

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Class of 2021

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Howdy Class of 2021,

I know we are approaching the deadline for decisions about whether or not you will be joining us at Texas A&M in the fall and I understand there is some concern about the new curriculum. I want to share with you the 1st year curriculum. The changes are being made to the curriculum based upon feedback from new DVM graduates, employers, current students and faculty.

Class of 2021: New Curriculum

The curriculum for the professional DVM program at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is designed to create a competent and confident day-one veterinary professional. From the first week of the program and throughout the curriculum, students are provided opportunities to develop the professional skills necessary for success as a veterinarian, experiences to practice entry-level technical procedures and exercises to formulate strong problem-solving skills for the world of veterinary medicine.

The first three years of the 4-year program focus on foundation science and concurrent supporting courses which use a variety of simulation models, training modalities and live animal experiences to promote understanding of the importance of basic science in the medical profession. The fourth and final year consists of 12-months of clinical rotations throughout the small and large animal hospitals as well as external rotations at the Houston SPCA and other elective rotations selected by individual students.

The new curriculum, designed after extensive consultation with current students, recent alumni, faculty, employers, and practitioners, begins in the fall of 2017 with the first-year content. The second year curriculum will follow in the fall of 2018, the third year in fall of 2019 and the fourth year in the fall 2020. The class of 2021 will be the first class to graduate having the redesigned program in its entirety. Goals for the new curriculum include greater integration of content between concurrent courses in each year of the program as well as between courses in different years of the program, greater focus on personal and professional wellness, and earlier and greater consistency of training in professional and technical skills.

The DVM program has traditionally offered a wide variety of elective courses in the 3rd year of the program. We are happy that electives will remain part of the program and will now be offered in both semesters of the 2VM and 3VM program years. Much of the content developed for elective courses in the past is now incorporated into the new curriculum as core content for all students. In the fall of 2017, the new curriculum offers students greater exposure to the many facets of veterinary medicine during the first year of veterinary school and provides greater opportunities for students to select career-focused courses to guide career decisions following graduation.

The following is a list of courses for the first year of the program. You will receive more information about the new curriculum at DVM Orientation in August. Additional information about pre-requisite courses and expectations for entry-level DVM program knowledge will follow over the summer months. Please stay tuned to your CVM email address, which will be assigned after you have accepted the offer of admission, for information. Congratulations again on your acceptance; we are looking forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sincerely,

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Class of 2021 1VM Curriculum			
Fall Semester			
Course		Format	Course Description
VSCS 910	Integrated Animal Care I	Lecture + Lab	This course provides foundation content for companion animal and large animal veterinary care. With horizontal integration of content from anatomy, physiology, and immunology, the course focuses on day-one graduate wellness-care knowledge for common domestic veterinary patients. Exposures will include common companion animal species as well as pocket pets and birds, horses, cows and small ruminants.
VTPP 914	Professional & Clinical Skills I	Lecture + Lab	This course focuses on clinical skills, professional skills and problem solving and will integrate and reinforce foundational knowledge offered in basic science and concurrent courses across the curriculum. This is a sequential course, offered in each semester of the program (years 1-3), with content building upon and reinforced each semester.

			Experiential learning opportunities include communication training, financial literacy (personal and professional finances), ethics, leadership, personal and professional wellbeing, clinical reasoning, and technical skills necessary for success as a day-one veterinary professional.
VIBS 936	Veterinarians in Society	Lecture	This course explores the wide variety of career options available as a veterinary professional and offers foundation knowledge for public health and one-health medicine.
VIBS 910	Small Animal Anatomy	Lecture + Lab	Nomenclature, structures and principles of functional anatomy of dogs and cats with emphasis on topographical, radiographic, and functional anatomy of structures with clinical importance.
VIBS 911	Histology	Lab	Histology of clinically-relevant structures aligning with concurrent physiology and anatomy courses is instructed in a one-hour weekly laboratory experience.
VTPB 910	Veterinary Immunology	Lecture	Introduction to veterinary immunology: mechanisms of resistance of infectious diseases and tumors; tissue injury caused by the immune system, including hypersensitivity reactions and autoimmunity; immunization theory and practices; immunologic methods for diagnosis of disease.
VTPP 910	Physiology I	Lecture + Lab	Introduction to physiology: cell physiology, cell signaling, cell cycle, body fluids, translocation of materials, membrane potentials, neurophysiology, autonomic nervous system, thermoregulation, cardiovascular, muscle physiology, respiration, renal physiology, acid-base physiology, reproductive physiology, and gastrointestinal physiology.

Spring Semester			
Course		Format	Course Description
VLCS 910	Integrated Animal Care II	Lecture + Lab	This course provides foundation content for companion animal and large animal veterinary care. With horizontal integration of content from anatomy, physiology, and immunology, the course focuses on day-one graduate wellness-care knowledge for common domestic veterinary patients. Exposures will include common companion animal species as well as pocket pets and birds, horses, cows and small ruminants.
VIBS 914	Professional & Clinical Skills II	Lecture + Lab	This course focuses on clinical skills, professional skills and problem solving and will integrate and reinforce foundational knowledge offered in basic science and concurrent courses across the curriculum. This is a sequential course, offered in each semester of the program (years 1-3), with content building upon and reinforced each semester. Experiential learning opportunities include communication training, financial literacy (personal and professional finances), ethics, leadership, personal and professional wellbeing, clinical reasoning, and technical skills necessary for success as a day-one veterinary professional.
VIBS 912	Clinical Anatomy of Large Animals	Lecture + Lab	Gross and topographical anatomy of domestic livestock including equine, ruminant, porcine, and avian gross anatomy through use of cadavers, models, and images. Emphasis placed on structures of clinical importance, relationships to common medical and surgical procedures, and functions in the

			animal body.
VTPB 925	Agents of Disease I	Lecture + Lab	Introduction to the agents of infectious diseases: bacteria, fungi, viruses, prions, protozoa, helminths and arthropods. Agents are presented by general taxonomy and structural features as they relate to replication strategies, diagnosis and therapy, diagnostic procedures and mechanisms of disease production. Instruction of infectious diseases representing each class of agents with emphasis on characteristics of infectious diseases for each body-system occurs and students practice establishing differential diagnoses for disease syndromes and developing a diagnostic approach through laboratory exercises.
VTPB 922	Pathology I	Lecture + Lab	Structural and functional changes in cells, tissues and organ systems of animals; pathogenesis, mechanisms and morphologic features of diseases and their relationship to clinical signs are presented. Laboratory experiences consist of studies of gross and microscopic pathology with clinical emphasis.
VTPP 912	Physiology II	Lecture + Lab	Introduction to physiology: cell physiology, cell signaling, cell cycle, body fluids, translocation of materials, membrane potentials, neurophysiology, autonomic nervous system, thermoregulation, cardiovascular, muscle physiology, respiration, renal physiology, acid-base physiology, reproductive physiology, and gastrointestinal physiology.