



# DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE DEGREE PROGRAM

## ABOUT THIS PROGRAM

At RUSVM, students will find themselves challenged by a broad-based curriculum that provides the foundation for an excellent education and entry into a variety of career pathways in veterinary medicine. The seven-semester pre-clinical curriculum is enhanced by hands-on clinical experience to help prepare students for the final year of clinical training at one of RUSVM's affiliated veterinary schools. Our faculty have outstanding credentials in teaching and research and share a passion for educating the veterinarians of tomorrow.

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine is proud to be affiliated with more than 20 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited schools of veterinary medicine in the US, Canada, Australia, Ireland and England. This extensive network of affiliations makes it possible for our students to receive superior education while completing their clinical training. Our roster of affiliated institutions includes many of the top veterinary schools in the world.

### THE PATH TO VETERINARY LICENSURE

**SEMESTERS 1-7**  
Pre-Clinical Studies  
St. Kitts Campus  
28 Months

**SEMESTERS 8-10**  
Clinical Training  
At a RUSVM-affiliated  
veterinary hospital  
45 Weeks

Earn your Doctor of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Degree

**LICENSURE**  
North American  
Veterinary Licensing  
Examination® (NAVLE)

## PRE-CLINICAL CURRICULUM

### SEMESTERS 1 & 2

The first two semesters of instruction focus on the basic biomedical sciences to provide students with an understanding of the structure and function of the healthy animal.

### SEMESTERS 3 & 4

Focus on pathobiology in preparation for later clinical courses in medicine, surgery, anesthesia, theriogenology and diagnostic imaging.

### SEMESTERS 5, 6 & 7

Diseases are studied in detail and disease management is introduced with surgery and medicine of small and large animal species. During these semesters—the final ones on the RUSVM campus in St. Kitts—students gain hands-on experience in diagnosis and treatment of medical and surgical diseases in large and small animals.

## CLINICAL CURRICULUM

### SEMESTERS 8-10

Upon completion of the pre-clinical curriculum, students return to the US and begin three semesters in core, elective and externship rotations at a RUSVM clinical affiliate.

### CORE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

Small animal medicine, small animal surgery, anesthesiology, emergency medicine, diagnostic imaging, Diagnostic services (clinical pathology and morphologic pathology), large animal medicine.

### ELECTIVE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

May include, but are not limited to, theriogenology, neurology, dermatology, cardiology, emergency medicine, critical care, behavior, exotics, wildlife or zoological medicine, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, laboratory animal medicine or others as offered by the affiliate programs.

## PRE-CLINICAL CURRICULUM

<b>SEMESTER 1</b>	Veterinary Professional Foundations I Essential Veterinary Skills A Microscopic Anatomy and Embryology with Laboratory Gross Anatomy I with Laboratory Principles of Infectious Disease Physiology I Principles of Veterinary Research
<b>SEMESTER 2</b>	Essential Veterinary Skills B Gross Anatomy II with Laboratory Physiology II Immunology Parasitology with Laboratory Case-Based Studies I
<b>SEMESTER 3</b>	Essential Veterinary Skills C Pharmacology I Pathology I with Laboratory Bacteriology and Mycology with Laboratory Virology Case-Based Studies II
<b>SEMESTER 4</b>	Essential Veterinary Skills D Case-Based Studies III: Mechanisms of Disease Pathology II with Laboratory Clinical Pathology with Laboratory Applied Animal Nutrition Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology
<b>SEMESTER 5</b>	Essential Veterinary Skills E Toxicology Diagnostic Imaging with Laboratory Anesthesiology with Laboratory Small Animal Medicine I Case-Based Studies IV
<b>SEMESTER 6</b>	Essential Veterinary Skills F Special Species Medicine Small Animal Surgery Surgery Laboratory I Small Animal Medicine II Large Animal Medicine I
<b>SEMESTER 7</b>	Theriogenology with Laboratory Introduction to Clinics Large Animal Medicine II Large Animal Surgery Surgery Laboratory II Veterinary Professional Foundations II





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## KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Our curriculum is aligned to meet the 9 competencies set forth by the AVMA<sup>1</sup>:

- Comprehensive patient diagnosis
- Comprehensive treatment plan
- Basic surgical skills
- Basic medical skills and case management
- Basic anesthesia, pain management and welfare skills
- Basic emergency and intensive care management skills
- Health promotion, disease prevention, biosecurity, zoonosis, and food safety
- Communications and ethical conduct skills and knowledge
- Critical analysis of new information and research findings relevant to veterinary medicine

## CAREERS AS A DVM

Students earn their DVM degree upon successful completion of the pre-clinical and clinical curriculum and by passing the NAVLE, which is a requirement for licensure for all veterinary students in the US. Once students complete veterinary medical school and earn their DVM, their first goal will be to begin their career practicing veterinary medicine, or continue their training in a specific internship. An internship is the first step in specialty training leading to board certification. Following an internship, a residency application may be submitted for further study in a particular discipline such as internal medicine, ophthalmology or surgery. Completion of a residency program is a prequalification for specialty board certification.

There are many exciting career paths in the field of veterinary medicine to explore, which positively impact global health overall. A career in veterinary medicine provides the opportunity to contribute to both animal and human health, food quality and safety, food security, behavior, biomedical research, wildlife and environmental health. Studying animal life and disease ultimately helps to improve our understanding of human life and disease.

For additional information please visit: <http://www.rossu.edu/veterinary-school/gainful-employment.htm>

## RUSVM APPROVALS AND ACCREDITATION

- 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 on its students who successfully complete the course of study.
- Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine received full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA COE).
- For additional information, please visit <http://www.rossu.edu/veterinary-school/Ross-University-School-of-Veterinary-Medicine-Accreditation.cfm>

## GRADUATE 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 [www.nbvme.org](http://www.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 [www.aavsb.org](http://www.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 [www.canadianveterinarians.net/programs/national-examining-board.aspx#.URLOSug9WcA](http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/programs/national-examining-board.aspx#.URLOSug9WcA)

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



ROSS UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

<sup>1</sup><https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Colleges/Pages/coe-pp-requirements-of-accredited-college.aspx>

Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (RUSVM) is accredited by the St. Christopher (Kitts) & Nevis Accreditation Board, Ministry of Education to confer the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (PhD) degree as well as their Master of Science (Msc) degrees in all research areas that RUSVM supports. Accreditation was granted last in 2012 for a period of five years.