

# VM3010: VETERINARY PRACTICE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES 1

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 1

### Subject Code

VM - Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

### Course Number

3010

### Academic Unit

Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS)

### College/School

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

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

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

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

Completion of Year 2 courses with C grade or above

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

Nil

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course complements and augments the material learned in the Animal Body course. It introduces students to physical examination skills. Using live dogs, cats, horses, goats and cows in addition to models for learning how to perform clinical examination and diagnosis, the course teaches the skills of observation, auscultation, palpation, and percussion, as well as related basic diagnostic procedures. The body systems are examined sequentially and follow the order of study in the courses in the Animal Body, and important topographical anatomy will be highlighted.

Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 1 also provides an introduction to core clinical skills and communication structures. Clinical procedures are performed predominantly using models.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Perform a complete, system-specific physical examination as appropriate to the species being examined, using appropriate handling and restraint techniques.	x	x	
2	Demonstrate core clinical procedures, including but not limited to simple suture patterns, basic injection techniques, and the collection of blood samples from the core species.		x	
3	Describe common abnormalities found on the physical examination and how these relate to the relevant body system.		x	
4	Obtain an accurate, detailed medical history using appropriate questioning techniques. Describe communication techniques and building client and professional relationships.	x	x	
5	Demonstrate an understanding of professionalism and "Fitness to Practise" within the veterinary profession, while recognizing the mental health challenges and disorders staff face in this field.		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	Lectures	Students will engage in didactic lectures to gain knowledge on physical examination of different species and clinical and communication skills in veterinary medicine	1, 3, 5	8
2	Tutorial	Students will engage in interactive sessions on the professional identity of vets and mental health.	4, 5	8.5
3	Practical labs*	Students will have hands-on opportunities for clinical and surgical skills	1, 2, 4	5
4	Live animal labs (Field trips and practical)*	Students will perform clinical examination and handling techniques in different species	1, 3	14.5
5	Clinical teaching*	Students will observe consultations in the veterinary teaching hospital	1, 3, 4	3

#### Additional Information for LTAs

\* These are participation and engagement-required TLA sessions. Students can be absent from no more than one of these sessions per course per semester. Additional absence will constitute a course failure.

#### Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Participation Assessment (Practical labs, Live animal labs, Clinical teaching)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	0	Must pass#	No
2	Quizzes	1, 2, 3, 4	25	-	No
3	Clinical shadowing exercise	4	10	-	No
4	Written Examination (1 hr)	2, 3, 4	0	Weighting: 45%	No
5	Practical Examination OSCE	1, 2, 4	20	Must pass@	No

#### Continuous Assessment (%)

55

#### Examination (%)

45

#### Examination Duration (Hours)

1

### **Additional Information for ATs**

#A failing grade in the Participation Assessment will lead to an overall F grade for the entire course.

Notes regarding written assignment: A penalty of 5% of the total marks for the assessment task will be deducted per working day for late submissions, and no marks will be awarded for submissions more than 10 working days late.

@A failing grade in the Practical Examination (OSCEs) will lead to an overall F grade for the entire course.

### **Assessment Rubrics (AR)**

#### **Assessment Task**

Participation Assessment ( 'Must pass' )

#### **Criterion**

Participation and engagement for dry and wet practicals, field trips, clinical teaching and presentations are compulsory. Students are responsible for arriving to course TLAs on time.

Completion/sign off of 80% of the core competencies listed in the clinical skills log for this module.

Students must attend practical classes in order to practice competencies and achieve staff sign-off at the appropriate level.

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Pass:

Full attendance or absent from no more than one participation and engagement-required LTA session per course per semester

80% or more skills on the clinical skills log completed

#### **Good (B+, B, B-)**

N/A

#### **Fair (C+, C, C-)**

N/A

#### **Marginal (D)**

N/A

#### **Failure (F)**

Absent from more than one participation and engagement-required LTA session per course per semester. Additional absence(s) from these session(s) constitute a course failure.

Less than 80% of core competencies for the module achieved to an appropriate level.

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#### **Assessment Task**

Quizzes

#### **Criterion**

Know normal parameters for temperature, pulse and respiration for the major species (dog, cat, cow, sheep, pig, horse). Identify appropriate techniques for examination of a body system (e.g., ophthalmoscopy, palpation). Interpret basic physical examination findings in the context of major body systems (e.g., recognize that an increased heart rate may indicate excitement, fear, pain, shock), but does not necessarily attribute a physiological or pathological mechanism at this stage. Use appropriate terminology to describe findings (e.g., icterus, tachycardia, blepharospasm).

#### **Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent knowledge of normal parameters. Accurately identifies more subtle abnormalities in physical examination findings and can explain which body system these are related to. Identifies and explains appropriate techniques for examination. Almost always uses appropriate terminology.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good knowledge of normal parameters. Accurately identifies most abnormalities in physical examination findings and can explain which body system these are related to. Identifies and explains appropriate techniques for examination. Usually uses appropriate terminology.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

C+ and C: Acceptable knowledge of normal parameters, with some gaps. Accurately identifies some obvious abnormalities in physical examination. Identifies appropriate techniques for examination. Some use of appropriate terminology.

See additional information for AR regarding mark range below, as in the BVM programme only C+ and C grades are awarded.

**Marginal (D)**

Not applicable for the BVM programme

**Failure (F)**

Inadequate knowledge.

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**Assessment Task**

Clinical shadowing exercise

**Criterion**

This assignment aims to evaluate students' ability to observe and record the communication dynamics during a veterinary consultation. Students will be allocated to observe a veterinarian conducting consultations with clients and their pets.

Students will submit an activity log based on the consultation they observed. The activity log should include the following sections:

Subjective: Gather information about the client's concerns, the pet's history, and any relevant background details.

Objective: Describe the veterinarian's physical examination of the pet and any diagnostic tests or procedures performed.

Assessment: Write the detailed problems list for this patient. Summarize the veterinarian's diagnosis and proposed treatment plan.

Plan: Outline the next steps, including any recommended follow-up care or instructions for the client.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Comprehensive and accurate completion of the activity log, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the consultation process. Appropriate and detailed problems list identified.

Exceptional writing quality, demonstrating strong communication skills.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Satisfactory completion of the activity log, with minor omissions or inaccuracies. Problems list included but not thorough. Good writing quality, with clear and coherent expression.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

C+ and C: Partial completion of the activity log, with significant omissions or inaccuracies.

Superficial problem list.

Average writing quality, with some issues in clarity or organization.

See additional information for AR regarding mark range below, as in the BVM programme only C+ and C grades are awarded.

**Marginal (D)**

Not applicable for the BVM programme

**Failure (F)**

Incomplete or inaccurate activity log, demonstrating a lack of understanding of the consultation process.  
Minimal or absent reflection on the communication techniques observed.  
Poor writing quality, with significant issues in grammar, spelling, or coherence.

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**Assessment Task**

Written Examination

**Criterion**

Interpret basic physical examination findings. Discuss the importance of basic communication techniques.  
List important steps in a problem-oriented approach to a case. Describes simple concepts surrounding clinical procedures, e.g., can identify locations of injection sites and different types of knot.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent knowledge of normal parameters. Accurately identifies more subtle abnormalities in physical examination findings and can explain which body system these are related to.  
Discusses communication techniques. Explains a problem-oriented approach to a case. Explains different approaches to different species.  
Identifies injection sites, knots, equipment. Explains use or contra-indications.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good knowledge of normal parameters. Accurately identifies most abnormalities in physical examination findings and can explain which body system these are related to.  
Discusses communication techniques.  
Lists steps in and explains a problem-oriented approach to a case. Identifies some different approaches to different species.  
Identifies injection sites, knots, equipment.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

C+ and C: Acceptable knowledge of normal parameters, with some gaps. Accurately identifies some obvious abnormalities in physical examination findings and can identify which body system these are related to.  
Identifies some difference in approach to assessing different species.  
Lists communication techniques. Identifies injection sites, knots, equipment with minor errors.  
See additional information for AR regarding mark range below, as in the BVM programme only C+ and C grades are awarded.

**Marginal (D)**

Not applicable for the BVM programme

**Failure (F)**

Inadequate knowledge.

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**Assessment Task**

Practical Examination OSCE ('Must Pass')

**Criterion**

Demonstrates safety and competency in practical skills manner.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent execution of task with few or no errors. No safety concerns.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good execution of task, with some minor permissible errors. No safety concerns.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

(For C+, C) Adequate execution of task, but with more significant errors. No safety concerns.

**Marginal (D)**

Not applicable for the BVM programme.

**Failure (F)**

Fails to demonstrate appropriate level of competency in practical procedures or completes procedures in an unsafe manner.

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**Additional Information for AR**

Mark Range

The following is the mark range for each letter grade that must be used for assessment of any examinations or coursework of BVM courses (VM- and GE-coded) offered by PH and VCS:

A+:  $\geq 92\%$

A:  $\geq 87-91.99\%$

A-:  $\geq 82-86.99\%$

B+:  $\geq 75-81.99\%$

B:  $\geq 68-74.99\%$

B-:  $\geq 61-67.99\%$

C+:  $\geq 54-60.99\%$

C:  $\geq 50-53.99\%$ ,

F:  $< 50\%$

## **Part III Other Information**

**Keyword Syllabus**

Safe handling of animals

Restraint of animals

Physical examination

Observation, auscultation, palpation and percussion

Clinical procedures

Blood sample collection

Injection techniques

Quick Assessment Tests

Communication skills

Mental Health

Resilience

Vet Identity

**Reading List**

**Additional Readings**

<b>Title</b>	
1	Hunter L, Shaw JR, Solving the case by creating a history together Part 1 (2011) Except veterinary team 12-15
2	Hunter L, Shaw JR, Solving the case by creating a history together Part 2 (2011) Except veterinary team 12-15
3	Gray C, Mofett J, Handbook of veterinary communication skills
4	Ryane E, Performing the small animal physical examination