

Computer Requirements

Veterinary students are required to purchase a portable computer with specific hardware. Information regarding hardware specifications will be available once students are admitted to the school. Students should not purchase a computer prior to receiving this information.

Use of Animals in Teaching

Since animal health care is the primary focus of veterinary medical training programs, appropriate use of animals for instruction is essential to the acquisition of knowledge and the development of diagnostic and therapeutic skills.

For core courses in the DVM curriculum, completion of laboratory exercises involving animals or animal specimens is a requirement for satisfactory completion of the course.

In most instances, options that permit use of “suitable source” animals or specimens are available for these courses. Where appropriate, academically sound alternatives such as software applications and models have been, and continue to be, developed to replace the use of animals in our curriculum.

The school maintains animal colonies to allow students to learn noninvasive skills and procedures. Enrichment programs provide exercise and companionship for these animals.

The school is committed to showing compassion for all patients and animals donated or purchased specifically for instruction, and respect for the unique contributions of animals and specimens to student education.



Interactive technology helps instructors deliver the curriculum and keeps students up to date with coursework.

Professional Curriculum

The professional curriculum at UC Davis is a four-year program of academic study and clinical skills training leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. It is designed for flexibility. Each student is provided with a broad foundation of knowledge and skills in comparative veterinary medicine. An elective component allows exploration of diverse, nontraditional areas of veterinary science or specialization.

Broadly defined, the curriculum provides:

- Fundamental concepts and knowledge of veterinary science and training in basic clinical skills sufficient to enable graduates to practice veterinary medicine with an entry level of professional competency, and to enable them to effectively pursue lifelong learning in veterinary medicine.
- An individualized program of study that reflects each student's interests with regard to the breadth, depth and practice emphasis of professional training.

The core curriculum (75 percent) is discipline-based; it provides essential material, basic principles and concepts that are, for the most part, not species specific. The core material is more concentrated in the early years with students gaining a solid understanding of normal structure, function and homeostasis (year 1), pathophysiology and mechanisms of disease (year 2) and manifestations of animal diseases including history, diagnosis, and therapeutic and preventive strategies (year 3).

The elective curriculum (25 percent) provides students with an opportunity to explore diverse veterinary-related interests and tailor their learning toward career goals. Consistent with the goals of lifelong learning, the elective requirement increases throughout the curriculum with the majority of electives taken in the third year.

The senior clinical year (48 weeks) is the laboratory setting for developing problem-solving skills that result in making and applying medical judgment on an individual or herd basis. Most of the time is spent in the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). Satellite UC Davis veterinary medical centers provide opportunities for specialized rotations such as dairy production medicine at the Veterinary Medicine Teaching and Research Center (VMTRC). These provide a rich environment for students to integrate reason and knowledge and develop the diagnostic and therapeutic skills necessary for clinical proficiency.

The fourth year provides students the opportunity to focus on areas of interest. Eight species-oriented clinical tracks and one individual track allow students to develop entry-level knowledge and skills within selected areas of veterinary practice. Within each track, core rotations provide the fundamentals. Elective rotations, including externships, provide opportunities to individualize instruction.

The school offers two degrees that may be taken in conjunction with the professional DVM program, the DVM/PhD and DVM/MPVM (Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine).

Students spend the fourth year in clinical rotations in core disciplines and specialty areas. For instance, a student might choose small animal/equine or small animal/mixed practice.



First-year students learn the fundamentals of handling equine patients and performing a thorough examination for lameness.



Curriculum Schedule*

First Year

Normal Anatomy of the Canine Locomotor System
 Physiological Chemistry
 Principles of Behavior
 Principles of Radiography and Radiologic Interpretation
 Cell and Tissue Structure and Function
 Principles of Neurosciences
 Veterinary Ethics and Law
 Nutrition and Nutritional Diseases in Animals
 Normal Gastrointestinal System
 Structure and Function of the Urinary System and Body Fluids
 Cardiovascular Anatomy
 Cardiovascular Physiology
 Respiratory Anatomy and Physiology
 Hematology
 Genetics
 Parasitology
 Epidemiology
 Immunology
 Endocrinology
 Normal Anatomy of the Canine Head
 Doctoring
 Clinical Skills
 Electives

Second Year

Pharmacology
 Toxicology
 Virology
 Bacteriology and Mycology
 General Pathology
 Clinical Pathology
 Systemic Pathology
 Large Animal Radiology
 Oncology
 Reproduction
 Small Animal Radiology
 Fundamentals of Zoonoses
 Introduction to Public Veterinary Practice and Foreign Animal Diseases
 Food Animal Medicine
 Food Animal Reproduction
 Small Animal Medicine
 Small Animal Reproduction
 Equine Medicine
 Equine Reproduction
 Food Safety
 Anesthesiology and Critical Patient Care
 Doctoring
 Clinical Skills
 Electives

Third Year

Principles and Techniques of Surgery and Anesthesia
 Neurology
 Ophthalmology
 Clinical Endocrinology
 Food Animal Medicine
 Small Animal Medicine
 Equine Medicine
 Clinical Orthopedics
 Veterinary Ethics and Law
 Doctoring
 Clinical Skills
 Electives

Fourth Year

The fourth year consists of clinical rotations and externship opportunities established for each of the eight tracks (special areas of professional interest).

* Subject to change