

VM1004: PRE-CLINICAL EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

Effective Term

Summer Term 2026

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Pre-clinical Extra-mural Studies

Subject Code

VM - Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

Course Number

1004

Academic Unit

Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS)

College/School

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (VM)

Course Duration

Non-standard Duration

Other Course Duration

6 weeks after Semester B of Year 4

Credit Units

0

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

VM1002 Animal Husbandry Extra-mural Studies, and all Year 4 courses with a grade of C or above

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The completion of Pre-clinical EMS requires 6 weeks of satisfactory performance while engaged in clinical experience in veterinary practices covering both small and large animals. Pre-clinical EMS occurs in Year 4 after completion of VM4110 Small Animal Clinical Studies 1, VM4111 Companion Animal Surgery, VM4112 Anaesthesia, Analgesia and Fluid Therapy, VM4113 Clinical Pathology, VM3010 Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 1 and VM4010 Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 2.

This course is a preparatory phase for Clinical EMS, which consist of 20 weeks of external placements in veterinary practices during Year 5 and 6. Oversight of Pre-clinical EMS will be provided by the JCC Pre-clinical and Clinical EMS Coordinator.

At the pre-clinical EMS placement, one veterinarian will be the Placement Supervisor, and will be the major point of contact for the JCC Pre-Clinical and Clinical EMS Coordinator and for the student. During pre-clinical EMS placement, the student will work under the day-to-day direction of the Placement Supervisor who may also assign the student to work with other clinicians on a one-to-one basis. With the permission of the owners, in accordance with the policy of the particular practice, and within the legal constraints of the Veterinary Surgeons' Registration Ordinance, students will, under the close and direct supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon, participate in the clinical examination, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery of animals and the recording of case data. Students will also familiarize themselves with the veterinary clinic/hospital design and business model, the services provided, pharmacy management, teamwork, professional behaviour, animal management and patient record management systems.

Students will undertake their Pre-clinical EMS in three two-week blocks, with each block being undertaken in a different practice. Two weeks of small animal practice and two weeks of equine or livestock practice are a compulsory requirement for successful completion of this course. The remaining two-week placement is an elective placement chosen by the students in areas of their career interest.

Both Pre-clinical EMS and Clinical EMS make a major contribution towards the development of the competencies, skills and attributes required by the Australasian Veterinary Board Council Inc (AVBC) of veterinary graduates. It also contributes to the development of the general professional skills and attributes, practical and clinical competencies expected by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) of newly qualified graduates. Pre-clinical EMS and Clinical EMS will also contribute to the underpinning knowledge and understanding required by RCVS in relation to the development of effective interpersonal skills and an ethical approach to animals and veterinary practice.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

	CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Develop a sound understanding of the organization, management and legislation related to the veterinary placement, including standard operating procedures, biosecurity protocols and safety measures.		x	x	x
2	Actively participate in taking patient history including all relevant background information and history specific to the presenting complaint, and performing clinical examination and assessing the physical condition, welfare and nutritional status of individual animals or group of animals.		x	x	x
3	Identify and assess problems from a patient's history, clinical examination and laboratory test results and synthesize a list of ranked differential diagnoses to inform the diagnostic plan.		x	x	x

4	Actively participate in the acquisition of diagnostic test data using a range of diagnostic techniques, and synthesizing diagnostic, preventative and therapeutic plans and apply these for the health and wellbeing of animals appropriate to the context.		x	x	x
5	Actively participate in the collection, preservation and transportation of samples, selection of appropriate diagnostic tests, and interpretation of test results including understanding the limitations of diagnostic tests.		x	x	x
6	Apply knowledge and understanding of the principles of anaesthesia, analgesia and aseptic surgery to be able to observe and assist with veterinary procedures under the direct supervision of a registered veterinarian, where appropriate to the context, and in compliance with relevant legislation.		x	x	x
7	Be fully conversant with and follow the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and the RCVS ten principles of certification to veterinary practice.		x	x	x
8	Communicate effectively with clients, the public, professional colleagues and responsible authorities using language appropriate to the audience concerned.		x	x	x
9	Demonstrate an understanding of the legislation and current guidelines in relation to the prescription and dispensing of veterinary medicines.		x	x	x
10	Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the mechanisms for reporting suspected adverse reactions and notifiable zoonotic diseases.		x	x	x
11	Engage in reflective practice, professional development and self-regulation to attend to personal wellbeing.		x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Training and observation	Students will engage in clinical placements at veterinary establishments.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Typically 40 hr/wk

