

THE VM4 YEAR AT UW-MADISON SVM

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Satisfactory completion of 47 credits minimum is required.
- Each week of a rotation or other educational experience awards one academic credit in accordance with UW credit hour policies (45 hours per credit).
- Rotations begin and end on Mondays.

CAREER PLANNING

Students should identify career goals and work with mentors, faculty and clinician advisors to develop a plan for the 4th year. Students often feel that they cannot fit in everything that they want to take. The 4th year exposes students to many different aspects or areas of the veterinary profession, but it cannot make students an expert veterinarian. Veterinary medicine is, like any profession, a life-long learning process.

CORE ROTATION AREA OF EMPHASIS

Students should select an emphasis area that fits their career goals. Each of the emphasis areas list required rotations. In addition, each option lists the number of weeks/credits students have available for electives.

- Food Animal Emphasis
- Equine Animal Emphasis
- Mixed Animal Emphasis
- Small Animal Emphasis
- Other Emphasis

Intended for students interested in non-traditional career paths such as special species, aquatic medicine, government/regulatory veterinary medicine, public health, research, lab animal medicine, or other career options. This emphasis requires additional approves from Associate Dean Peggy Schmidt and a clinical year advisor.

CLINICAL AND DIDACTIC ROTATIONS – REQUIRED AND ELECTIVE

Listed below are the clinical and didactic rotations available as core rotations and/or elective rotations. Required rotations for successful completion of the clinical year will depend on the 4th year emphasis area selected. Satisfactory completion of 47 credits minimum is required. Each week of a rotation (or other educational experience) awards one academic credit in accordance with UW credit hour policies. Students can repeat many of the rotations based on interest level, subject to availability.

Each clinical rotation will meet from Monday to Monday of the two weeks assigned, with daily hours of approximately 7:00 AM to sometime in the evening, including weekend duty in most cases. When scheduling travel to externships students must consider they may be responsible for cases through the second weekend of a rotation and until the next Monday morning. Students generally work with their classmates to help cover these responsibilities as needed.

UW-Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine 4th Year Rotation Requirements

| Core Courses (All students) | Credits |
|--|-----------|
| Ambulatory (Shelter, Food Animal or Equine dependent on emphasis selection*) | 2 |
| Anesthesiology | 2 |
| Large Animal Medicine | 2 |
| Large Animal Surgery | 2 |
| Necropsy | 2 |
| Primary Care | 2 |
| Radiology | 2 |
| Small Animal Internal Medicine | 2 |
| Small Animal Surgery | 2 |
| | 18 |

Emphasis Requirements (in addition to core courses above)

| Food Animal | | Equine | | Mixed Animal | | Small Animal | | Other | |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Dairy Skills 1 | 2 | Equine Elective | 2 | Ophthalmology | 2 | Ophthalmology | 2 | No additional required rotations for 'other' to maximize flexibility | |
| Dairy Skills 2 | 2 | Equine Dentistry | 1 | SA Emergency Medicine | 2 | SA Emergency Medicine | 2 | | |
| Dairy Skills 3 | 2 | LA Medicine | 4 | SA Ortho Surgery | 2 | SA Medicine | 2 | | |
| Food Animal Surgery | 2 | LA Surgery | 2 | Choose 2 of: | | SA Ortho Surgery | 2 | | |
| LA Medicine | 2 | Ophthalmology | 2 | LA Medicine | 2 | Choose 4 of: | | | |
| | 10 | | 11 | LA Surgery | 2 | Cardiology | 2 | | |
| | | | | SA Medicine | 2 | Dentistry | 2 | | |
| | | | | SA Surgery | 2 | Dermatology | 2 | | |
| | | | | Choose 2 of: | | Neurology | 2 | | |
| | | | | Cardiology | 2 | Oncology | 2 | | |
| | | | | Dentistry | 2 | SA General Surgery | 2 | | |
| | | | | Dermatology | 2 | Special Species | 2 | | |
| | | | | Neurology | 2 | WisCARES | 2 | | |
| | | | | Oncology | 2 | | 16 | | |
| | | | | Special Species | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | WisCARES | 2 | | | | |
| | | | | | 14 | | | | |
| *Food Animal Ambulatory | | *Equine Ambulatory | | *Select from any Ambulatory | | *Shelter Ambulatory | | *Select from any Ambulatory | |
| UWVC Electives & Externships (10 weeks maximum of externships) | 19 | UWVC Electives & Externships (10 weeks maximum of externships) | 18 | UWVC Electives & Externships (10 weeks maximum of externships) | 15 | UWVC Electives & Externships (10 weeks maximum of externships) | 13 | UWVC Electives & Externships | 29 |
| Total Credits (minimum) | | | | | 47 | | | | |
| Vacation Weeks (maximum) | | | | | 5 | | | | |
| Clinical Year Total Weeks | | | | | 52 | | | | |

