

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VETERINARY CLINICAL CARE, PLAN B

This program will build upon a student's undergraduate training in the life sciences to provide them with advanced knowledge and technical skills to be competent in the administration of routine veterinary care to small companion animals (dogs and cats only). The curriculum includes instruction in infectious, metabolic, neoplastic, and degenerative diseases, and includes the development of expertise in technical, communication and leadership skills. This program utilizes the facilities and expertise in CSU's Department of Clinical Sciences, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, CSU SPUR campus, and other qualified facilities.

## Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion, students will be able to:

1. Apply expert knowledge in technical and medical communication by exhibiting successful veterinary medical case management with clients and colleagues.
2. Demonstrate leadership skills through successful completion of individual and group work and cooperative case management.
3. Utilize critical thinking, analytical skills, and clinical reasoning to address patient and client needs as an individual and as a member of a team.
4. Apply knowledge of the spectrum of health and disease to develop, implement, document, and monitor effectiveness of patient management plans.
5. Interpret data based on patient information, current scientific evidence, and clinical judgment to make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions.
6. Prioritize proficiency to perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential to the role of the veterinary professional associate (VPA).
7. Work effectively with DVMs and other veterinary health professionals to provide collaborative, patient-centered care to increase efficiency in the delivery of veterinary services.
8. Generate a climate of mutual respect, dignity, diversity, ethical integrity, and trust in the delivery of veterinary services.

## Plan B Requirements

The Plan B degree does not require a thesis; instead, either a scholarly paper, exam, portfolio, or similar project is required.

In semester 4, students are required to complete a case study project and common exam. The common exam will be rigorous and cumulative for the entire program, representing subjects and clinical situations that incorporate knowledge accumulated throughout the program that demonstrates clinical competency. The common exam will assess mastery of program learning objectives. The case study project will be a detailed case study on a patient. It will include an accumulation of their skills that demonstrates history taking, medical records, clinical reasoning, client communication, a surgical plan, an anesthetic plan, drug calculations, follow-up care, written and verbal communication, organizational skills, conflict resolution, and case management improvements.

Common Exam: Student must receive a 70% or above grade on exam to pass the course and graduate. A failing grade on the exam can be replaced by a makeup exam grade. Only one makeup exam will be allowed per student. If a student fails the exam twice they must retake the exam after 2 months.

The exam will be offered in an approved testing location and may include multiple choice questions, short answer, matching, essay, or other formats of assessment.

Case Study Project: Effective communication with team (DVM and technician, minimum); Demonstration of: history taking, medical records (SOAP, include behavioral assessment), clinical reasoning (include DDX), client communication (patient status throughout case, financial considerations, ethical standards), surgical plan (include other surgical options considered, if applicable, surgery report, and complications), anesthetic plan (include anesthetic record, reason for specific anesthetic plan, and complications), drug calculations (provide medication list, full calculations and sources for dosages, client instructions, contraindications), follow-up care (provide client instructions and potential complications); written and verbal communication and organizational skills; conflict resolution (client or team); case management improvement (address complications and conflicts previously noted).

20-minute presentation will be a summary, but a full paper will be part of the submission.

Paper: 3–5-page, single space with minimum 5 APA resources.

Appendices (charts, tables, pictures) not included in the page limit.

## Requirements Effective Fall 2025

### First Year

Fall		Credits
VS 501	Animal Behavior and Welfare	2
VS 502	Clinical Anatomy	2
VS 503	Principles of Radiology and Ultrasound	2
VS 504	Infectious Pathogens and Parasites	3
VS 506	Pathologic Basis of Disease	3
VS 526	Foundations I	2
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>14</b>

### Spring

VS 521	Nutrition and Metabolism	2
VS 522	Toxicology	1
VS 523	Clinical Pharmacology	3
VS 527	Foundations II	2
VS 535	Practice Management and Team Leadership	2
VS 547	Common Diseases of Body Systems I	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

**Second Year****Fall**

VS 528	Foundations III	2
VS 541	Fundamentals of Shelter Medicine	1
VS 542	Principles of Anesthesia	2
VS 543	Principles of Surgery	2
VS 544	Preventative Medicine	2
VS 545	Issues in Veterinary Medicine	1
VS 548	Common Diseases of Body Systems II	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

**Spring**

VS 601	Physical Exam and Routine Care Lab	2
VS 603	Anesthesia Lab	2
VS 604	Diagnostics Lab	2
VS 607	Clinical Skills Lab	2
VS 608	Communications Lab	1
VS 609	Surgical Skills Lab	2
VS 610	Dentistry Skills Lab	2
Case Study Project and Common Exam <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>13</b>

**Third Year****Fall**

VS 687	Clinical Internship	12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Program Total Credits:</b>		<b>65</b>

A minimum of 65 credits are required to complete this program.

<sup>1</sup> Students are required to complete a case study project and common exam.

The case study project will be a detailed case study on a patient. It will include an accumulation of their skills that demonstrates history taking, medical records, clinical reasoning, client communication, a surgical plan, an anesthetic plan, drug calculations, follow-up care, written and verbal communication, organizational skills, conflict resolution, and case management improvements.

The common exam will be rigorous and cumulative for the entire program, representing subjects and clinical situations that incorporate knowledge accumulated throughout the program that demonstrates clinical competency. The common exam will assess mastery of program learning objectives.

## Requirements for All Graduate Degrees

For more information, please visit Requirements for All Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/graduate-study/procedures-requirements-all-degrees/>) in the Graduate and Professional Bulletin (<http://catalog.colostate.edu/general-catalog/graduate-bulletin/>).

## Summary of Procedures for the Master's and Doctoral Degrees

NOTE: Each semester the Graduate School publishes a schedule of deadlines. Deadlines are available on the Graduate School website (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/deadline-dates/>). Students should consult this schedule whenever they approach important steps in their careers.

Forms (<https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/forms/>) are available online.

Step	Due Date
1. Application for admission (online)	Six months before first registration
2. Diagnostic examination when required	Before first registration
3. Appointment of advisor	Before first registration
4. Selection of graduate committee	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
5. Filing of program of study (GS Form 6)	Before the time of fourth regular semester registration
6. Preliminary examination (Ph.D. and PD)	Two terms prior to final examination
7. Report of preliminary examination (GS Form 16) - (Ph.D. and PD)	Within two working days after results are known
8. Changes in committee (GS Form 9A)	When change is made
9. Application for Graduation (GS Form 25)	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
9a. Reapplication for Graduation (online)	Failure to graduate requires Reapplication for Graduation (online) for the next time term for which you are applying
10. Submit thesis or dissertation to committee	At least two weeks prior to the examination or at the discretion of the graduate committee
11. Final examination	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School Website
12. Report of final examination (GS Form 24)	Within two working days after results are known; refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
13. Submit a signed Thesis/ Dissertation Submission Form (GS Form 30) to the Graduate School and Submit the Survey of Earned Doctorates (Ph.D. only) prior to submitting the electronic thesis/ dissertation	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website.
14. Submit the thesis/dissertation electronically	Refer to published deadlines from the Graduate School website
15. Graduation	Ceremony information is available from the Graduate School website