

VM4011: VETERINARY PRACTICE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES 3

Effective Term

Semester B 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 3

Subject Code

VM - Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

Course Number

4011

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 4 courses with C grade or above

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course will prepare the veterinary students for their transition into the profession. Students will discuss issues such as veterinary legislation, code of conduct, rights and obligations arising from legal recognition of the veterinary profession, veterinary certification, professional liability and malpractice, sustainability and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Students will also learn about Continued Professional Development and employability. The course also covers basic veterinary business management, discusses applied animal welfare, and provides opportunities for practicing communication skills in complex or challenging situations.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Apply basic business management principles related to basic veterinary business management to different veterinary practice scenarios.		x		
2 Justify the importance of veterinary teamwork, including working with para-professionals in the veterinary industry. Identify professional boundaries and apply at tools for maintaining them in their practice. Articulate effective communication strategies for establishing boundaries. Analyze ethical dilemmas related to professional boundaries and recommend approaches to balance self-care with professional responsibilities.			x	
3 Demonstrate communication skills in difficult or complex situations such as discussing euthanasia and addressing financial concerns of pet owners, when dealing with clients with communication challenges or when teaching/educating clients or less experienced veterinarians.		x	x	x
4 Describe the veterinary legislative framework in Hong Kong and outline the ethical and legal responsibilities of veterinarians in relation to patients, clients, society and the environment.			x	x
5 Demonstrate an understanding of the regulatory and ethical issues associated with patient referral, as well as best-practice in case-handover to colleagues during referral or in-house scenarios. Discuss practical approaches to animal welfare as a clinician in Hong Kong.		x	x	
6 Describe the principles of certification.		x	x	x
7 Create a cover letter and describe current career aims and goals. Discuss aspects of employability and make personal development plans to enhance professional skills. Critically reflect on areas for improvement and development. Discuss what employability means and why it is important for veterinary professionals. Leverage AI in career planning and capability building. Demonstrate an awareness of networking strategies to build a personal brand.			x	x

8	Discuss other relevant veterinary topics such as the role of vets in client education, sustainability in veterinary practice and the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.		x		
9	Discuss the principles of diversity, with focus on neurodiversity in vet medicine. Recognize the importance of equity amongst vets pertaining to gender parity, pay gaps, race, age, and socio-economic status. Showcase the importance of inclusivity in Vet Medicine, through case studies and activities that highlight the role of vets in client education, sustainability in veterinary practice and the importance of DEI principles.		x		
10	Define the concept of spectrum of care (SOC) in veterinary practice. Outline a range of contextual factors that are unique to each individual case and the client in practicing across the SOC. Describe why every veterinary surgeon is expected to practice across SOC.		x	x	
11	Discuss how cyberbullying impacts the veterinary profession and the impact of social media on career development.			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 lectures providing them an introduction to business management, legal aspects of the profession, teamwork, and employability.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	29 hours

2	Tutorials*	Students will engage in structured discussions and expand their knowledge on different topics including writing CVs, career planning, and via communication workshops.	1, 2, 3, 7	10 hours
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Additional Information for LTAs

* These are participation and engagement-required LTAs 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	Written assignments	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	50	Cover letter (20%), Teaching plan (10%) Reflective essay (20%)	No
2	Clinical skills log	7	0	Must pass	No
3	Examination (1 hr)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11	0	Weighting: 50%	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

50

Examination (%)

50

Examination Duration (Hours)

1

Additional Information for ATs

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. In order to pass the whole course, students must submit approved evidence of their completed clinical skills log, showing that they have completed at least 80% of the core skills. Students who do not complete at least 80% of the core skills will fail the whole course.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

Written Assignment - Teaching plan (10%)

Criterion

Submit a lesson plan for the clinical skills lab on how to use fluid therapy.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent coverage of topic to an appropriate level of depth. Excellent style, well-pitched to a vet students' audience. Easy to read and engaging tone. Excellent and logical flow. All use of terminology is appropriate and explained. Well chosen illustrations included.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good coverage of topic to an appropriate level of depth. Accurate. Good style, well-pitched to a vet students' audience. Easy to read and engaging tone, good logical flow. Most use of terminology is explained.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

C+ and C: Average coverage of topic to an appropriate level of depth. Accurate. Readable style, but pitched a bit too high or a bit too low for a vet students' audience. 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)

Poor coverage of topic. Inaccurate. Pitched far too high or too low for a general audience. Poor flow. Terminology inadequately explained.

Assessment Task

Clinical skills log ('Must pass')

Criterion

Completion/sign off of the core competencies listed in clinical skills log for completion by the end of Year 5.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Pass: 80% or more completed.

Failure (F)

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

Assessment Task

Examination

Criterion

Shows competence for the legislative framework governing veterinary practice, basic business management, professional development and practical approaches to ethical and welfare issues.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent grasp of the veterinary legislative framework and basic business management. Excellent understanding of professional development and ethics and welfare.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good grasp of the veterinary legislative framework and basic business management. Good understanding of professional development and ethics and welfare.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

C+ and C: Basic grasp of the veterinary legislative framework and basic business management. Superficial understanding of professional development and ethics and welfare.

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)

Insufficient knowledge demonstrated.

Assessment Task

Written Assignment - Reflective Essay (20%)

Criterion

Write a reflective report of 600-800 words focusing on the following question(s)

- a. How did the execution of the lab follow your plan and/or meet your expectations? Why?
- b. What could have been done differently? Why?
- c. What do you plan to do to develop your skills as an educator?

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

The selected competence is well discussed and reflected on critically. Personal experience is placed in context and informed by theory. The writer's personal development plan is clear, concise and achievable.

Good (B+, B, B-)

The selected competence is discussed and reflected on. Personal experience is mentioned. The writer's personal development plan is clear, concise and achievable.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

C+ and C: The selected competence is discussed and reflected on. Personal experience is mentioned. The writer's personal development plan is vague but probably realistic.

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)

The selected competence is mentioned but no reflection on the need or reason for improvement. The writer's personal development plan is unclear, irrelevant or obviously unachievable.

Assessment Task

Written Assignment

Criterion

Write a cover letter for a job suitable for a new graduate.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Clearly describes motivation for applying for specific position, explains why they are a good fit, highlights relevant skills.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Describes motivation for applying for position, explains why they are a good fit, highlights relevant skills but lacking detail or is non-specific (i.e., reads like a generic letter).

Fair (C+, C, C-)

C+ and C: Describes motivation for applying for position or explains why they are a good fit (not both), mentions relevant skills but lacking detail or is non-specific (i.e., reads like a generic letter). 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)

Lacks details, neither comments on motivation nor suitability, generic, non-specific, does not highlight skills.

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+: ≥92% A: ≥87-91.99% A-: ≥82-86.99% B+: ≥75-81.99% B: ≥68-74.99% B-: ≥61-67.99% C+: ≥54-60.99% C: ≥50-53.99%, F:<50%

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Veterinary profession, ethics, professional associations, registration, state veterinary medicine, continued professional development

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Hong Kong Veterinary Surgeons Board (VSB) (relevant legislation) https://www.vsbhk.org.hk/english/rules/relevant.html
2	HKVSB “CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE GUIDANCE OF REGISTERED VETERINARY SURGEONS”
3	Websites and documents from other relevant jurisdictions

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil