

# 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.