people as the year goes on.”

“It's incredibly easy to fall into the trap of viewing yourself as a vet student above everything else, especially once you hit the pressure cooker that is midterms. Find *something* you can consistently do that nourishes your identity outside of veterinary medicine -- join an intramural sport, pick up a new hobby, find a group in your faith community to connect with -- the options are unlimited as long as it helps you stay grounded.”

“My advice for incoming first-years would be to not compare yourself to others. My first semester was difficult because I was constantly comparing my grades to my friends' grades. Everyone that makes it into vet school is incredibly smart, and it was hard to remind myself that I had to be incredibly smart to get accepted too. Keep conversations about grades to a minimum, and focus on making grades that you alone are satisfied with.”

## Clinical

“If a tech or veterinary assistant corrects your technique or offers you advice in a lab, *listen to them*. They're the ones performing skills like blood draws and animal restraint every day in the hospital, and they're here to help you learn.”

# Appendices and Forms

## Pertinent Veterinary Student Web Pages

[All-in-One Reporting Form](#) (to report student concerns)

[Biosafety Program](#), (865) 974-5084

[Center for Care and Resilience](#), (865) 974-HELP

[Directions to UTCVM](#)

[Division of Access and Engagement](#)

[FERPA](#) (Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act), (865) 974-1501

[Financial Aid](#), (865) 974-1111

[Funding, Fellowships, Assistantships](#) for Graduate Students, (865) 974-2475

[Graduate School](#), (865) 974-2475

[Graduate Catalog](#)

[Graduate Student Appeals Procedure](#)

[Graduate Student Senate](#)

Housing, [On-Campus](#) & [Off-Campus](#)

Knoxville [Family Justice Center](#), (865) 521-6336 (24/7 Family Violence Helpline)

[Legal Clinic](#), (865) 974-2331

[Mobile Crisis Services](#), 988

[National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#), 988

[Office of Equal Opportunity and Accessibility](#), (865) 974-2498

[Office for Campus Culture & Community](#), (865) 974-6861

[Office of Innovative Technologies](#), (865) 974-9900

[Parking & Transportation](#), (865) 974-6031

[Pendergrass Ag/Vet Med Library](#), (865) 974-7338

[PRIDE Commons](#), (865) 974-7803

[Public Safety](#), (865) 974-3114

[Ride the T Bus Map & Schedule](#), (865) 974-6031

[Smokey's Pantry](#), (865) 236-1235

State of Tennessee [Right to Know Act](#), (865) 594-6180

[Student Code of Conduct](#), (865) 974-3171

Student [Counseling Center](#), (865) 974-2196

[Student Disability Services](#), (865) 974-6087

[Student Health Center](#), (865) 974-5080

[Student Health Center Pharmacy](#), (865) 974-5932

[Title IX](#) (discrimination information), (865) 974-9600

[Universal Precautions](#)



**College of Veterinary Medicine**  
**Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs**  
2407 River Drive – Room A102A  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4550  
main: 865-974-7263  
fax: 865-974-4773  
vetmed.tennessee.edu

**Please read the following acknowledgement and sign where indicated.**  
**Questions can be directed to the Health & Safety Coordinator, Alicia Robino:**  
**[arobino@utk.edu](mailto:arobino@utk.edu), (865) 221-0055.**

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*"I understand that the veterinary medicine curriculum requires students to participate in various clinical experiences. Such clinical activities may be on or off the premises of the College of Veterinary Medicine and The University of Tennessee. These clinical activities, by their nature, create the potential for students to be exposed to accidents or illnesses. It is necessary that students who participate in these clinical rotations and live animal laboratories have health insurance for their own protection."*

*"My signature below indicates that I understand the need for health insurance during each academic year, and I agree to provide health insurance for myself for the duration of my veterinary education here at UTCVM."*

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SIGNATURE

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NAME (PRINT LEGIBLY)

Revised 05/26

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## Student Incident Report

Not to be used for automobile accidents or  
worker's compensation claim reporting.

|                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                               |                               |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Occurrence<br>Details                                                                                                                                    | _____<br>(Student Name)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | _____<br>(Date of Occurrence) | _____<br>(Time of Occurrence) | _____<br>(Date of Report) |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Nature of Occurrence:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Property <input type="checkbox"/> Security <input type="checkbox"/> Unsafe Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Near Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                                                  |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Location of Occurrence:</b><br>Bldg Name: _____ Room #: _____<br>Address: _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Description of Occurrence:</b> (Occurrence = The event or condition that could or did cause injury or property damage)<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div> Applicable PPE Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____ |                               |                               |                           |
| <b>Could this Occurrence Have Been Avoided?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Discuss solutions with Lab Safety Coordinator) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                               |                               |                           |
| Complete if<br>Injury,<br>Exposure,<br>or<br>Property<br>Damage<br>Occurred                                                                              | <b>Persons Injured and/or Whom Sustained Property Damage:</b><br>1) _____<br>2) _____<br>3) _____<br>(Name)                      (Street Address, City, State, Zip)                      (Email Address)                      (Relationship to University)                                                             |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Professional Medical Treatment Required:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Facility: _____                                                                                                                                                                                               |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Nature of Injury or Exposure; Body Part Affected:</b> _____                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Property Damaged:</b> (Description of Damage)<br><div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>                                                                                                                                                                                           |                               |                               |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Witnesses:</b><br>_____<br>_____<br>(Name)                      (Address)                      (Telephone)                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                               |                               |                           |
| Reporting<br>Details                                                                                                                                     | <b>Occurrence Reported To:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> UT Campus Police <input type="checkbox"/> Local Police <input type="checkbox"/> UTCVM Health & Safety Coordinator<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____<br>Additional Comments: _____                                                                     |                               |                               |                           |
| Supervisor<br>Details                                                                                                                                    | <b>Supervisor Comments:</b><br><div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div> _____<br>(Signature of Supervisor)                      (Supervisor Email Address)                                                                                                                             |                               |                               |                           |

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student)

Submit To: **Health & Safety Coordinator**  
 Office: UTCVM, Room A106B  
 PH: (865) 221-0055  
 Email: arobino@utk.edu