Additional Information for LTAs

Placement requirements

Category: Pre-clinical EMS

Placement: Companion Animal Practice

Duration: 2 weeks

Year of Program: 4

Category: Pre-clinical EMS

Placement: Equine or livestock practice

Duration: 2 weeks

Year of Program: 4

Category: Pre-clinical EMS

Placement: Elective

Duration: 2 weeks

Year of Program: 4

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?	
1	Formal Supervisor Feedback (one for each placement)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	80	-	No
2	Reflective Diary of experiences (one for each placement)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11	10	-	No
3	Activity log (one for each placement)	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	10	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Additional Information for ATs

Assessment Schedule:

Students will maintain a reflective diary of experience similar to the RCVS to enable them to keep a record of the practical and clinical skills that they have acquired and developed both during EMS and during their clinical rotations. Students will also be required to submit activity logs of the cases they have participated in the diagnosis and treatment of the patients.

The veterinarian with which the student has most experience, in consultation with other veterinarians in the practice, will assess the performance of each student using a EMS Placement Supervisor Report Form. The EMS Coordinator will consider the contents of the activity log, reflective diary of experiences and the supervisor report form, and if they are unfavourable to the student, discuss the situation with the student before determining whether the student's performance at the particular placement was unsatisfactory or not. A PASS grade will appear on the student's transcript for satisfactory performance. An unsatisfactory performance, including failure to meet requirements or submit assessments by the specified deadlines, will result in a FAIL grade, and the student will be required to repeat the placement.

Attendance Requirement:

Students are required to attend each 2-week placement for a minimum of 9 days. If students fail to meet the minimum attendance requirement, they are required to make up the days of absence at the placement practice.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Formal Supervisor Feedback

Criterion

Attain the expected level of progress for achieving competence in the following criteria by the end of each placement: Understanding and Application of Knowledge, Data Collection, Clinical Reasoning and Problem Solving, Skill Competency, and Professionalism, Interpersonal Skills and Communication Skills.

Pass (P)

Received an overall proficient or satisfactory grade in the EMS Placement Supervisor Report Form

Failure (F)

Received an overall unsatisfactory grade in the EMS Placement Supervisor Report Form

Assessment Task

Reflective Diary of experiences

Criterion

Reflective thinking

Pass (P)

The reflection explains the student's thinking about his/her own learning processes.

Failure (F)

The reflection does not address the student's thinking and/or learning.

Assessment Task

Reflective Diary of experiences

Criterion

Analysis

Pass (P)

The reflection is an analysis of the learning experience and the value of the derived learning to self or others.

Failure (F)

The reflection does not move beyond a description of the learning experience.

Assessment Task

Reflective Diary of experiences

Criterion

Making connections

Pass (P)

The reflection articulates connections between this learning experience and content from other courses, past learning experiences, and/or future goals.

Failure (F)

The reflection does not articulate any connection to other learning or experiences.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Demonstrate ability to describe the signalment of the patient

Pass (P)

Clearly describe the signalment of the patient seen, and consistently includes the species, breed, age, gender and neuter status.

Failure (F)

The signalment of the patient is not consistently complete.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Demonstrate ability to define the problems of patients from the history and physical examination.

Pass (P)

Consistently lists the presenting problems of the patients from the history and physical examination.

Failure (F)

Does not consistently list or identify the presenting problems of the patients from the history and physical examination.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Demonstrate ability to comprehend diagnostic investigations.

Pass (P)

Consistently lists the diagnostic tests performed to investigate the problems identified from the history and physical examination and describes, briefly, the major findings from those tests.

Failure (F)

Does not consistently list the diagnostic tests performed to investigate the problems identified from the history and physical examination and describes, briefly, the major findings from those tests.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Demonstrate ability to understand the diagnoses.

Pass (P)

Consistently lists the diagnosis of the problems of patients in the activity log.

Failure (F)

Does not consistently or accurately list the diagnosis of the problems of patients in the activity log.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Demonstrate ability to understand therapeutic approaches to cases.

Pass (P)

Consistently lists the therapy given for patients in the activity log, including drugs prescribed, surgical and other therapy.

Failure (F)

Does not consistently list the therapy given for patients in the activity log, including drugs prescribed, surgical and other therapy.

Assessment Task

Activity Logs

Criterion

Outcome (followed until the end of rotation)

Pass (P)

Consistently lists the outcome of patients seen, followed until the end of the rotation.

Failure (F)

Does not consistently list the outcome of patients seen, followed until the end of the rotation.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

EMS, Pre-clinical, Clinical, Extra-Mural Studies

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil