

2023–2024



# ACADEMIC CATALOG



**ROSS UNIVERSITY**  
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



# FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS

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[veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application.html](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application.html)

## SEND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO:

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Office of Admissions  
630 US Highway 1  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
Phone: +1-855-ROSS-VET  
Fax: +1-732-509-4803  
Email: [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu)

## DISCLAIMER:

All information in this catalog, including statements regarding tuition and fees, curriculum, course offerings, admissions and graduation requirements, is subject to change at any time and is applicable to all enrolled students unless otherwise stated.

For the most up-to-date version of this catalog, visit [veterinary.rossu.edu](http://veterinary.rossu.edu).

Date of Issue: September 4, 2023

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) provides an environment free of unlawful harassment or discrimination based upon race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status and sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, citizenship status, other category protected by applicable law. RUSVM complies with all applicable laws regarding discrimination, harassment, retaliation and equal opportunity in administration of its educational programs and other RUSVM-administered policies, or employment policies.



<b>RUSVM AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>7</b>
FOREWORD	7
INTRODUCTION	7
MISSION	7
<b>DEGREE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW</b>	<b>9</b>
VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM	9
DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEGREE PROGRAM	9
GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM	9
<b>ACCREDITATION &amp; APPROVALS</b>	<b>9</b>
ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS ACCREDITATION BOARD	9
AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ON EDUCATION	9
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE (AAALAC)	10
AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION	10
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSELING SERVICES (IACS)	10
U.S. STATE-LEVEL RECOGNITION	10
<b>RESEARCH</b>	<b>10</b>
RESEARCH CENTERS	11
<b>SECURITY</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>RUSVM COMPLAINT POLICY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>POLICY ON ANIMALS USED IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH</b>	<b>12</b>



<b>VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ADMISSIONS INFORMATION</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>13</b>
TUITION & FEES	13
OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES	13
FINANCIAL AID	14
<b>CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>DEGREE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ADMISSIONS INFORMATION</b>	<b>16</b>
SELECTION CRITERIA	16
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	17
TRANSFER APPLICANTS: ADMISSION WITH ADVANCED STANDING	20
PATHWAY PROGRAMS	20
PARTNERSHIPS WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES	21
ACCEPTED STUDENTS	21
CANCELLATION POLICY	21
NEW STUDENT WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS	22
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	22
<b>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>22</b>
TUITION AND FEES	22
OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES	23
LIVING EXPENSES FOR THE PRE-CLINICAL SEMESTERS	23
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS	24
TUITION POLICY ON PRE-CLINICAL FAILED COURSES	24
REFUND POLICY FOR WITHDRAWALS	24
FINANCIAL AID	25



<b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>27</b>
HBCU ARTICULATION PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP	27
HSI ARTICULATION PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP	27
MANRRS PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP	29
ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP	29
ALUMNI BOOK SCHOLARSHIP	30
MCGILL ROSS VET SCHOLARSHIP	30
EMPOWER SCHOLARSHIP FUND	31
CLINICAL YEAR GRANT	32
LEARN MORE ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS	32
<b>ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	<b>33</b>
REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS	33
GRADING SYSTEM	33
EXAMINATIONS	35
<b>DEGREE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>36</b>
TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS	36
COMMENCEMENT	36
<b>LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>CURRICULUM</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>PRE-CLINICAL CURRICULUM &amp; COURSE DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>37</b>
2020 AND BEYOND	37
PRE-CLINICAL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	38
<b>MICRO-CREDENTIALS</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>SUMMARY OF RUSVM ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLACEMENT OF GRADUATES</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>CLINICAL TRAINING AT AN AFFILIATED INSTITUTION</b>	<b>52</b>



<b>GRADUATE STUDIES</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>ACADEMIC POLICIES</b>	<b>54</b>
ENROLLMENT	54
<b>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	<b>55</b>
TUITION AND FEES	55
OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES	55
LIVING EXPENSES	56
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS	56
REFUND POLICY FOR WITHDRAWALS	56
<b>MASTERS OF SCIENCE BY COURSEWORK IN ONE HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM</b>	<b>57</b>
ADMISSIONS CRITERIA	57
APPLICATION PROCESS	57
CANCELLATION POLICY	57
NEW STUDENT WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS	57
LEARNING OUTCOMES	58
DELIVERY	58
ASSESSMENT	58
WRITTEN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS	60
CURRICULUM	60
<b>MODULE DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>MSC AND PHD BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>65</b>
PROGRESS MONITORING	65
SUPERVISION OF AND EXPECTATIONS	65
<b>MSC BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>PHD BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>APPLICATION PROCEDURES (MSc &amp; PhD BY RESEARCH)</b>	<b>67</b>



<b>ENTRY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>67</b>
MSC BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM	67
DOCTORAL (PHD) DEGREE PROGRAM	68
<b>GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS</b>	<b>69</b>
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ONE HEALTH	69
<b>RUSVM ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>80</b>
DEAN'S COUNCIL	80
RESEARCH CENTERS	81
RESEARCH & GRADUATE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION	81
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	82
STUDENT AFFAIRS	83
<b>RUSVM FACULTY</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>RUSVM CAMPUS MAP</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>ADDENDUM</b>	<b>94</b>



# RUSVM AT A GLANCE

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## **YEAR FOUNDED: 1982**

## **LOCATIONS:**

St. Kitts: Main campus; Pre-clinical Doctor in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program and graduate programs

## **AFFILIATED SCHOOLS:**

DVM clinical training occurs at one of the 29 RUSVM affiliated American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited schools of veterinary medicine in the United States, Canada, UK, New Zealand, and Ireland.

## **FACILITIES:**

Pre-clinical DVM training and graduate programs are conducted at RUSVM's main campus in St. Kitts. Built on a multi-level site, the 50-acre campus features high-tech classrooms, highly developed small and large animal surgery suites, and a hands-on gross anatomy lab equipped with progressive multimedia technology, closed-circuit cameras, and display monitors.

## **CAMPUS FACILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Large Animal Teaching Facility
- Two Surgery Teaching Laboratories
- Large Animal Hospital with recovery stalls
- Large Animal Diagnostics/ Techniques Room
- Student study spaces, conference rooms, offices
- Extensive large animal paddock and kennels, with more than 350 animals
- Approximately 20-acres of pasture land
- Two large classrooms, seating approximately 180 students each
- Two auditoriums, seating approximately 150 students each
- Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology labs
- Clinical Skills Laboratory
- Multi-disciplinary Laboratory
- Interactive small group study rooms
- Necropsy facility
- Museum of Anatomical Specimens
- Veterinary Clinic
- Learning Resource Center with Library, Exam Center and 24-hour Reading Room
- Research Laboratory
- Simulated Veterinary Examination Rooms, reception areas with technology and video equipment for communication and problem-based learning capabilities

## **FACULTY MEMBERS:**

65+ faculty members; the majority hold Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and/or PhD credentials and many are board-certified in one or more clinical specialties.





# RUVSM AT A GLANCE (continued)

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## DEGREE PROGRAMS:

### DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE:

**Pre-clinical Curriculum:** Seven semesters (28 months) on the St. Kitts campus, emphasizing practical, hands-on experience that includes exposure to clinical patients and surgery.

**Clinical Training Curriculum:** Three academic semesters (45 weeks) in the U.S., Canada or international location at an accredited veterinary school affiliated with RUSVM.

**Licensing:** RUSVM graduates are eligible to practice in all 50 US states, Canada and Puerto Rico upon successful completion of the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE).

**Enrollment:** More than 1,500 students; over 95% are from the US or Canada.

**Graduates:** Over 6,000 alumni.

**Waitlist:** Established when the number of students accepted into the DVM program exceeds the number of students who can be adequately accommodated in a class. Waitlisted students are automatically accepted for the following semester. There is no need to reapply.

**Financial Aid:** Accepted and current students enrolled in the DVM program may be eligible for financial assistance programs available through the U.S./Canadian government and private loan programs. RUSVM graduate programs are not eligible for U.S. federal loans or financial aid.

**Housing:** First semester DVM students and those in the Veterinary Preparatory (Vet Prep) program have the option to live in on-campus housing. A wide range of housing options are available for all other students within a short distance of the campus.

### GRADUATE STUDIES:

**Graduate Certificate in One Health:** The Graduate Certificate in One Health is a 13-credit, course-based program offered exclusively online. Students are able to undertake this program on a part-time basis for a period of up to three years.

**Master of Science (MSc) by Coursework in One Health:** Requires 45 credits, obtained through coursework and a project, leading to the submission of Capstone Paper over a period of two years part-time (6 semesters) or three years part-time (9 semesters).

**Master of Science (MSc) by Research:** The Master of Science by Research degree program is based on supervised research over a period of one year full-time (3 semesters) or a maximum of 24 months part-time (6 semesters).

**Doctoral (PhD) by Research:** The Doctoral by Research degree is based on supervised research over a period of three years full-time (9 semesters) or a maximum of 72 months part time (18 semesters).

**Learn More:** Visit our website, [veterinary.rossu.edu](http://veterinary.rossu.edu), to obtain more information, apply online or learn about the next Information Seminar near you.

**DVM Program:** [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) or call +1-855-ROSS-VET (855-767-7838)

**Graduate Degree Programs:** [postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn](mailto:postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn)



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

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Welcome!

It's not a coincidence that your passion for health has led you to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM). We are excited to work with you to cultivate that passion into a successful career.

By becoming a Rossie, you have embarked on a unique journey. Whether that journey goes through our accelerated, AVMA-accredited DVM program, Graduate Certificate in One Health, Master of Science (MSc) by Coursework in One Health, Master of Science (MSc) by Research, or Doctoral (PhD) by Research programs, by the time you reach your destination you will be prepared to address the most pressing challenges in human and animal medicine and their links to the environment.

Our strength lies in our diverse community that is composed of accomplished teachers and renowned researchers. Furthermore, you are joining over 6,000 alumni who give us great pride serving communities throughout the globe.

We are changing the landscape of our communities and we are excited for you to carry on that tradition now that you're a Rossie.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Callanan'.

**Dr. Sean Callanan**, MVB, CertVR, PhD, FRCPath, DipIECVP, FRCVS

Dean

Professor of Anatomic Pathology

**Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine**



# ACADEMIC CALENDAR

RUSVM operates on a three-semester calendar year. The DVM Pre-clinical semesters are 15 weeks each, including final exams. The DVM clinical program is a minimum of 45 weeks. The DVM program is a total of 150 weeks. Program hours for the graduate degree programs vary by degree. The start date for each semester is the day classes begin. Mandatory orientation for first semester DVM and Veterinary Preparatory (Vet Prep) program students is conducted each semester, during the week before classes begin. There are a total of seven weeks of semester break each calendar year. Traditionally, there are two weeks in the April/May break, two weeks in the August/September break and three weeks in the December/January break. Each semester, RUSVM has a one-day, mid-semester break. Classes held and University Open on Bank Holidays unless otherwise noted.

## 2023-2024 RUSVM PRECLINICAL ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2023	
Online Registration for Fall Term (Electives Only)	July 10–July 28
Summer Semester Ends	Aug 17
New Student Online Orientation and Check-In	Aug 28–Sept 1
Continuing Student Online Check-In	Aug 30–Sept 4
Classes Begin	Sept 4
Late Check-In with Fee	Sept 5
Last Day to Drop Core Courses Without a Letter Grade	Sept 8
White Coat Ceremony	Sept 11
National Heroes Day	Sept 16
Independence Holiday (No Classes, University Closed)	Sept 19
Placement Ceremony	Sept 22
Mid-Semester Break (No Classes, University Closed)	Oct 20
Classes resume	Oct 23
Online Registration for Spring Term (Electives Only)	Oct 30–Nov 17
NAVLE® Testing Window	Nov 1–Dec 16 (App Deadline Aug 1)
Last Day of Classes	Dec 8
Final Examinations	Dec 11–Dec 14
Transition Ceremony/Banquet*	TBA
Break (No Classes)	Dec 15–Jan 7
Final Grades Available to Students via myRoss and Canvas™	Dec 15 at 5pm AST
Christmas Day (No Classes, University Closed)	Dec 25
Boxing Day (No Classes, University Closed)	Dec 26

# ACADEMIC CALENDAR (continued)

SPRING 2024	
New Student Arrival Weekend	Dec 29–Dec 30
New Year's Day	Jan 1
New Year's Day Observed	Jan 2
Carnival Holiday	Jan 3
New Student Orientation and Check-In	Jan 1–Jan 5
Continuing Student Check-In	Jan 4–8
Classes Begin	Jan 8
Late Check-In with Fee	Jan 9
Last Day to Drop Core Courses Without Grade	Jan 12
White Coat Ceremony	Jan 15
Placement Ceremony*	Jan 26
Mid-Semester Break (No Classes, University Closed)	Feb 23
Classes Resume	Feb 26
Online Registration for Summer Term (Electives Only)	March 12–March 30
Good Friday	March 29
NAVLE® Testing Window	April 1–April 26 (App Deadline Feb 1)
Transition Ceremony/Banquet*	TBA
Easter Monday	April 1
Last Day of Classes	April 12
Final Examinations	April 15–April 18
Break (No Classes)	April 19–May 5
Final Grades Available to Students via myRoss and Canvas™	April 19 at 5pm AST

*\*Dates and details of events are subject to change.*



# ACADEMIC CALENDAR (continued)

<b>SUMMER 2024</b>	
New Student Arrival Weekend	April 26–April 28
New Student Orientation and Check-In	April 29–May 3
Continuing Student Check-In	May 2–May 6
Labor Day	May 6
Classes Begin	May 6
Late Check-In with Fee	May 7
Last Day to Drop Core Courses Without a Letter Grade	May 10
White Coat Ceremony	May 13
Commencement*	TBA
Whit Monday	May 20
Placement Ceremony	May 24
Mid-Semester Break (No Classes, University Closed)	June 21
Classes resume	June 24
Online Registration for Fall Term (Electives Only)	July 8–July 26
Emancipation Day	Aug 5
Culturama	Aug 6
Transition Ceremony/Banquet*	TBA
Last Day of Classes	Aug 9
Final Examinations	Aug 12–Aug 15
Final Grades Available to Students via myRoss and Canvas™	Aug 16 by 5pm AST
Break (No Classes)	Aug 16–Sept 1

<b>CLINICAL ACADEMIC CALENDAR</b>		
<b>SEMESTER</b>	<b>START DATE</b>	<b>FINISH DATE</b>
Fall 2023 Term	September 1	December 31
Spring 2024 Term	January 1	April 30
Summer 2024 Term	May 1	August 31

*\*Dates and details of events are subject to change.*



# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## FOREWORD

Students must be familiar with the policies and procedures of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM), as stated in this catalog and the RUSVM [Student Handbook](#).

The contents of this catalog represent the most current information available at the time of publication. However, during the period of time covered by this catalog, it is reasonable to expect changes to be made with respect to this information without prior notice. The online version, [veterinary.rossu.edu/media/12201/academiccatalog.pdf](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/12201/academiccatalog.pdf), is the most current and accurate representation of RUSVM's academic catalog. It is updated frequently to give you the most current catalog information, and students are responsible for reviewing the changes.

RUSVM reserves the right to change, modify or alter, without notice, all fees, charges, tuition expenses and costs of any kind. RUSVM further reserves the right to add, modify or delete, without notice, any course offering or information contained in this catalog. Class and exam schedules published each semester will indicate additions or other changes.

Following a student's entry into the program, the curriculum may undergo modification(s). Students are responsible for degree program requirements in effect at the time of enrollment, plus any changes made during the student's progress toward completion as long as such changes do not delay graduation.

This catalog is a description of the educational program and activities available at RUSVM. RUSVM makes no claims that enrolling in a particular class or following the course curriculum will produce a specific achievement, employment, qualification for employment, admission to graduate degree programs or licensure. It is understood that the ultimate responsibility for complying with degree program requirements rests with the student.

## INTRODUCTION

RUSVM offers Graduate Studies and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program. Since our founding in 1982, RUSVM has graduated over 6,000 veterinarians in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program. RUSVM maintains a technologically-advanced campus in St. Kitts, part of the Federation of St. Christopher and Nevis in the Caribbean. Our administrative offices are located in Chicago, Illinois.

At our campus, the educational program is built upon a broad-based curriculum that is designed to provide the foundation for an excellent education and entry into a variety of career pathways. Our faculty has outstanding credentials in teaching and research and shares a passion for educating leaders of the public and professional health care teams of tomorrow.

## MISSION

The Mission of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine is to provide the best learning environment to prepare students to become members and leaders of the worldwide public and professional healthcare team, advancing human and animal health (One Health) through research and knowledge exchange.

- To provide a relevant and stimulating learning environment to equip veterinary students to become practice- and career-ready graduates
- To embrace diversity and offer students from a wide range of backgrounds the opportunity to follow their chosen career in veterinary medicine
- To serve society through strategic and impactful research into safe food production and control of emerging infectious and zoonotic diseases in developing countries and beyond
- To involve students in the work of our Research Centers, to foster a thirst for knowledge to improve the health and welfare of humans and animals through observation, investigation, and research
- To educate graduate students to become successful contributors to the knowledge economy, through advanced training in areas strategically important to global health

# The island of **ST. KITTS**





# GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

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## DEGREE PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

### VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM

RUSVM offers a one-semester Veterinary Preparatory (Vet Prep) program for students who may benefit from specific courses to enhance the probability of their success in veterinary school.

### DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEGREE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program consists of 10 semesters of Pre-clinical and clinical training. The seven-semester Pre-clinical curriculum takes place in St. Kitts and is enhanced by hands-on clinical experience to help students prepare for their final year of clinical training at one of RUSVM's affiliated veterinary schools in the United States, Canada, Ireland, UK, and New Zealand. RUSVM is proud to be affiliated with 28 AVMA-accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

### GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAM

Within the framework of the Graduate Studies program, RUSVM offers a dual DVM/Master of Science (MSc) by Research degree, Master of Science (MSc) by Research, Doctoral (PhD) by Research degree program, Master of Science (MSc) by Coursework in One Health online degree program, and a Graduate Certificate in One Health.

## ACCREDITATION & APPROVALS

RUSVM is accredited by the St. Christopher & Nevis Accreditation Board. The DVM program holds accreditation status from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). RUSVM's Veterinary Clinic is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The clinic provides a range of medical and surgical services for small animals, including preventive care and emergency medicine. RUSVM's Veterinary Clinic is also accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) and the Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS).

### ST. CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS ACCREDITATION BOARD

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine is accredited by the St. Christopher & Nevis Accreditation Board, Ministry of Education to confer the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Science on its students who successfully complete the course of study.

[About the St. Kitts-Nevis Accreditation Board](#)

### AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL ON EDUCATION

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine confers a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, which is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA COE), 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173, Tel: 800.248.2862. For more information please visit [avma.org/education/accreditation-veterinary-colleges](http://avma.org/education/accreditation-veterinary-colleges).

The AVMA COE uses defined standards to evaluate veterinary medical education programs, including facilities, clinical resources, curriculum, faculty, student outcomes and research programs. The standards are interpreted and applied by the AVMA COE-accredited veterinary medical education programs in relation to its mission.





# GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

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## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE (AAALAC)

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine's (RUSVM) Veterinary Clinic is accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC, [aaalac.org](http://aaalac.org)). The accreditation focuses on animals used in teaching and research environments.

RUSVM received full accreditation on June 9, 2022, from AAALAC, an organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs.

## AMERICAN ANIMAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine's (RUSVM) Veterinary Clinic is accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA, [aaha.org](http://aaha.org)). The clinic provides a range of medical and surgical services for small animals, including preventive care and emergency medicine.

RUSVM's initial accreditation was granted in July 2010.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNSELING SERVICES (IACS)

The Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine's Counseling Center is accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services, Inc. (IACS, [iacsinc.org](http://iacsinc.org)).

## U.S. STATE-LEVEL RECOGNITION

**Iowa:** RUSVM's DVM program is registered by the Iowa Student Aid Commission located at 475 SW 5th St., Suite D, Des Moines IA 50309.

## RESEARCH

At the core of RUSVM's mission is our commitment to research. RUSVM is located on the island of St. Kitts in the Eastern Caribbean, a region rich in contrasting ecosystems and socio-economic situations, One Health issues, and close animal-human interactions. The location provides the ideal backdrop for conducting surveys and research programs of strategic importance to the developing world. Tropical countries are particularly vulnerable to emerging and re-emerging infectious agents due to geographic position, increased international travel, drug resistance and climatic and environmental changes.

Currently, RUSVM faculty members participate in research projects totaling over \$1 million from grant awarding bodies, industry, corporates and governments. During the period 2014–2022, faculty have authored more than 900 scientific papers. Our research team comprises faculty from across the globe—many with experience at international institutes and agencies including the World Health Organization and United States Department of Agriculture.

Our One Health approach facilitates the implementation of research across all facets of disease and is the theme of our One Health Research Center for Zoonoses and Tropical Veterinary Medicine which deals with the significant public health threat of zoonoses, many of which are neglected. Conservation is another important theme in the school, and studies on artificial coral reefs, the endangered marine species that inhabit them, fish diseases, turtle conservation programs, and management of introduced species, contribute significantly to preservation of ecosystems and the environment, and is supported within the Center for Conservation Medicine and Ecosystem Health. Innovation and advances in human and animal healthcare depend on progress in understanding the physiological and pathophysiological mechanisms involved in health and disease, as well as comparative medicine, reproduction, immunology and anesthesiology- the themes of the Center for Integrative Mammalian Research. members. The Center for Research and Innovation in Veterinary and Medical Education promotes the learning environment through scholarly research that encourages creativity and innovation in teaching and learning, as well as communication and simulations, diversity, equity and inclusion.

RUSVM is providing opportunities for our students to engage in research and benefit from being taught by research leaders in their field. More than 100 RUSVM students participate in research projects each year and DVM students must complete the Principles of Veterinary Research and One Health course during their first semester. Our research active faculty are part of one or more RUSVM Research Center(s), providing additional opportunities for student involvement in research programs. Graduate students in our MSc and Ph.D. programs participate in research with faculty advisors aligned with our Research Centers.



# GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

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## RESEARCH CENTERS

A One Health approach to research is essential. It facilitates the implementation of research across all facets of disease and is the motivation behind RUSVM's largest [Research Center](#). RUSVM's [One Health Center for Zoonoses and Tropical Veterinary Medicine](#) focuses on research aimed at understanding and combating zoonotic, vector-borne and other infectious diseases affecting humans and animal health as well as livestock production in St. Kitts and Nevis and around the Caribbean and Central America.

Conservation is another important theme in the school, and studies on artificial coral reefs, the endangered marine species that inhabit them, fish diseases, turtle conservation programs, and management of introduced species, contribute significantly to preservation of ecosystems and the environment. The [Center for Conservation Medicine and Ecosystem Health](#) focuses on applied research with two overarching themes: 1) Health of species in marine ecosystems in the Caribbean, and 2) Population ecology, disease epidemiology and management of non-native island species in the Caribbean. In marine ecosystems, the Center has a current focus on sea turtles, nesting shorebirds/seabirds, marine mammals, corals, and fish populations. In terrestrial ecosystems, the focus is on feral donkeys, free-roaming dogs, African green monkeys and small Indian mongooses.

Innovation and advances in human and animal healthcare depend on progress in understanding the pathogenesis of diseases and the effects of therapies. The [Center for Integrative Mammalian Research](#) focuses on a diversity of basic research topics including anesthesia and pain management, immune regulation, gene function, reproductive disorders, neurology and animal behavior, and in vitro and in vivo models of noninfectious human and animal diseases. While the focus is primarily on noninfectious diseases, some of the skills and knowledge within this area are applied to the infectious disease programs of the other centers.

The [Center for Research and Innovation in Veterinary and Medical Education](#) promotes research that enhances teaching, learning, and wellness. Center 4 seeks to support projects focusing on novel teaching methodologies, simulation-based teaching, and emerging technologies such as machine learning and virtual reality with the goal of helping our diverse student population to excel in Day 1 DVM Graduate competencies. In addition, Center 4 seeks to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the veterinary community through education and research as well as engage the local St. Kitts community through outreach efforts led by student clubs and Center 4 faculty.

## SECURITY

RUSVM is committed to promoting the security of its students. The cooperation of students, faculty, and staff is essential to a safe campus. Every member of the campus community is encouraged to report any possible crime, suspicious activity, or emergency on campus to the Safety and Security Department, whose duty it is to maintain order and regulate safety. Security is available to provide assistance to students and faculty on- and off-campus in St. Kitts.

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education requirements, information about security and safety practices, as well as campus crime statistics are published annually in the RUSVM Annual Disclosure documents. This information is made available to current students and may be obtained by anyone else, including prospective students, upon request, and on the Student Consumer Information website at [veterinary.rossu.edu/student-consumer-information](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/student-consumer-information).

A mass notification emergency warning system (SIREN) is in place to communicate to the campus community simultaneously by landline and mobile phone, text messaging, and email in the event of an emergency. It is the responsibility of each student to keep his or her contact information, including the student's emergency contact person, current. Students may update their personal profile at any time by accessing their account in myRoss. By and large, most student security problems occur outside the campus compound. Students and visitors should take the same precautions that they would take in major cities in the United States.

For more information, please visit [veterinary.rossu.edu/life-in-st-kitts/safety-security?elqTrackId=891f892d7fd942f8b91f0602fd389e94&elqaid=61&elqat=2](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/life-in-st-kitts/safety-security?elqTrackId=891f892d7fd942f8b91f0602fd389e94&elqaid=61&elqat=2).



# GENERAL INFORMATION (continued)

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## RUSVM COMPLAINT POLICY

The [Student Handbook](#) contains a formal complaint policy that outlines the pathways for investigating and addressing any and all student complaints or concerns (together, “complaints”) to RUSVM about any component of a candidate’s experience at RUSVM, including (by way of illustration only) such diverse topics as dissatisfaction with services provided at a campus or during the clinical year, or discrimination or harassment in violation of RUSVM policies.

It is designed to be flexible so as to accommodate the wide range of complaints that students may lodge. Because no policy is one-size-fits-all, though, RUSVM reserves the right to deviate from this policy if the circumstances of a particular complaint or investigation call for additional flexibility. RUSVM takes candidate complaints very seriously and is committed to creating a productive learning environment, free from discrimination. For detailed information, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

## POLICY ON ANIMALS USED IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The use of animals in instructional and research activities within RUSVM is strictly regulated by written protocols, designed to ensure the humane treatment of animals under the care of students, staff or faculty. The RUSVM Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) regularly reviews these protocols for compliance with federal regulations outlined under the Animal Welfare Act. RUSVM follows the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, NRC 2011, 8th Edition, the Animal Welfare Act as implemented by Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) of the US, the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (2013), and any published guidance from the government of St. Kitts as guidelines for standards of care and use of animals.

The curriculum at RUSVM provides a wide range of opportunities for hands-on training, which are presented in accordance with the restrictions and requirements set forth above. This curriculum does include dissection of animal cadavers, anesthesia, and survival surgeries on multiple species. Laboratory sessions may involve handling of blood, urine, tissue and fecal specimens obtained from animals or from the local abattoir. The use of animals in teaching undergoes regular review and modifications are made from time to time to ensure both academic rigor and appropriate handling of animals. RUSVM offers programs of study and curriculum to grant DVM and Graduate degrees. Therefore, students will be expected to participate in the handling of specimens and surgeries specific to the program of enrollment.



# VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

RUSVM offers a one-semester Veterinary Preparatory (Vet Prep) program for students who may benefit from specific courses that will enhance the probability of their success in veterinary school. The Admissions Committee makes the decision on who is accepted into this program based upon the academic requirements of the DVM program. Students who do not successfully complete the Vet Prep program will not be admitted to the RUSVM DVM program. **(See the full DVM Degree Program for information on Academic Policies, Selection Requirements and Application Fees Information)**

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### TUITION & FEES

VET PREP	
2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR	
\$13,859	Per semester: Tuition for full-time students
\$24	Per semester: Student Government Association fee
\$150	Student Visa Processing Fee*

\*Students entering their first semester or those attending the Vet Prep

Program are assessed a one-time student visa processing fee of \$150.

Tuition is listed in United States currency. Tuition is subject to change.

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) for tuition and refund policies.

### OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

**Health Insurance:** Students must have health insurance while enrolled at RUSVM. RUSVM students with access to an insurance plan through Aetna®. The flat rate fee for Health Insurance for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$1,306 per semester. If a student provides proof of insurance coverage, the requirement to purchase University-sponsored health insurance can be waived once per year in Fall semester or the semester in which the student begins with RUSVM.

**Living Expenses:** Based on availability, students may be able to live in on-campus housing. Housing fees may be found by visiting: [veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/financial-aid/tuition-fees.html](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/financial-aid/tuition-fees.html). Off-campus housing is also available. Students must plan on the cost of rent and utilities, which will vary based on factors such as location and whether there are roommates. Food and incidental costs must also be budgeted.

**Transportation to/from St. Kitts:** Immigration requires students entering St. Kitts to have a return airline ticket.

**Financial Obligations:** Tuition and fees are billed approximately 14 days in advance of each semester and are due the first day of class. Students who have submitted all required financial aid forms and have received a private loan approval may have tuition payment deferred until the funds are disbursed from the lender. Students whose financial aid processing remains incomplete, through no fault of their own and/or their co-signer, may register and begin classes but are still held responsible for full payment of all tuition charges. Unless the Office of Student Finance authorizes late payment, all balances must be paid at the start of classes. RUSVM has the right to withhold services and academic certification from a student whose account is overdue.

See [Student Handbook](#) for additional information about tuition and fees.

**Refund Policy for Withdrawals:** A withdrawal occurs when a student's enrollment is permanently discontinued or interrupted without an authorized leave of absence in accordance with the policies and procedures in the [Student Handbook](#). The effective date of withdrawal is normally the date the student notifies the institution of the withdrawal or student's last academically related event. **(See the DVM Refund Policy for Withdrawals in the Student Handbook for more information).**

# VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM (continued)

## FINANCIAL AID

RUSVM understands tuition and financial assistance are important aspects of the education process. The Office of Student Finance provides support to encourage financial responsibility by helping students understand their options for financial assistance and cost-effective living arrangements while studying at RUSVM. Detailed information on financial aid programs is published in the booklet, The Financial Planning Guide. This is available online at [veterinary.rossu.edu/media/4146/rusvm-financial-aid-planning-guide](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/4146/rusvm-financial-aid-planning-guide) (See the DVM Financial Aid Information section in the Student Handbook, which includes information on government student assistance).

Please visit [veterinary.rossu.edu/media/23081/cost-of-attendance-23-24](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/23081/cost-of-attendance-23-24) for information regarding cost of attendance.

## CURRICULUM AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Courses in the Vet Prep program include science and academic development skills. Introduction to Clinical Reasoning is a separate course, though its principles are used throughout the Vet Prep program. Additionally, students benefit from a transitional course that introduces them to their academic veterinary medicine program and promotes mindfulness and study skills. Vet Prep students who successfully complete the Vet Prep program will be placed into first semester classes of the DVM.

SEMESTER	COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
VET PREP	VPRP 902	Clinical Applications	1
	VPRP 906	Introduction to Microbiology	4
	VPRP 907	Cellular Biology and Homeostasis	4
	VPRP 908	Transition to Veterinary Student Life	1
	VPRP 909	Structure & Functional Biology	4
	VPRP 910	Introduction to Clinical Reasoning	1

## VPRP 902

### CLINICAL APPLICATIONS (1 CREDIT)

Provides the student with a clinical setting to integrate material that is taught in other vet prep courses. Within this clinical setting the concepts of anatomy and physical examination will be demonstrated and then practiced by the student. This course integrates with the Introduction to Clinical Reasoning course. Clinical skills will be focused on small animals, however other species will be introduced to emphasize comparative anatomy of common domestic species. The students will begin learning the process of acquiring information from a physical exam and applying it in order to formulate a clinical profile for an animal. Animal handling, restraint, and physical exam techniques will be demonstrated and practiced. Students are also introduced to the concepts of veterinary medical record keeping, problem-based medical record and the SOAP format.



# VETERINARY PREPARATORY PROGRAM (continued)

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## VPRP 906

### INTRODUCTION TO MICROBIOLOGY (4 CREDITS)

Covers the physiology, pathogenesis, and epidemiology of medically important bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa, nematodes, cestodes and trematodes. Selected diseases that bring into sharp focus the conflict between host and pathogen are covered. Also covered is the central role of host immune responses [innate and adaptive], which ensure that most host-pathogen contacts do not lead to disease.

## VPRP 907

### CELLULAR BIOLOGY AND HOMEOSTASIS (4 CREDITS)

A survey course focusing on properties of enzymes, carbohydrate, lipid and amino acid metabolism; water and water balance, membrane physiology and intercellular communication (transporters and receptors), acid-base fundamentals, endocrine system and an introduction to micro-anatomical identification of cells.

## VPRP 908

### TRANSITION TO VETERINARY STUDENT LIFE (1 CREDIT)

Designed to help students adjust to island life and professional school and develop the skills necessary to attain success at RUSVM. It also serves as an introduction to veterinary medicine, giving opportunity for students to learn more about the various disciplines within the profession from a variety of individuals.

## VPRP 909

### STRUCTURE & FUNCTIONAL BIOLOGY (4 CREDITS)

Introduces students to medical terminology that will be utilized in the veterinary curriculum. The course begins with basic directional/positional terms and then proceeds to terms that are pertinent to each body system. Scientific articles will be used to highlight the use of these terms. Short writing assignments and verbal exercises will be used to enable the student to practice using these terms.

## VPRP 910

### INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL REASONING (1 CREDIT)

The approach and considerations needed to progress through a clinical case will be introduced during this course. The class will examine thought processes, and how clinical presentations can be ordered to help advance through case care. A problem-oriented approach will be used to help explore the problem, formulate appropriate differential diagnoses, and develop a plan for its accurate diagnosis and treatment.



# DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE

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## DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree is awarded upon successful completion of the Pre-clinical curriculum and the clinical training curriculum. The Pre-clinical curriculum consists of a minimum of 128 semester credit hours of specifically prescribed course work. A credit hour for the RUSVM Pre-clinical curriculum is equal to one hour of instructional time and two hours of supplementary time. During the clinical training curriculum, one credit hour equals one week of instructional time.

The clinical training curriculum consists of three academic semesters of clinical training at an AVMA-accredited school of veterinary medicine in the US, Canada, Ireland, UK, New Zealand, or other international location that is affiliated with RUSVM. Students should complete the full curriculum in 10 semesters. RUSVM is proud to be affiliated with 28 AVMA-accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

*\*Credit totals may change based on approved curricular revision*

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

### For US and Canada Applicants

#### SELECTION CRITERIA

The RUSVM Admissions Committee, comprised of selected faculty members, gives serious consideration to all candidates showing the potential to meet the rigorous academic requirements of a highly structured veterinary curriculum.

The Admissions Committee considers each applicant for admission based on a combination of factors, including:

- Cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA)
- [Graduate Record Exam \(GRE\)<sup>®</sup> exam \(if submitted but not required\)](#)
- GPA in pre-requisite coursework
- Competitiveness of the undergraduate school and curriculum
- Pre-veterinary committee evaluation or two letters of recommendation
- Experience working with animals (at least 150 hours of veterinary profession experience, working with animals or veterinary research)
- Personal essay
- Personal interview
- Extracurricular activities
- Advanced science coursework
- Personal qualities
- Computer-based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics (CASPer<sup>™</sup>)—(optional)

Applicants whose credentials are judged to be indicative of the potential for successful completion of the prescribed curriculum will be invited for an interview, generally within two to four weeks after initial application materials have been received. The interview helps assess the overall personal and academic background, maturity, adaptability, character, aptitude and, most importantly, the applicant's motivation to become a veterinarian.

Work history and professional or volunteer experience provides further evidence of the student's motivation. Persons whose applications are incomplete, or whose qualifications are not acceptable, will be so notified. The Admissions Committee's decision is communicated by an electronic letter to the applicant, following the interview.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

RUSVM requires a minimum of 48 credits of college work, but strongly recommends that you complete your undergraduate degree program.

**Pre-requisite courses must have been completed within 10 years of the desired semester start date.** The coursework should include the following pre-requisite courses:

#### **Biology**

Two semesters of Biology (eight semester hours) with laboratory

#### **Cell Biology or Genetics**

One course of either Cell Biology or Genetics (three semester hours); laboratory is recommended but not required

#### **Chemistry (General/Inorganic and Organic)**

One semester of General Chemistry (four semester hours) with laboratory and One semester of Organic Chemistry (four semester hours) with laboratory

#### **Biochemistry**

One semester (three semester hours)

#### **Physics**

One semester of Physics (four semester hours) with laboratory.

#### **Mathematics**

One semester of college-level Mathematics (three semester hours) to be chosen among pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics.

#### **English**

One semester of English (at least three semester hours), preferably to include one semester of English Composition. Canadian students may satisfy English requirements in 4 possible ways:

- 2 semesters of university humanities where essays composed at least 40% of the overall mark,
- Holding a grade 13 English credit in Ontario,
- International Baccalaureate and
- Advanced Placement English.

#### **Electives/Humanities/Social Sciences**

Nine semester hours; one of the courses to meet this requirement must be one of the following:

- Comparative Anatomy
- Medical Terminology
- Microbiology
- Nutrition
- Physiology
- Spanish (or other foreign language)
- Public Speaking
- Introduction to Business

#### **Optional Submission: Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)\***

Applicants are strongly encouraged but not required to submit GRE scores with the application. If submitted, the Admissions Committee will use the scores to assist in the admissions decision. Any applicant who has taken the GRE more than one time and chooses to submit results, must submit all the results prior to enrollment. The RUSVM code number is # 2639. To learn more about the GRE, visit [gre.org](http://gre.org).





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL®)

The TOEFL measures the ability of non-native speakers of English to use and understand English as it is spoken, written and heard in college and university settings. If less than 60 upper-division credits were earned from an English language college or university, the applicant will need to provide all official records of scores for the TOEFL. The minimum score on the computer-based test is as follows: 25 Listening; 22 Writing; 22 Speaking; 23 Reading. The TOEFL institutional code for RUSVM is #9614.

### Work Experience

Applicants are required to have completed the equivalent of at least 150 hours of veterinary professional experience, working with animals or veterinary research. It is preferable that all such experience has taken place under the supervision of practicing veterinarians, but comparable experience may be considered.

### Personal Interview

Applicants whose credentials are judged to be indicative of the potential for successful completion of the RUSVM prescribed curriculum will be invited for an interview. The interview is often conducted within two to four weeks after initial application materials have been received.

Your personal interview helps the Admissions Committee assess your overall personal and academic background, maturity, adaptability, character, aptitude, and most importantly, your motivation to become a veterinarian. Applicants are advised that being granted an interview is not a guarantee of acceptance, though it does play a significant part in the decision by the Admissions Committee.

### Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must submit two official letters of recommendation, which become the property of RUSVM:

- One academic letter from a pre-health or pre-vet professor acquainted with the applicant's academic ability or a recommendation from a college pre-health or pre-vet advisory committee;
- One professional letter from a veterinarian acquainted with the applicant's veterinary experience.

**All letters must be on proper letterhead with contact information included and sent directly from the recommender to the RUSVM Office of Admissions.**

### Application Checklist

Applications for RUSVM can be completed online at [veterinary.rossu.edu](http://veterinary.rossu.edu) or through VMCAS. If not submitted through VMCAS, letters of recommendation and transcripts must be mailed to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, Office of Admissions, 630 US Highway 1, Suite 2031, North Brunswick, NJ, 08902. Unofficial copies of these documents may be uploaded to the [My Ross Vet Portal](#) or emailed to [Vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:Vetadmissions@rossu.edu).

A complete application consists of the following documents:

- A completed RUSVM application.
- Official transcript(s) from each college and/or professional school attended (transcripts must include the required minimum of 48 credits, and all prerequisite courses must be either completed or in progress). Degree-granting transcripts must contain a graduation date.
- Two official letters of recommendation, which become the property of RUSVM: One academic letter from a pre-veterinary professor acquainted with the applicant's academic ability or a recommendation from a college pre-vet advisory committee; and one from a veterinarian acquainted with the applicant's work experience. All letters must be on proper letterhead with contact information included, and sent directly from the recommender to the RUSVM Office of Admissions.
- Official report of scores on the IELTS/TOEFL, if applicable.
- \$100 USD application fee (non-refundable).

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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If applying as a transfer student, you must also submit the following documentation:

- A letter of intent that includes: a cogent, well-written explanation of the student's reason(s) for requesting a transfer; an indication of the semester of the curriculum into which transfer is requested; and the student's enrollment status in the college of veterinary medicine from which the student wishes to transfer.
- A letter of character and academic reference (including class ranking) from the associate dean of the college of veterinary medicine or his/her designee from which the student wishes to transfer.
- Up to two letters of reference from former instructors who are members of the faculty of the college of veterinary medicine from which the student wishes to transfer.

### **For International Applicants**

RUSVM gives serious consideration to all candidates showing the potential to meet the rigorous academic requirements of a highly structured veterinary medicine curriculum. The Admissions Committee will consider a variety of factors in determining suitability for our program including:

- Grades from coursework
- Two letters of reference
- Personal statement
- Personal interview (may be virtual)

### **Recommended Pre-Requisite Coursework**

Applicants will be evaluated based on grades achieved during their coursework, and will be expected to have undertaken general university-level science training after Year 13 of the school program.

### **Bachelor of Science (BSc):**

Applicants who have completed a BSc must have achieved at least an upper second class honors (2:1).

### **GCSE A-Levels:**

Applicants possessing A-Level or similar courses should achieve the following PLUS complete at least one year of an appropriate biological science program at the university level with good grades achieved:

Three A-levels ABB-BBB, including Biology and Chemistry at A level and one other A level approved for a veterinary degree. If Physics and Mathematics have not been taken at A level, the candidate must have good passes in Physics and Mathematics at GCSE level.

### **Scottish Highers:**

Applicants should achieve the following in Year 12 PLUS have completed at least two years of an appropriate biological science program at the university level with good grades achieved OR BB at Advanced Higher in Chemistry and Biology plus one year of an appropriate science program at the university level, with good grades achieved.

Five Highers AABBB/C. Must have Chemistry and two of Biology, Mathematics, Physics, plus two other subjects. Must have good standard grade passes in each of Biology, Mathematics and Physics.

### **International Baccalaureate (IB):**

Applicants should achieve the following PLUS complete at least one year of an appropriate biological science program at the university level with good grades achieved.

The minimum entry is 32–36 points. Must include higher level in Chemistry, Biology, and either Mathematics or Physics. If Physics does not form part of the IB diploma, candidates must possess GCSE Grade B or equivalent in this subject.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### **English Competency:**

If English is not the primary language of the applicant, official record of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or equivalent scores may be requested by RUSVM:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT—25 Listening; 22 Writing; 22 Speaking; 23 Reading

### **Personal Statement**

Your personal statement gives us an idea of your skills, achievements, and motivation, which are important factors in assessing your application. It should refer to practical work experience in veterinary settings – including research. We recognize that such opportunities may not be available to all candidates.

### **Personal Interview**

Applicants whose credentials are judged to be indicative of the potential for successful completion of the prescribed curriculum will be invited for interview, generally within two to four weeks after initial application materials have been received. The interview helps assess overall personal and academic background, maturity, adaptability, character, aptitude, and most importantly, your motivation to become a veterinarian. Interviews are typically conducted virtually.

### **Letters of Reference**

Two official letters of reference: one from a faculty member acquainted with the applicant's academic ability, and one from a veterinarian or other professional acquainted with the applicant's veterinary or research experience. All letters must be on proper letterhead with contact information included and sent directly from the referee to the RUSVM Office of Admissions.

### **Notification**

Persons whose applications are incomplete, or whose qualifications are not acceptable, will be so notified. The Admissions Committee decision is communicated by electronic letter to the applicant as soon as possible.

### **TRANSFER APPLICANTS: ADMISSION WITH ADVANCED STANDING**

Applicants who have completed a portion of their curriculum at a RUSVM-approved school of veterinary medicine may apply for admission with advanced standing. Such transfer applicants must present evidence of completion of courses (or their equivalent) at a school of veterinary medicine accredited by the AVMA, comparable to those offered in the Pre-clinical curriculum at RUSVM. Applicants must also arrange with the veterinary school they are currently attending for an official transcript of their academic record to be sent to the RUSVM Office of Admissions.

Additionally, transfer applicants must meet all of the requirements for admission to RUSVM. Namely, they should have earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent from a North American or other internationally recognized college or university. Occasionally, applicants qualify for admission upon completion of 48 credits (i.e. three full-time years) of post-secondary studies. The pre-veterinary studies of transfer applicants must include the aforementioned prerequisite courses.

Placement will be determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the Dean, and will depend on the courses already completed. However, credit will not be given for more than the first four semesters of study. Transfer applicants must take all of the courses offered for the semester they are admitted and may be required to repeat the entire curriculum. All transfer students must spend a minimum of six semesters of study enrolled at RUSVM. Applicants who have previously been dismissed from a school of veterinary medicine are ineligible for admission to RUSVM.

### **PARTNERSHIPS WITH FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

RUSVM believes in building strong relationships with four-year colleges and universities, with the purpose of helping eligible students move seamlessly from their undergraduate studies to veterinary school. For more information about our partnerships please visit: [veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/articulation-agreements](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/articulation-agreements).

### **ACCEPTED STUDENTS**

Upon acceptance, students are required to pay a nonrefundable tuition deposit of \$1,000 due 120 days prior to the start of the semester.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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The \$1,000 tuition deposit will be credited to the student's account.

Except in Louisiana, Iowa and other states where prohibited, if the student fails to attend the semester for which the tuition deposit was paid, the tuition deposit will be subject to forfeiture. If the student requests to defer his/her enrollment to a subsequent semester, the full \$1,000 tuition deposit, if not already submitted, must be paid in full prior to the deferral being processed. Tuition deposits are valid for one year from the original term to which the student was accepted. For more details, please refer to the "Financial Information" section of this catalog.

### CANCELLATION POLICY

If an applicant decides to withdraw his/her application prior to decision, the applicant must email his/her admissions coordinator with that request. The coordinator will then deactivate the application. The application fee is non-refundable.

The state of Missouri provides for a period during which admissions agreements with RUSVM may be canceled by the student with refund of all monies paid. This cancellation period shall not be less than (3) days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

The state of Iowa (Iowa Code Section 714.23) provides the following tuition policy exceptions for Iowa residents:

- If any time, a student terminates a postsecondary educational program due to the student's physical incapacity or, for a program that requires classroom instruction, due to the transfer of the student's spouse's employment to another city, the terminating student shall receive a refund of tuition charges in an amount that equals the amount of tuition charged to the student multiplied by the ratio of the remaining number of calendar days in the school period to the total number of calendar days in the school period.

Iowa resident students who withdraw after the 60% in the term due to physical incapacity or spousal employment relocation to another city are entitled under law to a prorated refund of tuition charges.

Iowa national guard or reserve forces of the United States, their spouse or dependent child are offered the following options should the service member be ordered to state military service or federal service or duty:

- Withdraw from the student's entire registration and receive a full refund of tuition and mandatory fees.
- Arrangement will be made with the student's instructors for course grades, or for incompletes that shall be completed by the student at a later date. If such arrangements are made, the student's registration shall remain intact and tuition and mandatory fees shall be assessed for the courses in full.
- Arrangement will be made with only some of the student's instructors for grades, or for incompletes that shall be completed by the student at a later date. If such arrangements are made, the registration for those courses shall remain intact and tuition and mandatory fees shall be assessed for those courses. Any course for which arrangements cannot be made for grades or incompletes shall be considered dropped and the tuition and mandatory fees for the course refunded.

RUSVM operates under a lockstep curriculum. RUSVM's curriculum is designed so classes are meant to be taken in a specific order, to bolster students' knowledge and skills incrementally. As such, the general policy at RUSVM is that it does not cancel classes.

### NEW STUDENT WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS

Once accepted to RUSVM, students receive a welcome packet with information pertaining to travel, student visa requirements, financial aid, housing, pets, etc., to assist with their preparations for matriculation.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

To obtain a student visa, students should have the following documents:

- Valid passport from student's home country
- Round-trip airline ticket (with return date no earlier than the last day of semester)
- One passport-sized photograph

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

- Original police certificate/affidavit (obtained from the country where the applicant has lived for the past six months)
- Birth certificate (certified copy preferred)
- Childhood/adult immunization records, which must include 2 MMR, at least 1 Polio, and 3 Hep B vaccination records
- RPR test results (a screening test for syphilis)
- Mantoux/PPD skin test for tuberculosis (chest x-ray required if Mantoux test is positive)
- Copy of acceptance letter/immigration letter from the RUSVM Office of Admissions
- Proof of funding if by personal arrangements or loans
- Student visa application (available from RUSVM)
- Student visa fee: \$150 US/400 EC (added as a student fee to your account)

Students will need to bring these items with them to St. Kitts. Upon arrival in St. Kitts, RUSVM officials will assist in expediting the visa process for students.

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### TUITION AND FEES

All tuition and fees are listed in U.S. currency. Amounts are subject to change and additional fees may be charged for special features and/or services.

#### Application Fee

The \$100 application fee is nonrefundable and is payable with submission of the application.

Residents of the state of IA who cancel prior to attendance are eligible for a full refund.

#### Tuition

Tuition is listed in United States currency. Tuition is subject to change.

DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM	
2023-2024 Academic Year	
Tuition—Pre-clinical curriculum semesters (1–7)	
\$24,044	Per semester: tuition for full-time students (Flat Rate: 8-21 credits)
\$24	Per semester: Student Government Association fee (Semesters 1-7).
\$19.20	Per semester: AVMA Fee
Tuition—Clinical Training curriculum semesters (8–10)	
\$24,044	
\$19.20	Per semester: AVMA Fee

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) for tuition and refund policies. Canadian and International students may be eligible for the International Student Pricing Program (ISPP) depending on their entering cohort. Details for ISPP can be found here: [veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/tuition-fees](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/tuition-fees)



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

**Educational Materials:** Students are responsible for purchasing required textbooks, supplies, equipment and required clinical clothing. The average cost for educational materials is approximately \$634 per semester for Semesters 1-7, and \$597 per semester for Semesters 8-10. First semester students are charged a one-time educational resource fee for \$780.

Students are provided the option to opt out of using eBooks during Semesters 1-7. They may do so by logging onto the myRoss website and completing the opt-out form. Students who elect to opt out will receive a credit in the amount of those books, but will then need to independently purchase the complete list of all required books for the semester. Students will only be able to opt out during a 2-week period at the start of the semester, the week prior to the start of classes and during the first week of classes. After the opt out form is received by the Office of Student Accounts, it will be reviewed and a credit will be issued to the student's account. The credit will be the total cost of the books offered in the semester the student has decided to opt out. Students who opt out are still required to pay the Educational Resource Fee.

Students wishing to opt out of eBooks for future semesters will be required to submit an opt-out form during the 2-week period at the start of each corresponding semester

**Health Insurance:** Students must have health insurance while enrolled at RUSVM. RUSVM provides students with access to an insurance plan through Aetna®. The flat rate fee for Health Insurance for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$1,306 per semester. If a student provides proof of comparable private insurance coverage during the waiver period, the requirement to purchase University-sponsored health insurance can be waived.

For additional information regarding total program costs, please refer to the Tuition and Fees schedule available at [veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/financial-aid/tuition-fees](https://veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/financial-aid/tuition-fees).

### LIVING EXPENSES FOR THE PRE-CLINICAL SEMESTERS

Students must plan on the cost of rent and utilities, which will vary based on factors such as location and whether there are roommates. Food and incidental costs must also be budgeted. Students attending first semester may have the option to select on or off-campus housing. The current rate for a single occupancy one-bedroom charge on-campus is \$4,235.

**Transportation to/from St. Kitts:** Immigration requires students entering St. Kitts to have a return airline ticket.

### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Tuition and fees are billed approximately 14 days in advance of each semester and are due the first day of class. Students who have submitted all required financial aid forms and have received a loan approval may have tuition payment deferred until the funds are disbursed from the lender. Students whose financial aid processing remains incomplete, through no fault of their own and/or their co-signer, may register and begin classes but are still held responsible for full payment of all tuition charges. Unless the Office of Student Finance authorizes late payment, all balances must be paid before the start of classes. RUSVM has the right to withhold services and academic certification from a student whose account is overdue.

By the act of registration, class attendance, or participation in other activities associated with enrollment at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine the student accepts financial responsibility for charges assessed to his/her student account. Charges include those for tuition, mandatory fees, clinical charges and penalties (such as late payment fees and fees associated with the cost of collection in the event of a delinquency, among others as outlined in the Tuition and Fees section of the Academic Catalog). This financial responsibility is not relieved until payment has been made for any and all charges incurred.

See [Student Handbook](#) for additional fees.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

### TUITION POLICY ON PRE-CLINICAL FAILED COURSES

Students who fail one or more classes and repeat coursework in a subsequent semester, will be charged to repeat previously failed courses only in the repeat semester as follows:

1–4.99 credits	50% tuition
5–7.99 credits	75% tuition
8 credits and up	100% tuition

Students will be charged any fees assessed by the clinical affiliate for repeated coursework.

### REFUND POLICY FOR WITHDRAWALS

A withdrawal occurs when a student's enrollment is permanently discontinued or interrupted without an authorized leave of absence in accordance with the policies and procedures in the [Student Handbook](#). The effective date of withdrawal is normally the date the student notifies the institution of the withdrawal or student's last academically related event attended if available.

Students who totally withdraw from classes may be required to return federal funds for that semester in accordance with the guidelines for Federal Direct Student Aid. For students that have not received financial aid before starting withdrawal procedures, they will be advised in writing of their post-withdrawal eligibility within 30 days of the start of the withdrawal process.

Although a leave of absence may be authorized in limited circumstances, failure to return to school from a leave of absence on the date specified is considered a withdrawal. Any leave of absence must be requested and approved in advance, may not exceed 180 days, and may not be granted within 12 months of a previous leave of absence. An interruption of enrollment status that does not qualify as a leave of absence is considered a withdrawal as of the last date of academically related activity.

RUSVM's tuition and refund policies in the event of withdrawal are consistent with U.S. federal student financial aid regulations and are based on the period attended:

- If a new student withdraws prior to the start of the first semester, no tuition charges are due; however, the student's acceptance deposit is not refunded. Students residing in the state of Missouri, at the time they pay the acceptance deposit to RUSVM, will receive a refund of all monies paid if the student requests a refund within three (3) days of paying the acceptance deposit, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Residents of the state of IA who cancel prior to attendance are eligible for a full refund.
- If a continuing student withdraws prior to the start of a semester, no tuition charges are due for that semester.
- If a student withdraws during the first 60 percent of a semester, tuition charges are directly prorated based on the portion of the semester that has elapsed. As semesters are normally 15 weeks in length, tuition is prorated for withdrawals during weeks 1 through 9.
  - The state of Iowa (Iowa Code Section 714.23) provides the following tuition refund policy exceptions for Iowa residents: If any time, a student terminates a postsecondary educational program due to the student's physical incapacity or, for a program that requires classroom instruction, due to the transfer of the student's spouse's employment to another city, the terminating student shall receive a refund of tuition charges in an amount that equals the amount of tuition charged to the student multiplied by the ratio of the remaining number of calendar days in the school period to the total number of calendar days in the school period.
- If a student withdraws after the first 60 percent of a semester- that is, after completing week 9- the full tuition charges remain due.
  - The state of Iowa (Iowa Code Section 714.23) provides the following tuition refund policy exceptions for Iowa residents: Iowa resident students who withdraw after the 60% in the term due to physical incapacity or spousal employment relocation to another city are entitled under law to a prorated refund of tuition charges.

For withdrawal during the first 60 percent of a semester, student loan eligibility is recalculated, and RUSVM and the student are each proportionally responsible for returning "unearned" Stafford loan funds to lenders. In addition to the lender returns required by U.S. federal regulations, RUSVM may return remaining credit balance to lenders, decreasing the student's loan debt for that semester.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### FINANCIAL AID

RUSVM understands tuition and financial assistance are important aspects of the education process. The Office of Student Finance provides support to encourage financial responsibility by helping students understand their options for financial assistance and cost-effective living arrangements while studying at RUSVM.

Detailed information on financial aid programs is published in the booklet, *The Financial Planning Guide*. This is available online at [veterinary.rossu.edu/media/4146/rusvmfinancialaidplanningguide.pdf](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/4146/rusvmfinancialaidplanningguide.pdf)

Students applying for assistance must submit the application and supporting materials described in *The Financial Planning Guide* by the deadlines indicated. Applications may be completed online.

Typically, students pay for the cost of their veterinary medicine education by combining family resources and student loans from governmental agencies and private sources. Financial aid is available to those who qualify. Approximately, 85 percent of RUSVM students receive some financial assistance.

#### **Application for U.S. Federal Student Aid**

Citizens, permanent residents and Eligible Non-Citizens of the United States applying for admission to RUSVM who are interested in obtaining financial aid are encouraged to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®)<sup>1</sup> at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov). It should be filed at least 90 days in advance of the semester for which they are applying. Details are provided in *The Financial Planning Guide*. In order to continue to receive student loans, students must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress standards as defined in the [Student Handbook](#). The Office of Student Finance is available to help students understand additional options, such as non-governmental lenders for loans, etc. It is advisable for all students—including those who have applied for financial aid—to bring sufficient funds with them to cover their initial 2 weeks of living and housing expenses in St. Kitts.

United States citizens, permanent residents and Eligible Non-Citizens attending RUSVM may apply for Federal Direct Loans. Federal direct loans are offered in two forms for Graduate students:

*Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan:* This is a non-need-based loan; maximum of \$20,500 per two-semester academic year. The interest rate for graduate or professional students is fixed at 7.05% for 2023-2024.

*Direct Graduate PLUS Loan:* This is a non-need-based loan for which the student can borrow up to the school's cost of attendance. The interest rate is fixed at 8.05% percent for 2023-2024.

The FAFSA must be filed annually. Repayment on student loans begins six months after a student has dropped below half-time, graduated or, under federal definition, has otherwise ceased to be enrolled. Students who attend RUSVM with outstanding loan obligations for undergraduate or graduate study at other institutions may be eligible for an "in-school" deferment(s).

#### **Cancellation and Return of Loan Proceeds**

You have the right to reduce/cancel Federal Direct Unsubsidized or Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loans before or after the loan(s) have been disbursed to the University by the Department of Education. A written request must be sent to the Office of Student Finance requesting that you want to cancel all or part of the disbursement that was credited to your account, and The University will return the canceled loan amount to the Department of Education. You do not have to pay interest or the loan fee on the part of your loan that you request to be canceled within this timeframe.





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Canadian Students

Canadian citizens may qualify for private funding sources as well as government resources. Please review the Canadian Financial Planning Guide, available online at [veterinary.rossu.edu/media/11856/rusvm-canadian-financial-planning-guide.pdf](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/media/11856/rusvm-canadian-financial-planning-guide.pdf)

### International Applicant Requirements

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate studies in countries having an educational system different from that of the United States or Canada will be evaluated on their merits but will be expected to have completed a pre-veterinary curriculum including the pre-requisites comparable to U.S. applicants. All required documents, if originally in a foreign language, must be accompanied by a notarized English translation. All transcripts documenting post-secondary course work completed in institutions outside the United States or Canada must also be evaluated by an approved international credential evaluation service.

### Veterans' Benefits

Eligible veterans of the United States Armed Forces may use benefits available through the Veterans Benefits Administration to help with their educational costs. Please visit [benefits.va.gov/gjibill](http://benefits.va.gov/gjibill) for more information.

Veterans utilizing Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 benefits are permitted to enroll in courses once proof of VA education benefit eligibility is provided. The institution will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries other institutional facilities or require that a covered individual borrow loans because of the individual's inability to timely meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to delayed disbursement of funding from the VA under chapter 31 or 33.

Penalties, fees and/or finance-related registration holds may be assessed by the institution if there is an unpaid difference between the amount of the student's financial obligation and the amount of the anticipated or actual VA education benefit disbursement. The student is responsible for charges and fees that are not covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs including but not limited to: the cost of repeat courses, printed books that are not required, admissions fees, screening charges, bookstore orders that are not required for a course, badge replacements, parking fees or other non-institutional charges.

<sup>1</sup> FAFSA® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Education

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### SCHOLARSHIPS LAST UPDATED: 9/4/2023

#### HBCU ARTICULATION PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** The Ross Vet Articulation Partner Scholarship for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), is offered to students who have graduated, or are in the process of graduating, from a signed articulation agreement partner that is recognized as an HBCU.

**Award Amount:** Total value of the scholarship is equal to one total semester of tuition which is currently \$24,044. The total scholarship value is a fixed value based on the current tuition rate at the time the student matriculates into Ross Vet. Awards will be given in three equal installments over three total semesters starting with their first semester of enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or Vet Prep programs. Students will also be eligible for a \$1,000 tuition deposit waiver\*, housing on campus at no cost (up to a \$4,250 value\*) for their first semester of enrollment and receive a \$1,000 flight credit for their flight to St. Kitts\*.

#### Eligibility/Selection Criteria:

- Eligible students must be accepted by the academic admissions committee into Ross Vet's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine first semester or Vet Prep classes.
- Students must meet minimum academic progress requirements, per the [Student Handbook](#), to continue eligibility for the scholarship.

**Number available:** There are 10 scholarships available for the 2023-2024 academic school year which includes our September 2023, January 2024, and May 2024 classes. There will be two awards available for the September semester, four awards for the January semester, and four awards for the May semester. Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Procedure to Apply:** Eligible students interested in applying for the Ross Vet Articulation Partner Scholarship for Historically Black Colleges and Universities should apply via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#). Please email [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) or call 732-509-3042 for more information. Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

#### HSI ARTICULATION PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** The Ross Vet Articulation Partner Scholarship for Hispanic Serving Institutions (APS- HSI), is offered to students who have graduated (or, in the process of graduating) from a signed articulation agreement partner that is recognized as an HSI.

**Award Amount:** Total value of the scholarship is equal to one total semester of tuition which is currently \$24,044. Total scholarship value is a fixed value based on the current tuition rate at the time the student matriculates into Ross Vet. Awards will be given in three equal installments over three total semesters starting with their first semester of enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) .

Students will also be eligible for a \$1,000 tuition deposit waiver\*, housing on campus at no cost (up to a \$4,250 value\*) for their first semester of enrollment and receive a \$1,000 flight credit for their flight to St. Kitts\*.

\*Not available to residents of Alabama

#### Eligibility/Selection Criteria:

- Candidates must submit a Completed Application to RUSVM sixty (60) days prior to the class start date, as follows: Fall, Spring and Summer, and have completed the required pre-requisites, bachelor's degree, and admissions interview.
- An overall Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher.
- A Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher in all courses designated by RUSVM as pre-requisites of admission.
- No F or D grades in a pre-requisite course designated by RUSVM.
- A score in the 20th percentile or better in each category of the Graduate Record Examination ("GRE") (GRE is optional) and must submit a letter of recommendation from their Pre-Health advisor/science faculty acknowledging their exemplary record of conduct.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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- Eligible students must be accepted by the academic admissions committee into Ross Vet's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine first semester.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation, one letter from an academic instructor, preferably a science instructor, and one letter from a veterinarian familiar with the student's job/volunteer performance.
- A minimum of 150 hours of experience working/volunteering in a professional veterinary practice working with animals or conducting veterinary research. It is preferable that all experience has taken place under the supervision of a practicing veterinarian, but comparable experience may be considered.
- Personal essay indicating applicant interest and experience in veterinary medicine.
- Complete a personal interview with a RUSVM admissions representative.
- Completion of the following pre-requisite coursework:
  - General Biology I & II with Lab
  - General Chemistry I or II with Lab
  - Organic Chemistry I or II with Lab
  - Cell Biology or Genetics
  - Physics I with Lab
  - Pre-calculus, Calculus, or Statistics
  - Biochemistry I with Lab
  - Expository Writing or another writing intensive or English course
- Nine semester hours; one of the courses to meet this requirement must be one of the following:
  - Comparative Anatomy
  - Medical terminology
  - Psychology
  - Microbiology
  - Animal Nutrition
  - Physiology
  - Spanish (or other foreign language)
  - Public Speaking
  - Introduction to Business

Substitutions and/or exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Admissions Dean and Faculty Admissions Committee.

Students must meet minimum academic progress requirements, per the [Student Handbook](#), to continue eligibility for the scholarship.

**Number available:** There are five scholarships available for the 2023-2024 academic school year which includes our September 2023, January 2024, and May 2024 classes. There will be one award available for the September semester, two awards for the January semester, and two awards for the May semester. Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

**Procedure to Apply:** Eligible students interested in applying for the Ross Vet Articulation Partner Scholarship for Hispanic Serving Institutions (APS-HSI) should apply via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#). Please email [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) or call 732-509-3042 for more information. Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### MANRRS PARTNER SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** Total value of the scholarship is equal to one total semester of tuition which is currently \$24,044. The total scholarship value is a fixed value based on the current tuition rate at the time the student matriculates into Ross Vet. Awards will be given in three equal installments over three total semesters starting with their first semester of enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or Vet Prep programs.

Students will also be eligible for a \$1,000 tuition deposit waiver\*, housing on campus or in Ross Vet contracted housing at no cost (up to a \$4,250 value\*) for their first semester of enrollment and receive a 1,000 flight credit\* for their flight to St. Kitts.

#### Eligibility/Selection Criteria:

- To be eligible, students must be a member of their MANRRS chapter for at least one year and submit a letter of recommendation from their Chapter Advisor which must include acknowledgement of length of membership.
- Eligible students must be accepted by the academic admissions committee into Ross Vet's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine first semester or Vet Prep classes.
- Students must meet minimum academic progress requirements, per the [Student Handbook](#), to continue eligibility for the scholarship.

**Number available:** There are three scholarships available for the 2024 calendar year which includes our January 2024, May 2024 and September 2024 classes. If the scholarship is not awarded during the semester it may be available in the next semester. The award is given on a first come first serve basis to those who meet the eligibility criteria.

\*Not available to residents of Alabama.

Ross Vet is not responsible for any housing needs while not in St. Kitts.

**Procedure to Apply:** Eligible students interested in applying for the Ross Vet MANRRS Partner Scholarship should apply via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#) and acquire a letter of recommendation from their MANRRS Chapter Advisor which must include acknowledgement of length of membership. Please email [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) or call 732-509-3042 for more information. Awards will be granted on a first-come-first-served basis.

### ALUMNI LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** \$5,000 towards tuition costs for the first semester.

**Note:** Eligible Applicants who are not awarded the Alumni Legacy Scholarship will automatically be offered a \$500 Alumni Book Scholarship.

#### Eligibility/Selection Criteria:

- Incoming Semester One DVM student at Ross Vet.
- Letter of recommendation and associated email address from a Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine graduate.
- Applicants must hold an offer of admission to Ross Vet for the scholarship to be awarded.
- Submit application materials as noted in the "How to Apply" section below. Please be prepared to upload your letter of recommendation with your scholarship application.

#### Deadlines

- August 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the September semester.
- December 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the January semester
- April 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the May semester.

Eligible students can apply for this scholarship via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#).

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### ALUMNI BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** \$500 scholarship for books for those who apply for and are not awarded the Alumni Legacy Scholarship.

**Eligibility/Selection Criteria:**

- Incoming Semester One DVM student at Ross Vet.
- Letter of recommendation and associated email address from a Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine graduate.
- Applicants must hold an offer of admission to Ross Vet for the scholarship to be awarded.
- Submit application materials as noted in the “How to Apply” section below.

**Deadlines:**

- August 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the September semester.
- December 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the January semester.
- April 1 deadline for students planning to begin their studies in the May semester.

**Procedure to Apply:** Apply via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#). Email [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) for more information.

### MCGILL ROSS VET SCHOLARSHIP

**Offer:** The total amount of the vet school scholarship is \$2,000 per semester for the first three semesters. Lifetime cap of \$6,000.

**Eligibility/Selection Criteria:**

- Applicant must have completed at least one year (two semesters at a full course load) with McGill University of prerequisite courses and be applying to the Ross Vet DVM degree program directly from McGill.
- Applicant must hold a current letter of admission to Ross Vet.

**Procedure to Apply:** Eligible students should apply via the [My Ross Vet Portal](#). Email [vetadmissions@rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@rossu.edu) for more information.

**Renewal guidelines:** Must maintain good standing each semester within the DVM degree program by complying with all academic policies and procedures and remaining current in financial obligations as noted in the RUSVM [Student Handbook](#).

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### EMPOWER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Offer:** The Empower Scholarship Fund (the Fund) strives to help keep education within reach by providing financial support in the form of scholarships to qualifying students. Scholarships are awarded to current students, especially those with the greatest need and who have established a successful academic track record.

**Scholarships available for Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine students:**

Spring Application Period

- Dr. Mike Zareski Memorial Scholarship
- Dr. Lanse T. Fox Memorial Scholarship
- PromoVet Veterinary Medicine Scholarship

Fall Application Period

- Dr. Jeremy Buishas Veterinary Scholarship
- Dr. John Coyne Veterinary Scholarship
- Dr. Arlene Rodriguez Veterinary Scholarship
- Kremer Veterinary Services Scholarship
- Blue Buffalo Foundation Scholarship
- The Pet Experts Scholarship

**Deadline for Applications:** The Fund operates on two applications cycles in the Spring and the Fall. Spring application dates will be updated on the Empower Scholarship webpage. The fall application period runs from August 28 – October 13, 2023.

**Eligibility/Selection Criteria:** [empowerscholarshipfund.org/scholarships](https://empowerscholarshipfund.org/scholarships)

### CLINICAL YEAR GRANT

**Offer:** Since costs are typically higher for RUSVM students attending clinicals outside the US, and they are not eligible for U.S. Federal Student loans during that time, RUSVM awards a grant totaling either \$2,500 or \$4,000 to assist with overall expenses while studying abroad.

**Eligibility/Selection Criteria:** The funds are automatically applied to eligible students accounts for one full semester – during the 8th semester – for currently enrolled RUSVM students attending an international clinical affiliate in Australia, New Zealand, or Europe. The \$2,500 grant is awarded to students attending clinicals in Europe. The \$4,000 grant is awarded to students attending clinicals in Australia or New Zealand.

#### Learn More About Scholarships

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Office of Admissions  
630 US Highway 1, Suite 2031  
North Brunswick, NJ, 08902



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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Phone: +1-855-ROSS-VET (855-767-7838)

[veterinary.rossu.edu](http://veterinary.rossu.edu)

[veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/scholarships](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/scholarships)

Email: [vetadmissions@Rossu.edu](mailto:vetadmissions@Rossu.edu)

Fax: +1-869-465-1203

# DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

## ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### REGISTRATION OF NEW STUDENTS

New students will be automatically registered for all required courses except for electives, which can be registered for using the myRoss web self-service tool available at [myross.rossu.edu](http://myross.rossu.edu). In addition, students must check-in in person on the St. Kitts campus during orientation. Students must present a valid passport as identification in order to receive an official RUSVM student identification card. No unregistered student will be admitted to classes.

Students arriving after orientation will not be permitted to check in for the semester, and any financial aid disbursements received by RUSVM will be returned to the lender.

A new student's enrollment is conditional upon submission of all documentation required for admission. Any missing documentation that is specified in the offer of admission must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar by the end of the first semester. If the documentation is not received within that time, the student will be subject to administrative withdrawal and may lose the privilege of registering for a subsequent semester.

On the first day of class, tuition and fees must be paid in full unless the Director of Student Finance grants an exception based on one of the following:

- RUSVM has received documentary evidence, satisfactory to the Director of Student Finance, indicating that payment is guaranteed and that the full tuition and fees will be paid within 30 days from the beginning of the semester.
- The Director of Student Finance has authorized delayed payment pursuant to a written and signed agreement that requires payment of the full tuition and fees no later than the beginning of the fifth week of the semester. In the event that payment terms are not met, RUSVM reserves the right to annul registration in which case the student will not receive academic credit for that semester.

### GRADING SYSTEM

**RUSVM's Pre-clinical program grading system is as follows:**

GRADE	RATING	GRADE RANGE	GPA
A	Excellent	89.50% or higher	4.0
B+	Very Good	86.50–89.49%	3.5
B	Good	79.50–86.49%	3.0
C+	Average	76.50–79.49%	2.5
C	Passing	69.50–76.49%	2.0
F	Failing	Below 69.49%	0.0

Students are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Classroom and laboratory examinations;
- Completion of assignments;
- Class and laboratory participation;
- Academic and professional honesty; and
- Professional and Technical Standards

Evaluations during clinical training include assessment of the student's level of knowledge and ability to apply it to clinical problems, as well as attitude and performance. Students should consistently demonstrate those characteristics considered desirable in a good veterinarian: problem-solving ability, reliability, judgment, and interpersonal and communication skills.





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

Effective January 2021, RUSVM will phase in recording clinical course grades as pass/fail on the RUSVM official transcript. See the [Student Handbook](#) for additional information. Clinical grades are not included in cumulative GPA calculation; calculation of cumulative GPA and class rank is based on pre-clinical work coursework only. The clinical grading scales, showing “Transcript Grades” that are being phased in starting January 2021, are as follows:

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATE CLINICAL GRADE SCALE				
AFFILIATE	CODE	DESCRIPTION	TRANSCRIPT GRADE	GPA
Dublin	AI+	A+	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Melbourne	AI	A	P	NO GPA
Dublin	AI-	A-	P	NO GPA
Dublin	BI+	B+	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Melbourne	BI	B	P	NO GPA
Dublin	BI-	B-	P	NO GPA
Dublin	CI+	C+	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Melbourne	CI	C	P	NO GPA
Dublin	CI-	C-	P	NO GPA
Dublin	DI+	D+	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Melbourne	DI	D	P	NO GPA
Dublin	DI-	D-	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Massey, Melbourne, Murdock	FI	Fail	F*	NO GPA
Sydney	FAI	Fail	F*	NO GPA
Dublin, Massey, Melbourne, Murdock, WCVM	PI	Pass	P	NO GPA
Sydney	PSI	Pass	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Massey, Melbourne, Murdock, WCVM	SI	Satisfactory	P	NO GPA
Dublin, Melbourne, WCVM, Royal	UI	Unsatisfactory	F*	NO GPA
Murdock	UPI	Ungraded Pass	P	NO GPA
Murdock	UFI	Ungraded Fail	F*	NO GPA
Sydney	AFI	Absent Fail	F*	NO GPA
Murdock, Sydney	CRI	Credit	P	NO GPA
Sydney	CNI	Canceled	No Grade	NO GPA
Sydney	DCI	Discontinued. Not included as failure	No Grade	NO GPA
Murdock, Sydney	DSI	Distinction	P	NO GPA
Murdock	DNSI	Failed Components	F*	NO GPA
Massey	GI	Good	P	NO GPA
Murdock, Sydney	HDI	High Distinction	P	NO GPA
Massey	MI	Marginal	P	NO GPA
Massey	XI	Excellent	P	NO GPA

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

U.S. & Canada			
CLINICAL GRADE SCALE			
LETTER CODE	PERCENTAGE	TRANSCRIPT GRADE	GPA
A+	100% or more	P	NO GPA
A	93%–99%	P	NO GPA
A-	90%–92%	P	NO GPA
B+	87%–89%	P	NO GPA
B	83%–86%	P	NO GPA
B-	80%–82%	P	NO GPA
C+	77%–79%	P	NO GPA
C	73%–76%	P	NO GPA
C-	70%–72%	P	NO GPA
D+	67%–69%	F*	NO GPA
DP	63%–66%	F*	NO GPA
D-	60%–62%	F*	NO GPA
DF	60%–69%	F*	NO GPA
F	0%–59%	F*	NO GPA
S	N/A	P	NO GPA
U	N/A	F*	NO GPA

\*F = Failure with no impact on semester or cumulative GPA

### EXAMINATIONS

Examinations are considered an integral part of the learning process and are designed to emphasize important concepts and develop problem-solving abilities. Each course instructor determines the format of quizzes, examinations and assignments. All courses included in the calculation of a student's GPA include a final examination.

### Academic Standing

Students maintain good academic standing by complying with all academic policies and procedures and remaining current in financial obligations. RUSVM reserves the right to withhold services from students who are not in good academic standing. To remain in good academic standing, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher.

No semester can be repeated more than once, and no more than two semesters can be repeated.

The full academic policies can be found in the [Student Handbook](#). The *Student Handbook* provides information on withdrawals, dismissals, academic standings, as well as information on professional conduct.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible to receive the degree of DVM from RUSVM, a student must have met the following requirements:

- Successful completion of all pre-clinical courses and clinical training required by the curriculum.
- Has met the GPA requirements and other academic requirements for academic advancement.
- For transfer students, successful completion of at least seven semesters as a RUSVM student
- Payment of all fees and charges owed to RUSVM.
- Completion of a review of academic documents (e.g. transcripts), as well as an academic and financial aid exit interview.
- Clearance of the Office of the Registrar's degree audit.

### TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Official transcripts are available through Parchment at: [parchment.com/u/registration/36997148/account](https://parchment.com/u/registration/36997148/account). Transcript requests cannot be taken over the telephone or via email. Official transcripts may not be released until any missing administrative documents have been received. Students may view or print an unofficial transcript online through [myRoss](#).

### COMMENCEMENT

Commencement exercises are held each May and include graduates from the previous January 31 graduation date and upcoming May 31 and September 30 graduation dates (special graduation dates that fall in this timeframe will also be eligible to participate). Due to RUSVM's three-semester-per-year schedule, students have the opportunity to complete their requirements for the DVM degree at three different points throughout the year. Consequently, they will be considered RUSVM graduates upon degree audit clearance for one of the three prescribed graduation dates. Diplomas will be released after all outstanding balances and administrative documents have been received.

### LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

A requirement for licensure in the United States is passing the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination® (NAVLE). Information on this examination is available at the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners® (NBVME) website at [nbvme.org](https://nbvme.org).

In order to become licensed as a veterinarian in the United States, a student graduating from an American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA-COE) accredited program must pass the NAVLE and meet the requirements of the state/territory they wish to practice. Each state has different requirements. To view the requirements of each state's veterinary medical board, please refer to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) website at [aavsb.org](https://aavsb.org) and then click on the *Board and Agency Directory* link.

In order to become licensed as a veterinarian in Canada, a student graduating from an AVMA-COE accredited program must pass the NAVLE. Additional information on becoming licensed in Canada is available at [canadianveterinarians.net/resources/national-examining-board](https://canadianveterinarians.net/resources/national-examining-board).

RUSVM DVM graduates may be eligible to practice veterinary medicine in other international locations. Check the country specific veterinary regulatory information for international licensure information.

### CURRICULUM

In RUSVM's clinical curriculum, each subject area receives comprehensive, in-depth coverage commensurate with contemporary veterinary educational trends. The curriculum provides clinical correlation and examples of clinical relevance throughout the instructional program.

RUSVM contracts with AVMA-COE accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, Canada, Ireland, UK, and New Zealand, to provide the Clinical Training curriculum for its students.

RUSVM is not liable for course equivalency for a RUSVM student transferring to another institution. RUSVM course equivalency for other institutions is solely determined by the institution to which a RUSVM student transfers.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

### PRE-CLINICAL CURRICULUM & COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Curriculum information for those students expected to matriculate in fall 2023 or later.

SEMESTER	COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
One	VMI 5102	Veterinary Professional Foundations I	1
	VMI 5112	Essential Veterinary Skills 1	1
	VMA 5111	Microscopic Anatomy and Embryology	3.5
	VMA 5113	Gross Anatomy I	4
	VMA 5114	Principles of Infectious Diseases	2
	VPP 5123	Physiology I	4
	VMR 5132	Principles of Veterinary Research and One Health	1
Two	VMI 5212	Essential Veterinary Skills 2	1
	VMA 5216	Gross Anatomy II	4.5
	VPP 5223	Physiology II	4
	VMP 5253	Immunology	3
	VMP 5265	Parasitology	3.5
	VMP 5252	Clinical Reasoning Skills I	1
Three	VMI 5312	Essential Veterinary Skills 3	1
	VPP 5331	Applied Animal Nutrition	3
	VPA 5341	Pathology I	4
	VPP 5343	Pharmacology I	3
	VMP 5351	Bacteriology and Mycology	3
	VPP 5355	Virology	3
	VMP 5352	Clinical Reasoning Skills II	1
Four	VMI 5412	Essential Veterinary Skills 4	1
	VPA 5443	Pathology II	5
	VPA 5448	Clinical Pathology	6
	VPP 5444	Pharmacology II	3
	VMS 5475	Veterinary Public Health	3.5
	VMS 5452	Clinical Reasoning Skills III	1
Five	VMI 5512	Essential Veterinary Skills 5	1
	VPP 5538	Toxicology	3
	VMS 5573	Diagnostic Imaging	4
	VMS 5577	Anesthesiology	4
	VMS 5585	Small Animal Medicine I	7



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

SEMESTER	COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	CREDITS
Six	VMI 5612	Essential Veterinary Skills 6	1
	VMS 5698	Avian, Exotic and Aquatic Animal Medicine	2.5
	VMS 5649	Small Animal Surgery	4
	VMS 5650	Surgery Laboratory I	2
	VMS 5687	Small Animal Medicine II	5
	VMS 5690	Large Animal Medicine I	5
Seven	VMS 5775	Theriogenology	4
	VMS 5783	Essential Veterinary Skills 7	2
	VMS 5793	Large Animal Medicine II	5
	VMS 5795	Large Animal Surgery	4
	VMS 5796	Surgery Laboratory II	2
	VMI 5704	Veterinary Professional Foundations II	1
	VLE 5701	Licensing Examination Preparation	2

\*VPP 5343 required for students entering semester 3 in summer 2023 and beyond. VPP 5444 required for students entering semester 4 in fall 2023 and beyond.

## Pre-clinical Course Descriptions

### Semester 1

#### VMI 5102

##### VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL FOUNDATIONS I (1 CREDIT)

Provides entry-level DVM students with a strong grounding in professional skills. Students will be supported in developing core competencies, which contribute to success as a member of the veterinary profession. Topics include: communication skills, ethical decision-making, professionalism, financial planning, information seeking diversity, and multicultural awareness and goal setting.

#### VMI 5112

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 1 (1 CREDIT)

A practical, hands-on course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and husbandry, hand-eye coordination and psychomotor skills, communication and medical record composition, professionalism). The Essential Veterinary Skills Program is a lab-based course designed in a vertically integrated fashion that builds on important veterinary skills over multiple semesters, starting with a basic foundation and increasing in complexity with progression through the program. Fear Free® certification in small animal and equine species will also be completed during this course. Course continues through Semesters 1–4\*.

\*course will only continue through semester 4 for students starting in Summer 2023 and beyond; those who started before summer 2023 will continue the EVS series through semester 6.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### **VMA 5111**

#### MICROSCOPIC ANATOMY AND EMBRYOLOGY (3.5 CREDITS)

Concentrates on the study of cell biology, cell physiology and the microscopic structure of cells, tissues, and organs of domestic animals. Students use dual-viewing microscopes and digital images in laboratories to study the structure of basic tissue types and their integration into organs and organ systems. The lectures correlate microscopic and gross anatomy with function and development of organ systems. Selected embryology topics focus attention on common developmental anomalies encountered by veterinarians.

### **VMA 5113**

#### GROSS ANATOMY (4 CREDITS)

Focuses on the comparative gross anatomy of domestic animals including canine, equine and ruminant, with minor emphasis on feline and porcine. Laboratories utilize embalmed canine cadavers for dissections. Prosections are used for other species. Also integrated into the course are normal radiographic anatomy, and instrument handling labs. The lectures provide overviews of the main concepts or hard-to-explain details. Topics covered in the first semester include osteology and muscle systems of the limbs, anatomy of the thorax and abdomen and nervous system.

### **VMA 5114**

#### PRINCIPLES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (2 CREDITS)

Focuses on the fundamentals of microbiological pathogens and infectious disease principles, in preparation for subsequent courses in bacteriology and mycology, virology, and parasitology. The topics covered will include basic overviews of what defines pathogens as compared to normal flora, virulence components and pathogenicity, host defenses against pathogens, immune evasion strategies of infectious agents, importance of vectors and reservoirs in disease transmission, zoonoses, herd health and preventative strategies, microbial genetics, and clinical microbiology and diagnostic methodologies. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to RUSVM research faculty who actively investigate infectious diseases and can offer additional research opportunities.

### **VPP 5123**

#### PHYSIOLOGY I (4 CREDITS)

This course is focused on functions of the body at cellular level. We review some molecular and cellular bases of physiological regulation and discuss in details the physiology of muscle and nerve cells. We Additionally, we learn about cardiovascular and respiratory physiology, as well as blood cell formation and coagulation mechanisms. Whenever possible basic pathophysiological mechanisms are emphasized and correlated with clinical topics.

### **VMR 5132**

#### PRINCIPLES OF VETERINARY RESEARCH AND ONE HEALTH (1 CREDIT)

Designed to help students learn about fundamentals of research and application of One Health concept in research and practice. A variety of research-oriented lectures embedded in a One Health approach are offered, including experimental planning and design, research bias, alternatives to animal use and animal welfare, granting agencies, the components of grant writing and review process, types of research, IACUC, IRB, how to conduct a research project, analysis of data and interpretation of experimental results, types of data presentations, manuscript writing, critical evaluation of the scientific literature and on-line resources, and how this knowledge is used in the practice of evidence-based medicine. During the course, students are exposed to research-active RUSVM faculty and research associates.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 2

#### **VMI 5212**

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 2 (1 CREDIT)

A practical course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and examination, hand skills, communication, professionalism) in a vertically-integrated fashion that builds in complexity over multiple semesters using live animal handling and examination as well as model and simulation-based experiences. Course continues through Semesters 1–6.

#### **VMA 5216**

##### GROSS ANATOMY II (4.5 CREDITS)

Continues the Gross Anatomy I course. Comparative gross anatomy of the domestic animals focusing on canine, equine and ruminant as well as the avian species, with minor emphasis on the feline and porcine. Laboratories utilize embalmed canine cadavers for dissections. Prosections are used for other species. Also integrated into the course are normal radiographic anatomy. Topics covered in the second semester include anatomy of the pelvic cavity/reproductive tract, innervation and vasculature of the limbs, anatomy of the head/neck, avian anatomy and a clinical neuroanatomy component.

#### **VPP 5223**

##### PHYSIOLOGY II (4 CREDITS)

Focuses on renal and acid-base physiology; the gastrointestinal system, with emphasis on mechanisms and control of exocrine and endocrine secretions; the endocrine system, with emphasis on regulation of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism; and the reproductive system, including pregnancy and neonatal physiology.

#### **VMP 5253**

##### IMMUNOLOGY (3 CREDITS)

Covers basic defense mechanisms, diseases of the immune system and the role of immunity in diseases of domestic animals. Serological and other immunological tests, and their application in laboratory diagnosis of diseases, are covered.

#### **VMP 5265**

##### PARASITOLOGY (3.5 CREDITS)

Emphasizes major parasite taxonomic groups with helminths, arthropods and protists that affect domestic animals in North America covered. Lectures are organized taxonomically and by special topics and stress parasite identification, life cycles, pathogenesis and lesions, clinical signs, diagnosis and prevention and treatment of parasites.

#### **VMP 5252**

##### CLINICAL REASONING SKILLS I (1 CREDIT)

This course provides a forum for building clinical reasoning skills using cases and interactive learning methods. The course continues through semester 4, with each semester focusing on different aspects of the steps in clinical reasoning. This course, in Semester 2, focuses on history taking, developing a problem list and developing a differentials list or hypothesis list.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 3

#### VMI 5312

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 3 (1 CREDIT)

A practical course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and examination, hand skills, communication, professionalism) in a vertically-integrated fashion that builds in complexity over multiple semesters using live animal handling and examination as well as model and simulation-based experiences. Course continues through Semesters 1–6.

#### VPP 5331

##### APPLIED ANIMAL NUTRITION (3 CREDITS)

This course reviews the basic feed constituents, energy, protein, fiber, minerals and vitamins; concepts in feed labeling; the characteristics of feeds used in animal feeding; animal management; and feeding guidelines for cats, dogs, cattle, small ruminants, horses, swine, poultry and pet birds. The course incorporates real-life case examples and a few out-of-class assignments to reinforce important concepts.

#### VPA 5341

##### PATHOLOGY I (4 CREDITS)

Introduces the terminology of disease, mechanisms of disease from both causal and tissue-response aspects, systemic pathology based on etiopathogenesis, and gross appearance of lesions. The general pathology topics covered include pathological processes of cell injury, adaptation, inflammation, disorders of growth (e.g. neoplasia), circulatory disorders, pigments and tissue deposits. In addition to general pathology principles, Pathology 1 includes pathology of the musculoskeletal system, including skeletal muscle, bones, and joints, as well as the integumentary system. The introductory lectures include a practical approach to a post-mortem examination, descriptive terminology for lesions, and identification of non-lesions or post-mortem changes.

#### VPP 5343

##### PHARMACOLOGY I (3 CREDITS)

The course is subdivided in two parts; General principles of pharmacology, including pharmaceuticals, drug and regimen selection (pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, dosage/dose/rate of administration calculations), evidence-based medicine principles for lifelong learning, regulations and ethics, communications and drug dispensing, encompassing prescription writing; Clinical pharmacology I, covering antimicrobials (antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral) and antiparasitics (insecticides, acaricides, anthelmintics, and protozoan treatment). Topics are covered through didactic lectures and, for some of them, through case/problem-based learning. Examinations will consist of computer-based questions including weekly block examinations and a final examination graded over a scale of 100; as well as competency-based assessments graded as "PASS" or "FAIL". To pass Pharmacology I, students need a minimum mean of 70% at the computer-based questions and "PASS" grades to all competency-based assessments.

#### VMP 5351

##### BACTERIOLOGY AND MYCOLOGY (3 CREDITS)

This course aims to introduce basic terminology and concepts that are essential for veterinary students for the continued study of bacterial and fungal infectious diseases. Students will become familiar with the major bacterial, fungal and related infectious agents, their key characteristics, disease pathogenesis and species of animals they are associated with. In addition, students will gain knowledge in bacterial diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. The course is complemented with labs Clinical Microbiology for hands-on practice of standard staining techniques, antimicrobial susceptibility testing, and microscopic identification of bacteria and fungi.





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### **VMP 5355**

#### VIROLOGY (3 CREDITS)

This course covers the following aspects of Virology: (i) general virology: history of virology, classification of viruses, structure and chemical composition of viruses, virus replication, virus quantitation and cultivation, host-pathogen interactions (viral pathogenesis and host immune response), epidemiology of viral diseases, diagnosis of viral infections, and treatment, prevention and control of viral diseases; (ii) DNA and RNA virus families: etiology, host(s), epidemiology including disease transmission, pathogenesis, clinical signs, necropsy findings, laboratory diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control of important viral diseases of animals and birds; (iii) viral zoonosis; and (iv) diseases caused by prions.

### **VMP 5352**

#### CLINICAL REASONING SKILLS II (1 CREDIT)

This course provides a forum for building clinical reasoning skills using cases and interactive learning methods. The course is a continuation of CRS 1, with each semester focusing on different aspects of the steps in clinical reasoning. Semester 3 (CRS 2) focuses on developing a problem list, developing a differentials list or hypothesis list and interpreting diagnostic test results. The core knowledge area(s) and aspect of clinical reasoning addressed in each session will be highlighted/summarized, when appropriate, to increase awareness of how the knowledge is integrated and used in the reasoning process.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 4

#### VMI 5412

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 4 (1 CREDIT)

A practical course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and examination, hand skills, communication, professionalism) in a vertically-integrated fashion that builds in complexity over multiple semesters using live animal handling and examination as well as model and simulation-based experiences. Course continues through Semesters 1–6.

#### VPA 5443

##### PATHOLOGY II (5 CREDITS)

Builds on the foundations acquired on Pathology I (VPA 5341), focusing on the diseases of the cardiovascular, respiratory, alimentary, urinary, endocrine, hematopoietic, special senses, reproductive, nervous, pancreas and hepatobiliary systems. Its main objective is to enhance the basic knowledge of general pathology while focusing on the pathogenesis and main gross and microscopic lesions of common diseases in domestic animals.

#### VPA 5448

##### CLINICAL PATHOLOGY (6 CREDITS)

Students learn how to use laboratory data to make a diagnosis. They are expected to understand the underlying pathophysiology of laboratory abnormalities, understand how tests are selected, the technology used to generate data, and most importantly, how to interpret and integrate test results, including hematology, cytopathology, and clinical biochemistry.

#### VMS 5475

##### VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH (3.5 CREDITS)

Provides students with the fundamentals of epidemiologic theory as a means of understanding how epidemiology can be used in veterinary medicine. Introduces the concepts of emerging infectious diseases, bioterrorism and disaster medicine, as well as the epidemiology of various zoonotic diseases. Important aspects of public health such as milk hygiene, humane slaughter, meat inspection and food-borne diseases are also discussed.

#### VPP 5444

##### PHARMACOLOGY II (3 CREDITS)

This course focuses on drug classification using a body systems approach with emphasis on clinical applications. Drug dosage and fluid therapy calculations will be incorporated where relevant.

#### VPP 5452

##### CLINICAL REASONING SKILLS III (1 CREDIT)

This course provides a forum for building clinical reasoning skills using cases and interactive learning methods. The course is a continuation of CRS 1 and 2, with each semester focusing on different aspects of the steps in clinical reasoning. Semester 4 (CRS 3) focuses on directing history taking, prioritizing problems on the problem list, relating differentials list/hypothesis list to problems, history and diagnostic test selection, and interpreting diagnostic test results. The core knowledge area(s) and aspect of clinical reasoning addressed in each session will be highlighted/summarized, when appropriate, to increase awareness of how the knowledge is integrated and used in the reasoning process.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 5

#### **VMI 5512**

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 5 (1 CREDIT)

A practical course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and examination, hand skills, communication, professionalism) in a vertically-integrated fashion that builds in complexity over multiple semesters using live animal handling and examination as well as model and simulation-based experiences. Course continues through Semesters 1–6.

#### **VPP 5538**

##### TOXICOLOGY (3 CREDITS)

Studies toxicants and poisonous plants of significance to livestock and companion animals, including their source, properties, toxicity, toxicokinetics, mechanism of toxicologic damage, detection, diagnosis and treatment.

#### **VMS 5573**

##### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING (4 CREDITS)

Provides an overview of the physics of diagnostic radiology, the principles of veterinary radiography and quality control of radiographs. Normal radiographic findings and anatomy in small animals plus radiographic features and patterns as they relate to diseases are also covered. An introduction to equine radiography and diagnostic ultrasound is included, along with an introduction to alternate imaging techniques.

#### **VMS 5577**

##### ANESTHESIOLOGY (4 CREDITS)

Introduces the principles of general and local anesthesia of small and large animals. The etiology, diagnosis and treatment of fluid and acid-base disorders are discussed, as well as the recognition, treatment and prevention of anesthetic emergencies. Laboratory sessions provide students with experience in small animal anesthesia, in addition to demonstrations of monitoring equipment, mechanical ventilation and large animal general anesthesia.

#### **VMS 5585**

##### SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE I (7 CREDITS)

Focuses on disorders of the cardiovascular, endocrine and neurological systems as well as selected infectious diseases. The important conditions of dogs and cats are discussed according to their pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, differential diagnoses, treatment and prognosis.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 6

#### VMI 5612

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 6 (1 CREDIT)

A practical course providing multi-species instruction in foundational skills (animal handling and examination, hand skills, communication, professionalism) in a vertically-integrated fashion that builds in complexity over multiple semesters using live animal handling and examination as well as model and simulation-based experiences. Course continues through Semesters 1–6.

#### VMS 5698

##### AVIAN, EXOTIC, AND AQUATIC ANIMAL MEDICINE (2.5 CREDITS)

Provide students with general and basic information related to diseases, husbandry, surgery, medicine, conservation, and public health in the context of pet and wild birds, reptiles, aquatic species, and a variety of exotic and non-traditional species including rodents, ferrets, rabbits, and fish.

#### VMS 5649

##### SMALL ANIMAL SURGERY (4 CREDITS)

Focuses on the major pathophysiologic changes, diagnostic procedures and treatments of surgical diseases and conditions of the dog and cat. Emphasis will be on the integration and utilization of this information in clinical decision-making. Instruction is based on lectures and reading assignments.

#### VMS 5650

##### SURGERY LABORATORY I (2 CREDITS)

Comprises one laboratory period and one hour of lecture or discussion each week. The laboratories cover aseptic technique, instrument handling, surgical knots and suturing, as well as bandaging and cast application in multiple species. A review of anesthesia is conducted and a competency examination is administered. Students must also demonstrate competency during a practical examination, using the ROSSIE model of canine ovariohysterectomy. Students must pass these competency examinations to pass the course. Additional practice hours are available in the Clinical Skills Laboratory throughout the semester. This is a pass/fail course.

#### VMS 5687

##### SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE II (5 CREDITS)

Utilizes a problem-oriented approach to study common diseases of the eyes, kidneys, urinary tract, skin, gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas, respiratory system and blood as well as basic oncology for dogs and cats. Knowledge will be built on Pre-clinical studies such as anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology and will draw heavily on clinical pathology, pharmacology and toxicology. Medical diseases are arranged to coincide chronologically with surgical diseases of the same systems being taught in Small Animal Surgery.

#### VMS 5690

##### LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE I (5 CREDITS)

Using a problem-oriented approach, the course focuses on the examination and diagnosis of diseases of particular relevance to the horse. The etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, clinical pathology, diagnosis therapy and control of diseases of horses are discussed. As much as possible systems are arranged to coincide chronologically with Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Semester 7

#### **VMS 5775**

##### TherIOGEnoLoGy (4 CREDITS)

Integrates reproductive pathology, endocrinology, physiology, and pharmacology as they apply to the clinical diagnosis, treatment and prevention of reproductive disorders in domestic animals. Breeding soundness evaluation of males and females is also covered. By the end of the course, the student should be able to approach an obstetrical situation in any of the domestic animal species with the necessary background to diagnose, manage and resolve the condition. Students are also introduced to procedures and technologies used in pregnancy diagnosis, artificial insemination, and semen collection and evaluation.

#### **VMS 5783**

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 7 (2 CREDITS)

Focuses on the techniques necessary to obtain clinical data, with emphasis on thorough physical examination and problem-oriented veterinary medical records. Clinical practical sessions utilize referral and general appointment cases. Students gain experience in common veterinary diagnostic techniques. Mandatory rotations include: equine, bovine 1 & 2, small animal clinics, emergency, clinical pathology, and grand rounds. Elective rotations include: small animal surgery, anesthesiology, communications, animal behavior, theriogenology, rehabilitation therapy, acupuncture, diagnostic imaging, advanced clinics, primate research, dentistry, ambulatory.

#### **VMS 5793**

##### LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE II (5 CREDITS)

Focuses on the recognition, treatment and prevention of diseases of food-producing animals and camelids. The etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, clinical pathology, diagnosis, therapy and control of diseases of food producing animals are discussed. Management of the herd unit is emphasized.

#### **VMS 5795**

##### ESSENTIAL VETERINARY SKILLS 7 (4 CREDITS)

Focuses on surgery of farm animals, with emphasis on cattle and horses. In cattle, the alimentary, locomotor and reproductive systems are covered in detail. In the horse, the healing and treatment of wounds, lameness, dentistry, colic and the respiratory, urinary, male and female reproductive systems are covered.

#### **VMS 5796**

##### SURGERY LABORATORY II (2 CREDITS)

Provides training in preoperative planning, anesthesia, surgical techniques, operating room decision-making, and postoperative care via supervised procedures. Students entering this course should have a thorough knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology, as well as basic surgical skills and anesthesiology.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### **VMI 5704**

#### VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL FOUNDATIONS II (1 CREDIT)

Provides an introduction to the subjects of veterinary professional ethics, law and business management relating to veterinary practice. Students are made aware of laws and regulations that control various aspects of veterinary medicine as well as the legal obligations involved in veterinary practice. Students are also given information concerning their career as a veterinarian that includes employment options within the profession, preparation of a resume, negotiating an employment contract, and options for internships and residencies. The importance of communication skills within veterinary practice is emphasized.

### **VLE 5701**

#### LICENSING EXAMINATION PREPARATION (2 CREDITS)

This course provides opportunities to practice test-taking skills and enhance confidence necessary to take computer-based veterinary licensing exams. This course utilizes a flipped classroom delivery in which participants review material and complete online multiple-choice practice tests. Instructors lead weekly review sessions targeting selected topics.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### Elective Courses

#### **V1PG 0146B**

##### DISASTER MANAGEMENT (2 CREDITS)

This elective course provides knowledge of hazard and risk assessment; types of disasters, disaster planning and management, agencies involved in disaster management and their respective roles. The course also involves knowledge and practical application of the Incident Command System. Through discussions, case studies and an exploration of current events, candidates will have the opportunity to examine lessons learned from previous disasters as well as disaster preparation. *No prerequisite.*

#### **V1PG 0140**

##### ONE HEALTH & SYSTEMS APPROACH (1 CREDIT)

In this course, One Health will be defined and placed in an historical context. The meaning of using a One Health approach to research, policy, development and other aspects of animal, human and environmental health will be explored with current One Health advocates describing how they use One Health within their work. The complexity of One Health and the need for a systems approach to address animal, environmental and human health issues will be discussed using current literature and case examples. The importance of collaborations, networks and teams in implementing One Health approaches also will be stressed. Short videos and assigned reading material will be supplemented with discussions. Participation in the discussions is a key component of this course. *No prerequisite.*

#### **VMB 5001**

##### INTRODUCTION TO SEA TURTLE MEDICINE (1 CREDIT)

This course covers sea turtle natural history and biology, provides an understanding of the husbandry, nutrition, diagnostics, therapeutics, anesthesia, surgery, emerging diseases, mortality events and current ongoing research as they relate to sea turtles. The course includes an overview of the most common conditions requiring treatment seen in sea turtles, and recommendations for designing an effective and feasible treatment plan. Discussions will focus on recently published peer-reviewed research focused on sea turtle management and medicine. This elective course is offered once per year, during the Summer semester. *Offered to Semesters 4–7.*

#### **VMR 5011/22/33/44/55**

##### SPECIAL TOPICS IN RESEARCH (1-5 CREDITS)

Students are introduced to various research experiences ranging from involvement in an approved intramural and/or extramural research project on campus, working with RUSVM faculty, to working several weeks or months at another institution, program or field investigation. Special topics are selected based on their research credibility and planned outputs. The level of involvement varies with the project, length of commitment and the student's desires. This impacts the number of credits assigned in advance for the special topics electives.

#### **VMP 5001**

##### PARASITIC ZONOSSES (1 CREDIT)

The course covers major animal parasites of zoonotic potentials. It focuses water-borne, meat-borne, vector-borne, fish-borne, snailborne, crustacean-borne and plant-borne parasites. It also covers parasites causing larva migrans. Clinical manifestations, diagnosis, epidemiology of human disease and One Health approach for control and management for model parasites are discussed. *Offered to Semesters 2–7.*



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### VMS 5001

#### INTRO TO SHELTER MEDICINE (1 CREDIT)

To provide students with an understanding of the vital role that veterinarians play in the overall health and well-being of shelter animals, as well as the importance of population medicine. Students will become familiar with medical and behavioral health and well-being of shelter animals, control of infectious disease, zoonotic diseases and public health, spay/neuter programs, the veterinarian's role in animal cruelty and neglect cases, veterinary forensics, and disaster preparedness and community education. *Offered to Semesters 4–7.*

### VMS 5384

#### INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (1 CREDIT)

Introduces the principles of animal learning, and the application of behavior-modification techniques based on these principles. Includes an overview of the most common behavioral problems seen in companion animals and current treatment recommendations, designing an effective and feasible treatment plan, and integrating behavior into your practice. *Offered to Semesters 2–7.*

### VMS 5390

#### BASIS OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION (1 CREDIT)

This elective course covers the basic notions on animal production, specifically the major characteristics regarding husbandry and management in the different food-producing animals: Poultry, Swine, Dairy and Beef cattle, Sheep, Goat, and unconventional species. The course includes an overview on how different production systems work, what are their main characteristics and their productive cycle year-round and will also address existing differences between animal production systems. The elective will confer the students with animal production knowledge that will be of high importance to other courses like Theriogenology or Animal Nutrition. *Offered to Semesters 2–7.*

### VMS 5498

#### LAB ANIMAL MEDICINE I (1 CREDIT)

Introduction to the field of laboratory animal medicine and science including: ethical use of laboratory animals in biomedical research and teaching, careers in laboratory animal medicine, husbandry and management of vivaria – the GUIDE, and information specific to rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, nonhuman primates, ferrets, sheep, pigs and zebrafish. *Offered to Semesters 2–7.*

### VMS 5499

#### LAB ANIMAL MEDICINE II (1 CREDIT)

Course provides an in-depth study into the field of laboratory animal medicine and science building upon the foundations of Lab Animal Medicine I. *Offered to Semesters 3–7.*

### VMS 5531

#### CLINICAL NUTRITION (1 CREDIT)

This course is an introduction to the concepts of the nutritional support of ill/injured dogs and cats and is designed for 4th–6th-semester veterinary students. The course is taught using lectures, discussions, and clinical cases, focusing on the nutritional support of the patient. This approach builds upon the concepts covered in the 3rd-semester basic nutrition course. *Offered to Semesters 4–7.*





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### VAM 5001

#### AQUATIC VETERINARY MEDICINE I (1 CREDIT)

The course will provide the students with a general understanding of aquaculture practices and instill the importance, and real need, for veterinarians to have aquatic veterinary medical knowledge, skills and experience in order to be able to assist with the increasing demands put on aquaculture and related industries (ornamental etc.) globally. AVM-1 will focus more on Pre-clinical areas, such as the aquaculture industry, the aquatic environment, aquatic animal husbandry /rearing cycles, water quality, culture species and taxonomy, anatomy and physiology. There will also be an introduction to aquatic animal diseases, including disease prevention / aquatic biosecurity. There will be wet labs for the students to learn how to familiarize themselves with anatomy of finfish, mollusks and crustacean. *Offered to Semesters 3–7.*

### VAM 5002

#### AQUATIC VETERINARY MEDICINE II (1 CREDIT)

The AVM elective courses will provide the students with a general understanding of aquaculture practices and instill the importance, and real need, for veterinarians to have aquatic veterinary medical knowledge, skills and experience in order to be able to assist with the increasing demands put on aquaculture and related industries (ornamental etc.) globally. AVM-2 will focus on clinical areas, such as the pathobiology and epidemiology of aquatic animal diseases. Diagnosis and treatment of aquatic animal diseases. Histopathology labs will be utilized to (1) demonstrate some typical diseases found in some common aquaculture species, such as finfish and invertebrates and (2) form part of the evaluation, i.e. being able to get the student to interpret the histopathology in certain unknown histology sections and offer an etiology for what they have observed. *Offered to Semesters 4–7*

### VMI 5010

#### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT FOR VETERINARIANS (1 CREDIT)

The proposed Business Management Elective will include a series of lectures and case-based information that addresses a range of macroeconomic, microeconomic, and personal financial planning topics relevant to achieving a necessary understanding of the business of veterinary medicine, employment issues, and workplace environment surrounding veterinary medicine and the preparatory issues for new grads entering the workplace to be successful. Dr. John D. Tait MS (Finance) DVM MBA CFP, Certified in Business Valuation, Certified in Negotiation and Mediation would deliver the elective. *No prerequisite.*

### VMI 5015

#### INTRODUCTION TO APPLIED WELLNESS TECHNIQUES (1 CREDIT)

The elective introduces a variety of approaches to pre-clinical veterinary students that promote self-discovery and managing stress and anxiety while enhancing self-awareness and self-care. The program is highly experiential and engages students in meditation, guided imagery, breathing, and movement. Additionally, health and wellness topics will be presented. The first class will be 1 hour in length and provide an overview for the course. Subsequent classes will be 1.5 hours in length and meet once a week to learn and practice techniques, as well as discuss their experiences. *No prerequisite.*

### VMI 5213

#### ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (1 CREDIT)

The Academic Development Program (ADP) is targeted towards students whose performance during 1st semester suggests an improvement in learning strategy would be beneficial to maximize the potential of achieving academic success in the curriculum. Through group seminars, on-line materials and individual academic mentorship sessions, students will learn and implement techniques related to active learning such as strategic approaches to enhancing examination performance, stress and time management, processing learning content, wellness that supports cognition and self-reflection techniques. Required for incoming second semester students in lowest cGPA quartile and for students repeating one or more second semester courses.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Via the completion of 6 credits of coursework within specialized areas, DVM candidates can achieve a micro-credential within that area. Students can enroll in a micro-credential program starting in semester 1. All coursework for the micro-credential must be completed before completion of the DVM program. Courses within the micro-credential programs will be graded as described for the individual courses. All policies as described within the catalog and the Student Handbook apply to the micro-credential program.

#### ONE HEALTH MICRO-CREDENTIAL

The One Health micro-credential consists of three courses, two of which are electives in the DVM program and one of which is online in the MSc One Health program and requires a fee for enrollment. Students who complete this micro-credential will be able to define One Health and place it within an historical context, understand the application of systems approaches to One Health issues, be able to assess situations and determine if application of a One Health approach could improve outcomes, be able to place disasters within the broader concept of One Health, have knowledge of hazard and risk assessments for humans, animals and the environment, know the steps in disaster planning and management that are inclusive of humans and animals and be knowledgeable of the Incident Command System. Students who have completed one of the DVM electives prior to roll-out of the micro-credential program can retrospectively enroll in the One Health Micro-Credential.

The program requirements include satisfactory completion of:

1. V1PG 0140 One Health & Systems Approach (1 credit)
2. V1PG 0146B Disaster Management (2 credits)
3. Completion of one of the following online courses (fee \$900 USD; not financial aid eligible)
  - a. V1PG 143 Conservation Medicine (3 credits)
  - b. V1PG 144 Surveillance & Diagnostics (3 credits)
  - c. V1PG 145 Zoonoses (3 credits)

### SUMMARY OF RUSVM ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLACEMENT OF GRADUATES

The office of the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Professional Opportunities provides support to students and recent graduates with regards to employment. Internships, new graduate employment opportunities and information about veterinary careers are communicated to senior students and those about to graduate via email and through RUSVM's intranet. Alumni and recent graduates are provided this information via the RUSVM website. The Associate Dean works with prospective employers to ensure that the skills and the attributes of the RUSVM graduates are promoted amongst potential employers.

Additionally, 7th semester students have mandatory meetings to discuss NAVLE® preparation and future employment options, and the pre-clinical curriculum includes the following courses to further support our students to prepare for professional careers through the Veterinary Professional Foundations I and II, and Licensing Examination Preparation courses.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

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### CLINICAL TRAINING AT AN AFFILIATED INSTITUTION

RUSVM contracts with AVMA-COE accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, Canada, Ireland, UK, and New Zealand to provide clinical year training for its students.

In order to be eligible for promotion to the clinical year, RUSVM students must successfully complete the pre-clinical curriculum at the St. Kitts campus with a minimum GPA of 2.0.

All arrangements with the affiliate institution are handled by RUSVM (RUSVM students are not to contact these programs directly before they are placed). During clinical training, students remain enrolled in, and graduate from, RUSVM. Tuition is paid to RUSVM and not the affiliated institution.

RUSVM students are required to complete a minimum of 45 weeks of supervised and evaluated clinical curriculum with an affiliated school/college to be eligible for graduation. Clinical curriculum consists of Core, Elective and Externship rotations. With the recommended time interval for the rotations, RUSVM students spend a minimum of 20 weeks in the “core” clinical program. The remaining 25 weeks consists of electives at affiliated schools and externships. This time may be divided in a manner most opportune for scheduling at each affiliate school.

#### CORE ROTATIONS (MINIMUM 20 WEEKS):

1. Small Animal Medicine - Includes Preventive Health Maintenance/Community Practice (a minimum of 2 weeks)
2. Small Animal Surgery - (a minimum of 4 weeks)
3. Medical Services - Includes Anesthesiology and Diagnostic Imaging (a minimum of 2 weeks)
4. Diagnostic Services - Includes Clinical Pathology, Parasitology, Microbiology, Necropsy (diagnostic pathology) services (a minimum of 2 weeks)
5. Emergency/Critical Care (a minimum of 2 weeks)
6. Large Animal Medicine - A minimum of 4 weeks in one of the following:
  - Food Animal Medicine and/or Surgery: Includes Ambulatory Services, Theriogenology, and/or Food Animal Production Medicine where offered
  - OR
  - Equine Medicine and/or Surgery: Includes Ambulatory Services where offered

#### DEFINITION OF TERMS:

**Elective:** is an evaluated rotation that is not required as part of RUSVM core program, or required by the affiliate to complete the DVM program. Many institutions define electives as non-core on-campus rotations or clerkships. Normally students will receive a grade (associated with a course number) after completion of an elective rotation.

**Externship:** is an off-campus supervised and evaluated learning experience. Normally students will receive a pass or fail in an externship.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—DOCTOR OF VET MEDICINE (continued)

Below is a list of some of RUSVM's affiliate schools and colleges of veterinary medicine:

AFFILIATED COLLEGES OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	LOCATION	WEBSITE
Auburn University	Auburn, AL	vetmed.auburn.edu
Colorado State University	Fort Collins, CO	cvmb.colostate.edu
Cornell University	Ithaca, NY	vet.cornell.edu
Iowa State University	Ames, IA	vetmed.iastate.edu
Kansas State University	Manhattan, KS	vet.k-state.edu
Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine	Harrogate, TN	lmunet.edu/college-of-veterinary-medicine
Louisiana State University	Baton Rouge, LA	lsu.edu/vetmed
Massey University	Palmerston North, New Zealand	massey.ac.nz
Michigan State University	East Lansing, MI	cvm.msu.edu
North Carolina State University	Raleigh, NC	cvm.ncsu.edu
Oklahoma State University	Stillwater, OK	cvm.okstate.edu
Ontario Veterinary College – University of Guelph	Guelph, Ontario	ovc.uoguelph.ca
Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	vetmed.oregonstate.edu
Purdue University	West Lafayette, IN	vet.purdue.edu
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Edinburgh	Edinburgh, Scotland	ed.ac.uk/vet
Royal Veterinary College	London, United Kingdom	rvc.ac.uk
Texas A & M University	College Station, TX	vetmed.tamu.edu
The Ohio State University	Columbus, OH	vet.osu.edu
Tufts University	North Grafton, MA	vet.tufts.edu
University College Dublin	Dublin, Ireland	ucd.ie/vetmed
University of California at Davis	Davis, CA	vetmed.ucdavis.edu
University of Florida	Gainesville, FL	vetmed.ufl.edu
University of Illinois	Urbana-Champaign, IL	cvm.uiuc.edu
University of Minnesota	St. Paul, MN	cvm.umn.edu
University of Missouri	Columbia, MO	cvm.missouri.edu
Université de Montréal	Quebec, Canada	umontreal.ca/en
University of Tennessee	Knoxville, TN	vetmed.tennessee.edu
University of Wisconsin	Madison, WI	vetmed.wisc.edu
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine	Blacksburg, VA	vetmed.vt.edu



# DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES

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## GRADUATE STUDIES

RUSVM offers a Graduate Certificate in One Health, a PhD by Research degree program and both a MSc by Coursework in One Health (online) and a MSc by Research degree program. The MSc by Research degree program is most likely to benefit applicants going on to pursue a Doctoral degree. The MSc by Coursework degree program is provided to students on a part-time study basis with a required research project and Capstone paper and is similar to programs offered in the USA and Canada. Students have the option of completing the program in either 2 or 3 years.

Graduate students (referred to as “Candidates”) appointed into graduate programs will embody an essential group of attributes that will be required to ensure the successful completion of the program, within a reasonable timeframe and ensure a competent career ready graduate. RUSVM, through research supervisors and MSc by Coursework advisors/teaching staff, provides clear, detailed and accessible information to candidates. Supervisors and Master of Science by Coursework advisors/teaching staff are directly involved in managing candidate progress and professional development.

## ACADEMIC POLICIES

The Graduate Degree Regulations set out the regulatory framework by which graduate degree programs are governed.

### ENROLLMENT

Candidates must enroll at the beginning of their study period by accepting their offer letter and thereafter complete registration and course selection each semester until graduation.

A candidate may not repeat a semester of study if his or her progress has been unsatisfactory. Extensions to the prescribed period of study may be granted by the Graduate and Research Committee.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### TUITION AND FEES

All tuition and fees are listed in U.S. currency. Amounts are subject to change and additional fees may be charged for special features and/or services.

#### Application Fee

There is no application fee for the graduate programs.

#### Tuition

<b>MASTER OF SCIENCE BY COURSEWORK IN ONE HEALTH (45 credits) (ONLINE)</b> Tuition Effective September 2022	<b>MASTER OF SCIENCE BY RESEARCH</b> Tuition Effective September 2022	<b>PHD BY RESEARCH</b> Tuition Effective September 2022	<b>GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ONE HEALTH (13 CREDITS)</b> Tuition Effective September 2022
Students have option to complete coursework as follows: \$1,500/semester— 6 semesters (2 years part-time) \$1,000/semester— 9 semesters (3 years part-time)	\$3,000/semester— 3 semesters (1 year full-time)  \$1,500/semester— 6 semesters (2 years part-time)	\$3,000/semester— 9 semesters (3 years full-time)  \$1,500/semester— 18 semesters (6 years part-time)	\$346.15 per credit or \$4,500 for 13 credits
<b>TOTAL TUITION</b>			
<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$27,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) for tuition and refund policies.

Research degrees (MSc by Research and PhD) are subject to availability of supervisors, equipment and research costs.

#### **RUSVM's graduate degree and graduate certificate programs are not eligible for U.S. Federal loans or financial aid.**

Candidates must on the occasion of each semester pay the tuition fee due, at the date of payment, for the semester concerned.

Candidates will be billed for the entire year. Candidates have the right to request an installment plan.

#### OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES

**Educational Materials:** Candidates are responsible for purchasing required textbooks, supplies, and equipment. The average cost for educational materials is dependent on the program of study and is traditionally no more than \$400 per semester.

**Health Insurance:** Candidates are encouraged to have health insurance while at RUSVM. RUSVM provides candidates with access to an insurance plan through Aetna® at \$1,306 per semester. If a candidate provides proof of comparable private insurance coverage during the waiver period, the requirement to purchase University-sponsored health insurance can be waived.

For additional information regarding total program costs, please refer to the program home page at [veterinary.rossu.edu/student-consumer-information.html](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/student-consumer-information.html)

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### LIVING EXPENSES

Candidates must plan on the cost of rent and utilities when on-island, which will vary based on factors such as location and whether there are roommates. Food and incidental costs must also be budgeted.

**Transportation to/from St. Kitts:** Immigration requires candidates entering St. Kitts to have a return airline ticket.

### FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Tuition and fees are billed approximately 14 days in advance of each semester and are due the first day of class. Graduate candidates in receipt of external funding must provide evidence of the financial support of which they are in receipt. RUSVM has the right to withhold services and academic certification from a candidate whose account is overdue.

### REFUND POLICY FOR WITHDRAWALS

A withdrawal occurs when a candidate's enrollment is permanently discontinued or interrupted without an authorized leave of absence in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the [Student Handbook](#). The effective date of withdrawal is normally the date the candidate notifies the institution of the withdrawal or candidate's last academically related event attended.

Although a leave of absence may be authorized in limited circumstances, failure to return to school from a leave of absence on the date specified is considered a withdrawal as of the last academically related event attended or the determined withdrawal date. Any leave of absence must be requested and approved in advance and may not exceed 3 semesters (1 year). An interruption of enrollment status that does not qualify as a leave of absence is considered a withdrawal as of the last date of academically related activity.

Candidates that are withdrawn, administratively withdrawn, dismissed, suspended, they may be entitled to a tuition refund. Candidates are refunded on a semester basis based on number of months enrolled in the degree program. Stipends are exempt from the tuition fee policy.

Below is a breakdown of semester-based withdrawal refunds. Please note that health insurance fees will not be adjusted. Candidate association fees will not be refunded.

- Month 1: 75% tuition adjustment
- Month 2: 50% tuition adjustment
- Month 3: 25% tuition adjustment
- Month 4: No adjustment

Please note that tuition adjustments may create a credit balance on the candidate account. If a candidate has borrowed private loan funds, a loan return will be issued to the private loan lender as those monies are no longer needed to pay tuition.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### MASTERS OF SCIENCE BY COURSEWORK IN ONE HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

The MSc by Coursework in One Health (MSc One Health) degree program is research-informed and candidates will benefit from the expertise of world-renowned experts. The program includes residential/remote and online taught components as well as a Capstone project leading to the presentation of the Capstone paper.

The course-based MSc One Health degree program is designed to equip veterinarians, animal scientists, medical and biological scientists with an in-depth understanding of the principles of, and issues associated with, One Health. RUSVM is committed to a One Health approach to a sectoral and multidisciplinary research aimed at sustainably reducing the burden of zoonoses. Zoonoses and other diseases affecting livestock production and health have serious impacts on the economic growth, health and food security and alleviation of poverty in tropical and resource constrained countries. Candidates will also have the opportunity to explore the complex interplay of altered environments and infectious diseases as an increasing threat to agriculture, public health and endangered/threatened species, on a global basis.

#### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admission is open to candidates with a professional veterinary or medical qualification or a degree or international equivalent in the biological, biomedical, environmental or ecological sciences. The program begins each year in September (Fall term).

Due to the intensive nature of this degree program, a high-level of English proficiency is required and applicants whose native language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of proficiency through test scores and/or education/professional experience in the medium of English.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are made online via at [veterinary.rossu.edu/apply](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/apply) and applications must include a personal statement/expression of interest, curriculum vitae, transcripts and diplomas, and two references (at least one academic reference).

Applicants meeting the entry requirements will be invited to an interview via video-conference or teleconference. Offers of admissions are conditional upon completion of the application form, verification of qualifications and receipt of satisfactory references.

#### CANCELLATION POLICY

If an applicant decides to withdraw his/her application prior to decision, the applicant must email the Research and Graduate Administrator ([postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn](mailto:postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn)) with that request. The Administrator will then deactivate the application.

The state of Missouri provides for a period during which admissions agreements with RUSVM may be canceled by the candidate with refund of all monies paid. This cancellation period shall not be less than (3) days, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

#### Cancellation of Courses

RUSVM's curriculum is designed so classes are meant to be taken in a specific order to bolster candidates' knowledge and skills incrementally. As such, the general policy at RUSVM is that it does not cancel classes.

#### NEW STUDENT WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS

Once accepted to RUSVM, candidates receive information pertaining to access to online classes, reading materials and other relevant information.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

The MSc One Health degree program is designed to provide the skills and preparation needed for careers in a broad range of environments. The flexible program of study has particular strengths in:

- tropical animal health and diseases
- the intersection of animal health and human health
- epidemiology
- conservation medicine
- food safety
- animal health program management
- animal disease investigation
- research and diagnostic methods
- the interface between domestic animals and wildlife
- delivery of veterinary services
- disaster medicine and management

On completion of the degree program the candidates will have gained knowledge, research skills and research experience in topics relevant to the broad field of One Health. The program provides graduates the background and experience to assess, investigate and manage animal health and zoonotic disease risks, to design and execute targeted research in animal health, and to manage veterinary intervention in the control and prevention of animal disease. Within the degree program the candidate will have had the opportunity to focus on an area of interest, such as area disease control, vector borne diseases, zoonotic infections or conservation medicine.

Candidates will acquire and enhance intellectual skills in scientific assessment and research methodology, as well as practical skills in communication, organization and scientific writing.

### DELIVERY

The program of study is characterized by a well-designed set of core courses and a flexible choice of elective courses to meet the demands of the field and the goals of the students. The taught component will be instructed by distance learning via Canvas™ RUSVM's Virtual Learning Environment. Candidates will be taught by RUSVM faculty and specialist modules may be delivered by RUSVM's partner institutions.

The MSc by Coursework in One Health degree program requires 45 credits, obtained through coursework and a Capstone Research project, leading to the submission of a Capstone paper. Candidates are required to undertake specified core courses amounting to 19 credits, 10 credits of electives, 1 credit for the remote/residential period and 15 credits for the Capstone.

The research project may be carried out in St. Kitts and Nevis or in other locations, as appropriate, under the supervision of a RUSVM faculty member. The research component may be desk-based, lab-based or through fieldwork and will result in the submission of a Capstone paper. An optional residential (max. 1 week) component will allow the candidate cohort to share their perspective and Capstone with the RUSVM research community.

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be conducted through traditional and novel methods suited to an online delivery mode and will include, for example, essays, critical review of peer-reviewed articles, online tests and quizzes, blog writing, research proposal writing, research/fieldwork journal development, group discussions, group project work and social media interactions.

## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

Assessment of the Capstone research stage will be conducted on a portfolio of projects or Capstone paper submitted. It should comprise either a satisfactory record of research undertaken by the student, or a satisfactory critical survey of knowledge in the field of study, or both, combined with a satisfactory plan for a more advanced research project; and show competence in the appropriate method of research and an adequate knowledge of the field of study. The work must be satisfactory in its literary presentation and include adequate references.

The assessed work, including the Capstone paper, should not exceed 20,000 words. The Capstone paper must be submitted within a maximum of 4 months (one semester) after the completion of the prescribed program of study unless an extension is granted by the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.

For MSc One Health, the grading system is as follows:

GRADE	GRADE RANGE
A	93% or higher
A-	90%–92.9%
B+	87%–89.9%
B	83%–86.9%
B-	80%–82.9%
C+	77%–79.9%
C	73%–76.9%
C-	70%–72.9%
D+	67%–69.9%
D	63%–66.9%
D-	60%–62.9%
F	Below 60%

Candidates are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Examinations
- Completion of assignments, including practicals
- Class and threaded discussion participation
- Academic honesty and professional demeanor
- Professionalism and the ability to effectively work with others in a team environment



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

### WRITTEN AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS

RUSVM has a written agreement with Chamberlain University (Chamberlain) to share courses within RUSVM's MSc One Health. The proportion of the degree program that is taught by Chamberlain is noted in the table below. There are no additional costs incurred by RUSVM students as a result of enrolling in a degree program at RUSVM that is taught, in part, by Chamberlain.

Degree Program	Credits Provided by RUSVM	Credits Provided by Chamberlain
MSc One Health	87% (39 credits)	13% (6 credits)

### CURRICULUM

A curriculum plan for the MSc in One Health is provided below. Two and three year part time options available. 45 credit program. Enrollment opens once a year, each September (Fall semester) with RUSVM classes following the standard 15 week term.

Courses	Credits	Total
<b>V1PG 140</b> One Health & Systems Approaches	1 credit	<b>35 credits</b>
<b>V1PG 141A</b> Epidemiology	2 credits	
<b>V1PG 141B</b> Biostatistics	3 credits	
<b>V1PG 142</b> Research Project Design	2 credits	
<b>V1PG 143</b> Conservation Medicine	3 credits	
<b>V1PG 144</b> Surveillance & Diagnostics	3 credits	
<b>V1PG 145</b> Zoonoses	3 credits	
<b>V1PG 147</b> Capstone Research & Thesis	15 credits	
<b>V1PG 148</b> Residential Week	1 credit	
<b>V1PG 150</b> Scientific Communication & Outreach	2 credits	



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

Electives (take two of the three classes)	Credits	Total
<b>V1PG 146A</b> Safety of Food of Animal Origin	2 credits	<b>4 credits</b>
<b>V1PG 146B</b> Disaster Management	2 credits	
<b>V1PG 146C</b> Animal Health Program Management	2 credits	

Electives (take two of the three Chamberlain MPH classes)	Credits	Total
<b>MPH 503</b> Advocacy in Public Health Policy and Law*	3 credits	<b>6 credits</b>
<b>MPH 504</b> Cultural Competency and Global Public Health*	3 credits	
<b>MPH 506</b> Environmental Health in Public Health*	3 credits	

\*Check the Chamberlain Academic Catalog for details – Chamberlain classes are typically 8 weeks in duration.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### Module Descriptions

#### **V1PG 140**

##### ONE HEALTH & SYSTEMS APPROACHES (1 CREDIT)

In this course, One Health will be defined and placed in an historical context. The meaning of using a One Health approach to research, policy development and other aspects of animal, human and environmental health will be explored with current One Health advocates describing how they use One Health within their work. The complexity of One Health and the need for a systems approach to address animal, environmental and human health issues will be discussed using current literature and case examples. The importance of collaborations, networks, and teams in implementing One Health approaches also will be stressed. Short videos and assigned reading material will be supplemented with discussions. Participation in the discussions is a key component of this course.

#### **V1PG 141A**

##### EPIDEMIOLOGY (2 CREDITS)

This course examines the principles of epidemiology for One Health practitioners. Through lectures, hands-on practical exercises and discussions, students will develop knowledge of some of the basic epidemiological tools available. Through active participation, students can get valuable information and exchange personal/professional experiences that will facilitate their learning experience. The course focus will be on epidemiological causal concepts; principles of sampling and questionnaire design, measures of disease frequency; observational studies and bias; measures of association; systematic reviews; and participatory epidemiology. All these tools will build a foundation for future One Health professionals.

#### **V1PG 141B**

##### BIOSTATISTICS (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the principles of biostatistics for One Health practitioners. Through lectures, hands-on practical exercises and discussions, students will develop knowledge of descriptive and inferential statistics. The course will also provide students the opportunity to gain a strong foundation in the use and interpretation of biostatistics.

#### **V1PG 142**

##### RESEARCH PROJECT DESIGN (2 CREDITS)

This course addresses the concepts and practicalities associated with the design and conduct of high-quality research projects. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the principles of research design, be able to identify different types of observational and interventional study designs, formulate and present a research proposal and understand the application of basic project management skills to research studies. Assignments, weekly discussions, and application of learning objectives will focus on critique of peer reviewed published manuscripts. This course is expected to serve as preparation for the Capstone research project (V1PG 147).

#### **V1PG 143**

##### CONSERVATION MEDICINE (3 CREDITS)

This course provides students with practical and theoretical knowledge of the basic principles of conservation biology and medicine such as interrelatedness of ecosystem health, animal health, and human health; emerging infectious diseases across species taxa (e.g. non-human primates, fish, reptiles, birds); human behavior and ecosystem health; and wildlife disease surveillance.

The course will also include case studies on national legislations or programs on conservation medicine, the role of agencies/entities (governmental, private sector, etc.) in conservation medicine and ecosystem health, historical and cultural perspectives towards endangered species and ecosystems communities in the country of focus. Through discussions, group work and assignments, students will have to demonstrate specialist knowledge of a specified conservation medicine/ecosystem health issue and the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate mechanisms to mediate risks and benefits as well as the ability to identify relevant necessary collaborations for conservation medicine/ecosystem health and to communicating the principles of conservation medicine and ecosystem health concepts to different population groups using appropriate media.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### V1PG 144

#### SURVEILLANCE & DIAGNOSTICS (3 CREDITS)

This course addresses methods for disease surveillance and diagnostics tools. It will prepare One Health practitioners from diverse backgrounds to examine the validity, appropriateness and output for surveillance and diagnostic tools available to them. Students will have the opportunity to gain critical knowledge through online lectures, discussions and case studies on types of surveillance, surveillance systems at national and international level, reportable and notifiable diseases, surveillance system design and evaluation, challenges and opportunities of implementing one health surveillance programs, syndromic surveillance and the application of GIS in Spatio-temporal surveillance. The course will also have an emphasis on principles of diagnostic methods as it relates to surveillance and health monitoring. This will include: the interrelatedness of diagnostic methods; the role of diagnostic methodology in surveillance programs; interpretation and use of diagnostic method results for One Health communication; and the contribution of diagnostic methodology policy changes in One Health. Students will also develop the ability to identify relevant collaborations necessary to perform diagnostic testing and surveillance of human and animal health. As a critical skill for One Health practitioners, students will be expected to present on their work throughout the course. Presentations using different media will include examples of country-specific practices drawing on the student's local environment, and hence allowing peer-to-peer international perspective and idea sharing.

### V1PG 145

#### ZOONOSES (3 CREDITS)

This course will provide student with knowledge of infectious/zoonotic disease, including detection of zoonotic diseases, specific zoonotic diseases (viral, bacterial, parasitic, prion and mycological), prevention and control of zoonotic disease and the importance and cost of zoonotic disease on a global scale. Due to interface of human healthcare professionals, animal health professionals and biomedical scientists in zoonotic diseases, the course will explore the importance of complementary and synergistic approaches, drawing on perspectives from different professions to identify, control and prevent zoonoses.

### V1PG 146A

#### SAFETY OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (2 CREDITS)

This elective course will provide knowledge on the principles of food safety management, focusing on meat and other animal food products. Discussion topics and case-studies will include meat safety, milk hygiene, handling, storage and exportation of foods of animal origin, food safety management and evaluation systems, national and international legislations, standard practices, animal welfare and food safety risk analysis. As a critical skill for One Health practitioners, students will be expected to present on their work throughout the course. Presentations using different media will include examples of country-specific practices drawing on the student's local environment and hence allowing peer-to-peer international perspective- and idea- sharing.

### V1PG 146B

#### DISASTER MANAGEMENT (2 CREDITS)

This elective course provides knowledge of hazard and risk assessment; types of disasters, disaster planning and management, agencies involved in disaster management and their respective roles. The course also involves knowledge and practical application of the Incident Command System. Through discussions, case studies and a tabletop exercise, students will have the opportunity to examine lessons learned from previous disasters as well as disaster preparation.

### V1PG 146C

#### ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (2 CREDITS)

This elective course will allow students to develop specialist knowledge in animal health governance at international, regional and country level; the animal trade and sanitary/phyto-sanitary measures; reportable and notifiable diseases; control strategies used for trans-boundary diseases and zoonoses, emerging and re-emerging diseases. *Prerequisite: students are expected to have basic knowledge of animal health, gained through practical or educational experience.*



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### V1PG 147

#### CAPSTONE RESEARCH PROJECT (15 CREDITS)

Students will be required to undertake a research project, on their chosen topic or based on supervisor-led topics. The research project may be carried out in St. Kitts and Nevis or in the students' locality, as appropriate, under the supervision of a RUSVM faculty member. The research component may be desk-based, lab-based or conducted through fieldwork and will result in the submission of a Capstone paper (10,000-20,000 words). Through this supervised practical activity, students will gain specialist knowledge of the field of study and hands-on experience in conducting a research project. Students will also develop skills in literary presentation and scientific referencing.

### V1PG 148

#### REMOTE/RESIDENTIAL WEEK (1 CREDIT)

A short remote or residential component will allow the students to share their knowledge and perspectives as well as presenting their project proposal plan to the RUSVM research community. Themed exercises will provide an enhanced foundation in collaborative working in this multidisciplinary field and will focus on defined One Health issues and an opportunity to gain experience of addressing One Health issues in the Caribbean Basin.

### V1PG 150

#### SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH (2 CREDITS)

This course aims to demystify the fundamentals of effective science communication, and to develop and sharpen your academic and professional skills to convey scientific concepts and results to a variety of audiences including scientists in your discipline as well as the general public. Background theory about the scientific process and dialog will be provided and put into the societal context. Students will generate a portfolio of communication products throughout the semester as we discuss techniques for giving excellent talks, effective figures and visuals, writing blogs, generating infographics, and using social media for science communication. Looking beyond the beaten track, new ways of communicating science are explored to foster public engagement and science outreach in an ever changing globalized and digital world.

### MPH 503\*

#### ADVOCACY IN PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND LAW (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the impacts of economics, ethics, legal issues, political science, management, communications and technology on public health policymaking. Students explore contemporary issues in health policy through review of U.S. health policy development and factors that affect future health policy initiatives. Students are challenged to think systematically and critically about these issues and about various methods available to policymakers to improve the U.S. healthcare system.

### MPH 504\*

#### CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH (3 CREDITS)

This course explores global and international dimensions of public health. Students consider epidemiological, political, behavioral, sociological, cultural and medical aspects associated with variations in health and disease of individuals and populations. Coursework examines a range of public health issues for developing countries and for affluent industrialized societies, and population-based public health approaches used in solving global health issues are introduced. In addition, students will examine assumptions made about their cultural competency and how to work with populations who might share different values than their own.

### MPH 506\*

#### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN PUBLIC HEALTH - 3 CREDITS

The course addresses factors associated with biological, physical and chemical environmental health issues. Students examine interaction among individuals, communities and the environment; the potential health impact of environmental agents; and specific applications of environmental health policies and practices. Also examined are approaches for assessing, preventing and controlling environmental health hazards.

\* Courses delivered by the Chamberlain University from the Masters in Public Health program.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### MSC AND PHD BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMS

Our Faculty are actively engaged in research and will provide graduate students, (referred to as “candidates”), with new tools and ways of thinking that lead to innovation. Graduate candidates will be equipped with transferable research skills necessary to pursue a wide selection of careers in academia, industry, business or elsewhere. As graduate researchers, candidates will focus on a topic specific to one of our four Research Centers and be supervised by experienced faculty members. Graduate research students will be expected to show they can deliver and manage their research project and advance knowledge within their chosen discipline.

#### PROGRESS MONITORING

Graduate research degree programs are not credit-based and are assessed through the submission of a final thesis (and, for PhD candidates, an oral examination). However, to assist with the satisfactory progress of candidates, RUSVM undertakes a rigorous progress monitoring management of graduate candidates at defined milestones.

#### SUPERVISION OF AND EXPECTATIONS

RUSVM ensures that:

- Supervisors are adequately qualified to supervise graduate candidates at the qualification level the candidates are registered for;
- There is a sufficient number of experienced supervisors to support all candidates for the duration of their candidature; and
- Research supervision is formally and transparently recognized in workloads and RUSVM monitors the number of candidates that a member of faculty should supervise at any one time.

Principal supervisors will have:

- A degree at the level they are supervising or higher;
- The skills and experience relevant to supervising the project in the stated area;
- Ongoing involvement in developing and maintaining knowledge and expertise in the research degree supervision; and
- An understanding of RUSVM's policies and procedures in relation to supervision and in particular their respective role, expectation and requirement of the degree.

Candidates should understand that they are expected to:

- Be proactive and self-directed in all aspects of their study;
- Make independent and creative use of library and all other available resources;
- Embrace online learning opportunities;
- Make full use of laboratory facilities;
- Take full advantage of their information sources, including research faculty and facilities;
- Adopt work practices and working hours that facilitate effective communication with the appointed supervisors;
- Meet any conditions specified at the time of admission or subsequently in order to be maintained in the program;
- Refer to the guidance relating to formatting and referencing requirements for their thesis and make use of referencing tools such as EndNote®.





## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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Each candidate will work under the guidance of at least two supervisors appointed by RUSVM, one of whom will be appointed as the Principal Supervisor.

The supervisors must be either:

- a. salaried members of the academic faculty of RUSVM;
- b. a member of staff employed by RUSVM, not being one of the academic faculty, who has appropriate expertise in research; or
- c. an honorary/adjunct member of faculty.

The nomination of individuals in categories (b) or (c) to act as a Principal Supervisor must be specifically approved by the RUSVM Graduate and Research Committee. In appropriate cases one or more other supervisor(s) (external supervisors), who need not be members of the faculty of the RUSVM, may be appointed by the RUSVM Graduate and Research Committee.

A Progress Monitoring Committee (PMC) is assigned to each candidate. PMCs are comprised of RUSVM supervisors, external supervisors (if applicable) and a member of RUSVM faculty who is not directly involved in the candidate's research project. The role of the PMC is to assess whether the candidate has made satisfactory progress as per the RUSVM Graduate Assessment Regulations. The PMC is chaired by one of its members (but not the Principal Supervisor).

All candidates, including those studying on a part-time basis and those registered as continuing candidates, must report in person to their supervisors when required and at least twice in each four-month period. Candidates who are absent from the RUSVM must report to their supervisors via other communication means such as video-/teleconference or in writing.

### MSC BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM

The MSc by Research degree program is based on supervised research over a period of one year full-time (3 semesters) or 2 years part-time (6 semesters). Progress monitoring is conducted throughout the study period and the candidate will be asked to demonstrate satisfactory progress at set milestones.

The award of an MSc by Research degree is based on the satisfactory completion of research training in addition to any other designated projects, assignments and/or course work, and the completion of a thesis, which must not exceed 30,000 words.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate that they have acquired an advanced level of knowledge and understanding in the field of study and are capable of undertaking independent research.

### INTEGRATED AND INTERCALATED DVM/MSC BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM

DVM students wishing to undertake an MSc by Research degree program may do so as:

- Integrated - students will undertake 8 semesters of work towards their MSc by Research; typically 7 in conjunction with their DVM studies and one semester for research. DVM students applying for an Integrated MSc by Research program must be in good standing in their DVM program and have achieved suitably satisfactory grades (Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above).
- Intercalated - with the required permissions, students may take time off the DVM program to undertake a 3-semester MSc by Research. Only students having completed at least one semester of the DVM program will be considered. DVM students applying for an Intercalated MSc by Research program must be in good standing in their DVM program and have achieved suitably satisfactory grade (Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above).

The award of an MSc by Research degree is based on the satisfactory completion of research training in addition to any other designated projects, assignments and/or course work, and the completion of a thesis, which must not exceed 30,000 words.

Candidates will be required to demonstrate that they have acquired an advanced level of knowledge and understanding in the field of study and are capable of undertaking independent research.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### PHD BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM

The Doctoral degree program is based on supervised research over a period of three years full-time (9 semesters) or a maximum of six years part-time (18 semesters).

Progress monitoring is conducted throughout the study period and the candidate will be asked to demonstrate satisfactory progress at set milestones.

The Progress Monitoring Committee will submit a yearly progress report to the Graduate and Research Committee on the work of the candidate. Information to be provided in the progress report will include advancement of the research, development of discipline specific research skills and progress in expected outcomes (e.g. manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals).

The candidate must have demonstrated the capacity to pursue original research in the field of study and to present the results in a critical and scholarly way. The doctoral dissertation must be an original work making a significant contribution to knowledge and understanding of the field of study, such that it is worthy of presentation in peer-reviewed publications.

The award of a PhD is determined on the basis of a submitted thesis, not exceeding 100,000 words, and an externally assessed oral examination.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES (MSc & PHD BY RESEARCH)

Prospective candidates for MSc and PhD by Research degree programs are invited to direct initial inquiries to [postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn](mailto:postgrad@rossvet.edu.kn) and to approach prospective supervisors to discuss their research aspirations and interests prior to completing the online application at [veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application). Applications must include CV/resume, personal statement, transcripts, diplomas and two references (at least one academic reference).

Applications will be reviewed in line with RUSVM entry requirements and research expertise. Applicants will be asked to attend an interview by tele- or video-conference. Successfully matched candidates will be issued a letter of offer, which sets out the conditions of their degree program and a mutually agreeable start date will be arranged. Offers must be accepted to finalize enrollment.

Where required, RUSVM will assist candidates' pre-arrival on island with onboarding such as visa requirements and accommodations. Candidates should not make visa or travel arrangements until they have been contacted by a RUSVM representative.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

#### MSc BY RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAM

*Applications accepted throughout the year - open enrollment*

The minimum entry requirement for this degree program is a professional veterinary or medical qualification, or a bachelor's degree or international equivalent in the biological or biomedical sciences. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their educational performance to date and their ability to demonstrate a sustained interest in research.

Due to the intensive nature of this degree, a high-level of English proficiency is required and applicants whose native language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of proficiency through test scores and/or education/professional experience in the medium of English.



## DEGREE PROGRAMS—GRADUATE STUDIES (continued)

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### DOCTORAL (PHD) DEGREE PROGRAM

*Applications accepted throughout the year - open enrollment*

Admission is open to candidates with a professional veterinary or medical qualification, bachelor's degree or international equivalent in the biological sciences. Based on the research content of the applicant's professional qualification or first degree, a master's degree may be required. Additionally, candidates may be required to enroll in an MSc by Research degree program for a probationary period before converting to the PhD by Research degree program. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their educational performance to date and their ability to demonstrate a sustained interest in research.

Due to the importance of written and spoken skills to successfully undertake this degree program, a high-level of English proficiency is required and applicants whose native language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of proficiency through test scores and/or education/professional experience in the medium of English.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

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## Graduate Certificate in One Health

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admission is open to candidates with a professional veterinary or medical qualification or a degree or international equivalent in the biological, biomedical, environmental or ecological sciences. The program begins each year in September (Fall term).

Due to the intensive nature of this program, a high-level of English proficiency is required and applicants whose native language is not English will be asked to provide evidence of proficiency through test scores and/or education/professional experience in the medium of English.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for the Graduate Certificate in One Health are invited to apply online at [veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application](http://veterinary.rossu.edu/landing/application). Applications are due by 30th June. Applications should include a personal statement/expression of interest, curriculum vitae, transcripts, diplomas and 2 references (at least one academic reference).

Applicants may be asked to attend an interview by tele- or video-conference. Offers of admissions are conditional upon completion of the application form, verification of qualifications and receipt of satisfactory references.

### CANCELLATION OF COURSES

RUSVM's curriculum is designed so classes are meant to be taken in a specific order, to bolster candidates' knowledge and skills incrementally. As such, the general policy at RUSVM is that it does not cancel classes.

### NEW STUDENT WELCOME PACKET

Once accepted, candidates receive information pertaining to access to online classes, schedule, and reading materials.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Graduate Certificate in One Health is designed to provide working knowledge of One Health concepts that can be used to enhance careers in a broad range of environments. Participants will employ intellectual skills in scientific assessment as well as practical skills in communication, organization and scientific writing. Upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate, participants will have gained knowledge in the disciplines relevant to the broad field of One Health and be able to employ a systems approach to addressing issues within human, animal and environmental health.

Upon completing the Graduate Certificate in One Health, students should be confident leaders and advocates of One Health in their current and future positions. Core focus areas and respective competencies within the program include:

1. Use of a systems approach to address complex health issues with the ability to
  - a. recognize when a One Health concern or issue exists
  - b. identify, compile and apply relevant and appropriate sources of information, including community assets and resources
  - c. analyze information to determine uses, gaps and limitations within an ethical, political, scientific, socio-cultural and economic context
  - d. be able to evaluate the impact of interventions and research from a systems perspective
2. Understanding the role of advocacy, leadership and communication within One Health with the ability to
  - a. recognize the vision and mission of an organization (public or private)
  - b. contribute to developing key values and a shared vision in planning and implementing One Health programs and policies in a community
  - c. utilize One Health ethics to manage self, others, information and resources
  - d. demonstrate an ability to build community capacity by sharing knowledge, tools, expertise and experience
  - e. use different platforms for communicating and educating on One Health issues
  - f. ability to develop communications (e.g., presentations, posters, media pieces) targeting different audiences
3. Understanding the transdisciplinary One Health sciences with the ability to
  - a. describe disease transmission routes and characterize the etiology of infectious disease agents particularly those of zoonotic importance;
  - b. characterize the interaction of conservation medicine/ecosystem health with human and domestic animal health;
  - c. explain the role of food safety and delivery of veterinary services (disaster management and animal health program delivery) within a One Health context;
  - d. describe interventions that can prevent disease spread and improve animal, human and environmental health;
  - e. identify cultural and socioeconomic factors that can increase or decrease the spread of diseases and impact of interventions;
  - f. explain primary principles in epidemiology to characterize health issues that overlap between animals, humans and the environment
  - g. describe the use of biosurveillance, diagnostics, and therapeutics in assessing and intervening in animal, human and environmental health issues

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

COURSES	CREDITS	LEARNING OUTCOMES
<b>V1PG 140</b> One Health & Systems Approach	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognize when a One Health concern or issue exists</li> <li>▪ Place One Health within an historical context</li> <li>▪ Identify stakeholders impacted by complex health issues</li> <li>▪ Describe ethical, gender, social, economic and cultural aspects applicable to a One Health issue</li> <li>▪ Determine core team members based on disciplines needed for a systems approach to health issues</li> <li>▪ Recognize challenges of using a systems approach</li> <li>▪ Summarize OH research, program or policy results for different audiences</li> </ul>
<b>V1PG 141A</b> Epidemiology	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Define causal concepts and causality</li> <li>▪ Understand principles of sampling and evaluate sampling strategies</li> <li>▪ Develop an effective questionnaire</li> <li>▪ Identify and calculate disease frequency</li> <li>▪ Evaluate screening and diagnostic tests</li> <li>▪ Calculate and interpret measures of association</li> <li>▪ Recognize bias in observational studies</li> <li>▪ Define concepts of infectious disease epidemiology</li> <li>▪ Understand Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis</li> <li>▪ Perform a PRISMA analysis on a chosen topic</li> </ul>
<b>V1PG 141B</b> Biostatistics	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of data types and appropriate graphing techniques</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of measures of central tendency and dispersion, means, median, mode standard deviations</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of some sampling techniques</li> <li>▪ Identify and use sampling distributions</li> <li>▪ Use the central limit theorem</li> <li>▪ Calculate and interpret confidence intervals</li> <li>▪ Carry out hypothesis testing and interpret the output</li> <li>▪ Carry out linear and logistic regression and interpret the output</li> <li>▪ Identify data that requires survival analysis techniques</li> </ul>



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

<p><b>V1PG 142</b> Research Project Design</p>	<p>2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand the principles of research design</li><li>▪ Be able to review and critique published literature</li><li>▪ Assess if the study design is correct for the research question</li><li>▪ Identify different study designs</li><li>▪ Evaluate the ethics of the research</li><li>▪ Determine if the data interpretation is appropriate</li><li>▪ Formulate and present (written) a research proposal</li><li>▪ Understand the principles of project management</li><li>▪ Be able to identify project/research stakeholders</li><li>▪ Apply principles of project management to research studies</li></ul>
<p><b>V1PG 143</b> Conservation Medicine</p>	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Describe basic principles of conservation biology and medicine</li><li>▪ Identify overlap between ecosystem health, animal health, and human health</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of emerging infectious diseases across taxa (e.g., non-human primates, fish, reptiles, birds, etc.) and impact of zoonotic diseases on conservation</li><li>▪ Develop an ecosystem health monitoring program taking in to account relevant agencies, budgets, surveillance methods and mechanisms to monitor ecosystem health</li><li>▪ Familiar with legislation and agencies regarding conservation medicine and/or ecosystem health</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of a conservation medicine/ecosystem health issue and be able to plan, implement, and evaluate mechanisms to mediate risks and benefits</li><li>▪ Communicate the principles of conservation medicine and ecosystem health concepts to different population groups using appropriate media</li></ul>



## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

<p><b>V1PG 144</b> Surveillance &amp; Diagnostics</p>	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Describe types of surveillance as well as pros and cons</li><li>▪ Identify surveillance systems at country and international level</li><li>▪ Understand principles of designing a surveillance system</li><li>▪ Evaluate and present on a surveillance system</li><li>▪ Define, identify and describe one health surveillance programs</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of the application of GIS in surveillance</li><li>▪ Describe principles of diagnostic methods as they relate to surveillance and animal health monitoring</li><li>▪ Identify appropriate diagnostic methods to achieve the goals of surveillance, monitoring of animal health, and impact on human health</li><li>▪ Interpret and utilize diagnostic method results for public health/One Health communication and recommendations for specific actions</li><li>▪ Use diagnostic results as evidence to promote policy changes in One Health</li><li>▪ Identify the roles of varying agencies/entities (governmental, private sector, etc.) involved in diagnostic method procedures, validation, and reporting</li></ul>
<p><b>V1PG 145</b> Zoonoses</p>	<p>3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Define infectious/zoonotic disease and recognize specific bacterial, viral, mycotic, parasitic and prion zoonoses</li><li>▪ Identify and describe reservoirs of disease, disease transmission methods and determinants of emerging and re-emerging disease</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of the detection of zoonotic disease including use of surveillance and understanding of sentinel disease signs and symptoms</li><li>▪ Understand the role of health care professionals (DVMs and MDs) in zoonotic disease</li><li>▪ Identification and prevention</li><li>▪ Understand prevention and control strategies of zoonotic disease including regulations, biosecurity, and cleaning and disinfection procedures</li><li>▪ Estimate cost of zoonotic disease on a global scale including economic loss and morbidity and mortality in humans from zoonotic disease</li></ul>





## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

<b>V1PG 146A</b> Safety of Food of Animal Origin	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Apply principles of a food safety management system and use of hazard analysis and critical control points</li><li>▪ Identify components of meat safety programs including local legislation and the Codex Alimentarius, slaughter requirements</li><li>▪ Understand restrictions and rules on the importation/exportation of meat</li><li>▪ Describe milk hygiene processes including regulations; control of hazards; milking parlor, storage, transportation and processing facility requirements;</li><li>▪ Develop food safety communication information for different population groups</li></ul>
<b>V1PG 146B</b> Disaster Management	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identify types of hazards and disasters</li><li>▪ Understand steps in conducting a hazard and risk assessment</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of planning for a disaster and levels of planning</li><li>▪ Explain principles of preparedness planning</li><li>▪ Demonstrate knowledge of capacity building in disaster planning</li><li>▪ Outline the lifecycle of disaster management</li><li>▪ Define the components an Incident command system</li><li>▪ Identify lessons learned from previous disasters</li></ul>
<b>V1PG 146C</b> Animal Health Program Management	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Explain animal health governance/regulations at international, regional and country level</li><li>▪ Understand animal trade and the OIE sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures</li><li>▪ Identify differences in reportable and notifiable diseases (regional, country, international) and method used in selecting these diseases</li><li>▪ Describe disease control strategies used to control reportable and transboundary diseases taking into account socio-economic, cultural and trade related issues</li><li>▪ Identify challenges and opportunities of using a one health approach in developing an animal health program with a focus on zoonoses, reportable and notifiable diseases</li></ul>
<b>V1PG 150</b> Science Communication and Outreach	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Understand differences in oral, written and electronic media</li><li>▪ Target communications to the audience</li><li>▪ Gain skills in oral presentations</li><li>▪ Develop succinct communications</li><li>▪ Understand the principles of a science communication</li></ul>

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

## DELIVERY

The Graduate Certificate in One Health requires 13 credits, obtained through coursework. The program of study is characterized by a well-designed set of core courses and a flexible choice of elective courses to meet the demands of the field and the goals of the students. The taught component will be instructed by distance learning via Canvas™, RUSVM's Virtual Learning Environment. Candidates will be taught by RUSVM faculty and specialist modules may be delivered by RUSVM's partner institutions.

## ASSESSMENT

Assessment will be conducted through traditional and novel methods suited to an online delivery mode and will include, for example, essays, critical review of peer-reviewed articles, online tests and quizzes, blog writing, research proposal writing, research/fieldwork journal development, group discussions, group project work and social media interactions.

For the Graduate Certificate in One Health, the grading system is as follows:

GRADE	GRADE RANGE
A	93% or higher
A-	90% to 92.9%
B+	87% to 89.9%
B	83% to 86.9%
B-	80% to 82.9%
C+	77% to 79.9%
C	73% to 76.9%
C-	70% to 72.9%
D+	67% to 69.9%
D	63% to 66.9%
D-	60% to 62.9%
F	Below 60%

Candidates are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Examinations
- Completion of assignments, including practicals
- Class and threaded discussion participation
- Academic honesty and professional demeanor
- Professionalism and the ability to effectively work with others in a team environment



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

## CURRICULUM

Graduate Certificate requirements:

- Complete 13 credits within 3 years, required number of credits per subject area are listed below

The Graduate Certificate curriculum consists of 13 credits of the same courses that make up the MSc by Coursework in One Health curriculum. Graduate Certificate in One Health (online) Module descriptions are below.

AREA	REQUIRED CREDITS	COURSES
Introduction	1	V1PG 140 One Health & Systems Approach (1 credit)
Policy / Planning / Implementation / Social Sciences	4	V1PG 150 Science Communication & Outreach (2 credits) V1PG 146A Safety of Food of Animal Origin (2 credits) V1PG 146B Disaster Management (2 credits) V1PG 146C Animal Health Program Management (2 credits)
Research / Survey Tools	5	V1PG 141A Biostatistics (2 credits) V1PG 141B Epidemiology (3 credits) V1PG 142 Research Project Design (2 credits) V1PG 144 Surveillance & Diagnostics (3 credits)
Special topics	3	V1PG 143 Conservation Medicine (3 credits) V1PG 145 Zoonoses (3 credits)



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

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## MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

### V1PG 140

#### ONE HEALTH & SYSTEMS APPROACH (1 CREDIT)

In this course, One Health will be defined and placed in a historical context. The meaning of using a One Health approach to research, policy development, and other aspects of animal, human and environmental health will be explored with current One Health advocates describing how they use One Health within their work. The complexity of One Health and the need for a systems approach to address animal, environmental and human health issues will be discussed using current literature and case examples. The importance of collaborations, networks and teams in implementing One Health approaches also will be stressed. Short videos and assigned reading material will be supplemented with discussions. Participation in the discussions is a key component of this course.

### V1PG 141A

#### EPIDEMIOLOGY (2 CREDITS)

This course examines the principles of epidemiology for One Health practitioners. Through lectures, hands-on practical exercises and discussions, students will develop knowledge of some of the basic epidemiological tools available. Through active participation, students can get valuable information and exchange personal/professional experiences that will facilitate their learning experience. The course focus will be on epidemiological causal concepts; principles of sampling and questionnaire design, measures of disease frequency; observational studies and bias; measures of association; systematic reviews; and participatory epidemiology. All these tools will build a foundation for future One Health professionals.

### V1PG 141B

#### BIOSTATISTICS (3 CREDITS)

This course examines the principles of biostatistics for One Health practitioners. Through lectures, hands-on practical exercises and discussions, students will develop knowledge of descriptive and inferential statistics. The course will also provide students the opportunity to gain a strong foundation in the use and interpretation of biostatistics.

### V1PG 142

#### RESEARCH PROJECT DESIGN (2 CREDITS)

This course addresses the concepts and practicalities associated with the design and conduct of high-quality research projects. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the principles of research design, be able to identify different types of observational and interventional study designs, formulate and present a research proposal and understand the application of basic project management skills to research studies. Assignments, weekly discussions, and application of learning objectives will focus on critique of peer reviewed published manuscripts. This course is expected to serve as preparation for the Capstone research project (VETPG 147).

### V1PG 143

#### CONSERVATION MEDICINE (3 CREDITS)

This course provides students with practical and theoretical knowledge of the basic principles of conservation biology and medicine such as interrelatedness of ecosystem health, animal health, and human health; emerging infectious diseases across species taxa (e.g. non-human primates, fish, reptiles, birds); human behavior and ecosystem health; and wildlife disease surveillance.

The course will also include case studies on national legislations or programs on conservation medicine, the role of agencies/entities (governmental, private sector, etc.) in conservation medicine and ecosystem health, historical and cultural perspectives towards endangered species and ecosystems communities in the country of focus. Through discussions, group work and assignments, students will have to demonstrate specialist knowledge of a specified conservation medicine/ecosystem health issue and the ability to plan, implement, and evaluate mechanisms to mediate risks and benefits as well as the ability to identify relevant necessary collaborations for conservation medicine/ecosystem health and to communicating the principles of conservation medicine and ecosystem health concepts to different population groups using appropriate media.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

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## **V1PG 144**

### **SURVEILLANCE & DIAGNOSTICS (3 CREDITS)**

This course addresses methods for disease surveillance and diagnostics tools. It will prepare One Health practitioners from diverse backgrounds to examine the validity, appropriateness and output for surveillance and diagnostic tools available to them. Students will have the opportunity to gain critical knowledge through online lectures, discussions and case studies on types of surveillance, surveillance systems at national and international level, reportable and notifiable diseases, surveillance system design and evaluation, challenges and opportunities of implementing one health surveillance programs, syndromic surveillance and the application of GIS in Spatio-temporal surveillance. The course will also have an emphasis on principles of diagnostic methods as it relates to surveillance and health monitoring. This will include: the interrelatedness of diagnostic methods; the role of diagnostic methodology in surveillance programs; interpretation and use of diagnostic method results for One Health communication; and the contribution of diagnostic methodology policy changes in One Health. Students will also develop the ability to identify relevant collaborations necessary to perform diagnostic testing and surveillance of human and animal health. As a critical skill for One Health practitioners, students will be expected to present on their work throughout the course. Presentations using different media will include examples of country-specific practices drawing on the student's local environment and hence allowing peer-to-peer international perspective and idea sharing.

## **V1PG 145**

### **ZOONOSES (3 CREDITS)**

This course will provide student with knowledge of infectious/zoonotic disease, including detection of zoonotic diseases, specific zoonotic diseases (viral, bacterial, parasitic, prion and mycological), prevention and control of zoonotic disease and the importance and cost of zoonotic disease on a global scale. Due to interface of human healthcare professionals, animal health professionals and biomedical scientists in zoonotic diseases, the course will explore the importance of complementary and synergistic approaches, drawing on perspectives from different professions to identify, control and prevent zoonoses.

## **V1PG 146A**

### **SAFETY OF FOODS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (2 CREDITS)**

This elective course will provide knowledge on the principles of food safety management, focusing on meat and other animal food products. Discussion topics and case-studies will include meat safety, milk hygiene, handling, storage and exportation of foods of animal origin, food safety management and evaluation systems, national and international legislations, standard practices, animal welfare and food safety risk analysis. As a critical skill for One Health practitioners, students will be expected to present on their work throughout the course. Presentations using different media will include examples of country-specific practices drawing on the student's local environment and hence allowing peer-to-peer international perspective and idea sharing.

## **V1PG 146B**

### **DISASTER MANAGEMENT (2 CREDITS)**

This elective course provides knowledge of hazard and risk assessment; types of disasters, disaster planning and management, agencies involved in disaster management and their respective roles. The course also involves knowledge and practical application of the Incident Command System. Through discussions, case studies and a tabletop exercise, students will have the opportunity to examine lessons learned from previous disasters as well as disaster preparation.

## **V1PG 146C**

### **ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (2 CREDITS)**

This elective course will allow students to develop specialist knowledge in animal health governance at international, regional and country level; the animal trade and sanitary/phyto-sanitary measures; reportable and notifiable diseases; control strategies used for trans-boundary diseases and zoonoses, emerging and re-emerging diseases. Prerequisite: students are expected to have basic knowledge of animal health, gained through practical or educational experience.



# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS (continued)

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## **V1PG 150**

### SCIENCE COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH (2 CREDITS)

This course aims to demystify the fundamentals of effective science communication, and to develop and sharpen your academic and professional skills to convey scientific concepts and results to a variety of audiences including scientists in your discipline as well as the general public. Background theory about the scientific process and dialog will be provided and put into the societal context. Students will generate a portfolio of communication products throughout the semester as we discuss techniques for giving excellent talks, effective figures and visuals, writing blogs, generating infographics, and using social media for science communication. Looking beyond the beaten track, new ways of communicating science are explored to foster public engagement and science outreach in an ever changing globalized and digital world.



# RUSVM ADMINISTRATION

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# RUSVM ADMINISTRATION (continued)

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Director of One Health Center for Zoonoses and Tropical Veterinary Medicine

### **MARK FREEMAN, BSc, PhD**

Director of Center for Conservation Medicine and Ecosystem Health

### **KERRY ROLPH, BVM&S CERTVC PhD FANZCVS DECVIM-CA MRCVS**

Director of Center for Integrative Mammalian Research

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### **ROBIN ALEXANDER, BA**

Grants Management Specialist

### **BRITTANY ROMAN, BA**

IACUC & Research Program Administrator

### **JUANNA BERRY, BSc**

Research & Graduate Program Administrative Assistant





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Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Professor of Theriogenology

### **CHERISSA AUDAIN, BS**

Scheduler

### **GRACE CARR, BSc, MLIS**

Director of Library Services

### **KIMESHA DE COSTA, BSc**

Scheduler

### **ERMINE COTTON**

Supervisor, Library Services

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Administrative Assistant II

### **DENISE FYFIELD**

Campus Registrar

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University Registrar

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Technician, Library

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Assistant Dean of Academic Operations / Director of Curriculum Review

### **DARION KING**

Coordinator, Exam Center

### **ANTOINE LAWS**

Specialist, Academic Technology



## RUSVM ADMINISTRATION (continued)

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Supervisor, Academic Technology

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Coordinator, Exam Center

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Library Assistant II

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Administrative Coordinator

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Senior Manager of Student Experience Operations

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Specialist, Student Affairs and Bursar



# RUSVM FACULTY

---

## **NICOLE ABRAMO, DVM, CVA**

Clinical Instructor of Shelter Medicine and Surgical Skills

Veterinary School: Ross University

Additional Degrees: BS in Biology, State University of New York College at Fredonia, CVA Chi Institute

Special Certification: Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA)

## **SABRINA ARDELEAN, DVM, MRCVS**

Instructor

Veterinary School: University of Agricultural Studies and

Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

## **AMY BEIERSCHMITT, BSc, DVM—ADJUNCT PROFESSOR**

Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

Additional Degree: University of California, Davis (BSc)

## **DON BERGFELT, BS, MS, PhD**

Head, Department of Biomedical Sciences Professor of Biomedical Sciences

Degrees: University of Wisconsin-Madison (BS, MS, PhD)

## **LARRY BETANCE, BSc, DVM**

Assistant Dean of Clinical Affiliates, Associate Professor of Small Animal Medicine

Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

Additional Degree: University of California, Davis (BSc)

## **PEDRO BITTENCOURT, MSc, DVM, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Immunology

Veterinary School: Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil

Additional Degrees: Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil (MSc, PhD)

Specialty Certifications: Veterinary Clinical Pathology Univerisdade Castelo Branco, Brazil

Higher Education: Universidade Candido Mendez

## **DIANA BOCHYNSKA, DVM**

Assistant Professor of Anatomical Pathology

Veterinary School: University of Life Sciences, Lublin, Poland

Specialty Certificate: Diplomate, European College of Veterinary Pathology

## **POMPEI BOLFA, MSc, DVM, PhD, DACVP**

Head of Pathology Division

Professor of Anatomic Pathology

Veterinary School: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Additional Degrees: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania (MSc, PhD)

Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACVP



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **MELISSA BUCKNOFF, DVM, DACVECC**

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences and Clinical Pharmacology  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: Virginia Tech (BS)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate, College of Emergency & Critical Care (DACVECC)

### **JULIETTE BOUILLON, DMV, MVetSc, DACVIM**

Assistant Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine  
Veterinary School: University of Liege (Belgium)  
Additional Degrees: MVetSc, University of Saskatoon (WCVM), Canada  
Specialty Certifications: Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Small Animal Internal Medicine)

### **SEAN CALLANAN, MVB, CertVR, PhD, FRCPath, DipIECVP, FRCVS**

Dean and Professor of Anatomic Pathology  
Veterinary School: University College Dublin  
Additional Degrees: University of Glasgow (PhD)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate ECVF

### **NINIAN CAMERON-BLAKE, DVM**

Clinical Instructor and RUVC Clinician  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

### **RYAN CAVANAUGH, DVM, DACVS**

Associate Professor of Small Animal Surgery  
Veterinary School: Colorado State University  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate ACVS-SA, ACVS Founding Fellow, Surgical Oncology

### **SARAH CAVANAUGH, DVM, DACVIM**

Assistant Dean of Admissions and Associate Professor of Small Animal Medicine  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: University of Florida (BS), Colorado State University (MS & Residency in Cardiology) Specialty Certification: Diplomate ACVIM

### **RONAN CHAPUIS, DEDV, MSc, DACVIM-LA**

Assistant Professor of Pharmacology  
Veterinary School: Ecole Nationale Veterinaire Agroalimentaire et de l'Alimentation (ONIRIS), France  
Additional Degree: MSc, Western College of Veterinary Medicine (University of Saskatchewan), Canada  
Specialty Certifications: Diplomate of the American College of Internal Medicine, Large Animal



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **ASPINAS CHAPWANYA, BSc, BVSc, MVM, PhD**

Associate Professor of Theriogenology  
Veterinary School: Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Zimbabwe  
Additional Degrees: University of Zimbabwe (BSc), Trinity College Dublin (PhD)

### **LUIS PABLO HERVÉ CLAUDE, DVM, MPVM, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology  
Veterinary Degree: Universidad de Chile  
Additional Degrees: TiHo-Hannover, Germany (PhD), University California Davis (MPVM)

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Clinical Instructor and RUVIC Clinician  
Veterinary School: Royal Veterinary College, University of London

### **CRISTIAN DEZDROBITU, DVM, MSc, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Anatomy  
Veterinary School: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine,  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Cluj Napoca, Romania  
Additional Degrees: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca (MSc, PhD)

### **BRIGHTON DZIKITI, BVSc, MSc, PhD**

Professor of Veterinary Anesthesiology  
Veterinary School: University of Zimbabwe  
Additional Degrees: Veterinary Anesthesia, Utrecht University, The Netherlands (MSc), University of Pretoria, South Africa (PhD)

### **ANDRE ESCOBAR, DVM, MS, PhD, DCBAV**

Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology  
Veterinary School: Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil  
Additional Degrees: MS, Sao Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil, PhD Sao Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil  
Specialty Certifications: Diplomate of the Brazilian College of Veterinary Surgery and Anesthesia (CBCAV) - Anesthesia specialty

### **JAMES FAIRS, BVSc, MRCVS**

Director, Ross University Veterinary Clinic Clinical Assistant Professor  
Veterinary School: University of Liverpool

### **TANYA FRASER, DVM**

Clinical Instructor of Shelter Medicine and Surgical Skills  
Veterinary School: Ross University

### **MARK FREEMAN, BSc, PhD**

Professor of Aquaculture  
Veterinary School: Bangor University, Wales (BSc)  
Additional Degrees: University of Stirling, Scotland (PhD)



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **HILARI FRENCH, DVM, PhD, DACT, DABVP (FOOD ANIMAL)**

Head, Department of Clinical Sciences and Professor in Theriogenology  
Veterinary School: Louisiana State University  
Additional Degrees: Louisiana State University (PhD)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACT; Diplomate, ABVP

### **CHRISTA GALLAGHER, BSc, DVM, MPH, DACVPM**

Head of Microbiology Division and Associate Professor of Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: State University of New York Albany (BSc), University of Iowa (MPH)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACVPM

### **SOUVIK GHOSH, BVSc, MVSc, PhD**

Director, One Health Center for Zoonosis & Tropical Veterinary Medicine, Professor of Virology  
Veterinary School: West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, India  
Additional Degrees: West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, India (BVSc & AH, MVSc), National Institute of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, India (PhD)

### **ROBERT GILBERT, BVSc, MMedVet, DACT, FRCVS**

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Professor of Theriogenology  
Veterinary School: BVSc (DVM equivalent) University of Pretoria,  
Additional Degrees: MMedVet, University of Pretoria, Specialty Certification: Diplomate, American College of Theriogenologists, Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (FRCVS)

### **SARAH HOOPER, DVM, MS, PhD**

Director, Center for Research and Innovation in Veterinary and Medical Education  
Assistant Professor, Physiology  
Veterinary School: University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: University of Missouri (PhD), University of Georgia, (BSa, MS)

### **PRITI KARNIK, DVM, MS, DACVS-SA**

Assistant Dean of Academic Operations/Director of Curriculum Review  
Assistant Professor of Small Animal Surgery  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (MS)  
Specialty Certificate: Diplomate, DACVS-SA

### **MELISSA KEHL, BA, MEd, DVM**

Clinical Instructor of Anatomy  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: University of California (BA), Boston University (MEd)



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### JENNIFER KETZIS, MSc, PhD

Professor of Parasitology

Degrees: Cornell University (BSc, MSc, PhD)

Specialty Certificate: Associate Member, EVPC; Master's Certificate Project Management (George Washington University)

### DARRYN KNOBEL, BVSC, MSc, PhD

Veterinary School: University of Pretoria

Additional Degrees: University of Pretoria (MSc), University of Edinburgh (PhD)

### SANET KOTZE, BVSC, PhD

Head of Anatomy Division and Associate Professor of Anatomy

Veterinary School: University of Pretoria

Additional Degrees: University of Pretoria (PhD)

### HÉLÈNE LARDÉ, DVM, MSc, PhD, DACVS-LA

Head of Large Animal Division and Associate Professor of Large Animal Surgery

Veterinary School: National Veterinary School of Alfort (France)

Additional Degrees: University of Montreal, MSc and PhD

Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACVS

### ERIKA LITTLE, DVM, MS, MBA, DACVS-LA

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs & Professional Opportunities, Associate Professor of Clinical Sciences

Veterinary School: Kansas State University

Additional Degrees: Colorado State University (BS), Auburn University (MSc)

Keller Graduate School of Business (MBA)

Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACVS

### WILLIAM (BRADY) LITTLE, BSc, MSc, DVM

Assistant Professor of Anatomy

Veterinary School: Kansas State University

Additional Degrees: University of Nebraska Lincoln (BSc), Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (MSc)

### JILL MANEY, VMD, DACVAA, CVA

Associate Professor of Anesthesiology Veterinary School: University of Pennsylvania

Additional Degree: Pennsylvania State University (BS)

Specialty Certifications: Diplomate, ACVAA, Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist (CVA)

### CRISTIAN MARTONOS, DVM, MSc, PhD

Assistant Professor of Anatomy

Veterinary School: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Additional degrees: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania (PhD, MSc)



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **MOLLIE MCBRIDE, MVB, MRCVS**

Clinical Instructor and RUVIC Clinician  
Veterinary School: University College Dublin

### **SAMSON MUKARATIRWA, DVM, MVSc, PhD**

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies  
Research Professor, One Health Center for Zoonoses and Tropical Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary School: University of Zimbabwe  
Additional Degrees: University of Liverpool (MVSc); University of Copenhagen (PhD)  
Specialty Certification: Biostatistics and Data Handling; Population Genetics; Identification of Veterinary and Medical Helminths of Economic Importance

### **ANANDA MULLER, DVM, MSc, PhD**

Associate Professor of Veterinary Bacteriology  
Veterinary School: Universidade Federal Fluminense, Brazil  
Additional Degrees: Universidade Federal Fluminense (MSc, PhD)

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Clinical Instructor of Equine Medicine  
Veterinary School: University of El Salvador

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Associate Professor of Toxicology  
Veterinary School: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
Additional degrees: University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania (MSc, PhD)  
Specialty certificate: Diplomate American Board of Veterinary Toxicology

### **MARÍA JOSÉ NAVARRETE TALLONI, DVM, MPVM, PhD**

Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)  
Assistant Professor of Anatomic Pathology Veterinary School: Universidad de Chile  
Additional Degrees: University of California Davis (MPVM), University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (PhD in the discipline of Pathology)

### **GEORGIOS PARASCHUA, DVM, DACVP, DIPRCPATH, MRCVS**

Assistant Professor of Anatomic Veterinary Pathology  
Veterinary School: Veterinary School of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece  
Specialty certificates: Diplomate American College of Veterinary Pathology, Diplomate RCPATH

### **ANDREA PEDA, DVM, MSc**

Assistant Professor of Shelter Medicine  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degree: West Chester University (BSc), University of Florida (MSc)

### **ERIK PETERSON, DVM, MSc**

Assistant Dean of Alumni Affairs and Associate Professor of Large Animal Medicine  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degree: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (MSc)





## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **GILDA RAWLINS, DVM**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Imaging  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

### **CLAIRE ROBINSON, BVSc, MSc, CertAVP(ESO)(ESST), DipECVS MRCVS**

Assistant Professor in Large Animal (Equine) Surgery  
Veterinary School: University of Liverpool  
Additional Degrees: University of Liverpool (MSc)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ECVS

### **KERRY ROLPH BVM&S CERTVC PhD FANZCVS DECVIM-CA MRCVS**

Director of Center for Integrative Mammalian Research and Head of Small Animal Division  
Professor of Small Animal Surg Veterinary School: University of Edinburgh  
Additional Degree: PhD, University of Edinburgh  
Specialty Certification: RCVS Certificate in Veterinary Cardiology, RCVS Specialist in Feline Medicine,  
Fellow ANZCVS (Feline Medicine), Diplomate ECVIM (Small Animal Internal Medicine)

### **LORENZO SEGABINAZZI, DVM, MS, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Theriogenology  
Veterinary School: Federal University of Pelotas  
Additional Degrees: Sao Paulo State University, MS, PhD

### **ADAM SILKWORTH, DVM**

Clinical Assistant Professor and RUVC Clinician  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

### **FORTUNE SITHOLE, BVSc, MSc, PhD, DACVPM**

Professor and Director of Veterinary Skills  
Veterinary School: University of Zimbabwe  
Additional Degrees: Utrecht University (MSc), University of Prince Edward Island (PhD), Specialty Certification: Diplomate ACVPM

### **KIMBERLY STEWART, BS, DVM, MS, PhD**

Associate Professor of Special Species  
Veterinary School: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine  
Additional Degrees: Georgia Southern University (BS, MS), Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (PhD)

### **MARY ANNA THRALL, MS, DVM, DACVP**

Professor of Clinical Pathology  
Veterinary School: Purdue University Additional Degree: Colorado State University (MS)  
Specialty Certification: Diplomate, ACVP



## RUSVM FACULTY (continued)

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### **FELIX TOKA, DVM, PhD, DSc, DACVM**

Professor of Veterinary Immunology and Virology

Veterinary School: Warsaw Agricultural University

Additional Degrees: Warsaw Agriculture University (PhD), Warsaw University of Life Sciences (DSc)

Specialty Certification: Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Microbiology, subspecialty Immunology

### **MATTHEW VALENTINE, BV, MS, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology

Veterinary School: University of Glasgow Scotland, UK

Additional Degrees: Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (PhD)

### **ALINE VIEIRA, DVM, MSc, PhD**

Associate Professor, Physiology

Veterinary School: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Additional Degrees: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro - Brazil (Msc), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation – Brazil (PhD)

### **CYNTHIA XUE, BSc, DVM**

Assistant Professor of Equine Internal Medicine

Veterinary School: Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Additional Degree: Rutgers University, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (BSc)

### **CHAOQUN YAO, MD, PhD**

Professor of Parasitology

Medical School: Tongji Medical University

Additional Degrees: University of Georgia (PhD)



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