Approved by SVM Curriculum Committee 9/21/21, effective Class of 2023

| Rotation Name | Coordinator | Frequency | Type |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Ambulatory - Equine | Nigel Cook | Specific block(s) | Core |
| Ambulatory - Food Animal | Nigel Cook | Specific block(s) | Core |
| Ambulatory - Shelter | Emily Pellatt | Specific block(s) | Core |
| Anesthesiology | Lesley Smith | All blocks | Core |
| LA Surgery | | All blocks | Core |
| Large Animal Internal Medicine | Simon Peek | All blocks | Core |
| Necropsy | Marie Pinkerton | All blocks | Core |
| Primary Care | Liddy Alvarez | All blocks | Core |
| Radiology | Lisa Forrest | All blocks | Core |
| Small Animal General Surgery | Sara Colopy | All blocks | Core |
| Small Animal Internal Medicine | Jessica Pritchard | All blocks | Core |
| Advanced Communication Skills Didactic | Shelly Wissink | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Applied Epidemiology | Doerte Doepfer | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Artificial Intelligence Applications for Veterinary Practice | Doerte Doepfer | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Clinical Pathology | Allison Dusick | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Clinical Therapeutics in Companion Animals | Katrina Viviano | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Emergency & Critical Care Didactic | Jon Bach | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Restraint and Anesthesia of Exotic Animals | Carrie Schroeder | Specific block(s) | Didactic |
| Advanced Anesthesiology | Lesley Smith | All blocks | Elective |
| Cardiology | Heidi Kellihan | All blocks | Elective |
| Clinical Parasitology (online) | Calico Schmidt | All blocks | Elective |
| Dentistry and Oral Surgery | Jason Soukup | All blocks | Elective |
| Dermatology | Douglas DeBoer | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Diagnostic Ultrasonography for Respiratory Disease | Terri Ollivett | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Large Animal Applied Imaging | | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Medical Oncology | MacKenzie Pellin | All blocks | Elective |
| Neurology/Neurosurgery | Helena Rylander | All blocks | Elective |
| Pharmacy Directed Study | Shelby Williams | All blocks | Elective |
| Physical Rehabilitation <i>schedule w/Courtney Arnoldy</i> | Courtney Arnoldy | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Radiation Oncology | Michelle Turek | All blocks | Elective |
| SA Ultrasound Elective | Samantha Loeber | All blocks | Elective |
| Small Animal Critical Care Medicine | Jon Bach | All blocks | Elective |
| Special Species | Christoph Mans | All blocks | Elective |
| Wildlife Medicine | Christoph Mans | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Wiscars | Kelly Schultz | All blocks | Elective |
| Zoo Medicine | Mary Thurber | Specific block(s) | Elective |
| Equine Dentistry Course | | Specific block(s) | Equine Core |
| Equine elective course | | Specific block(s) | Equine Core |
| Dairy Skills 1 | Terri Ollivett/JP Martins | Specific block(s) | FA Core |
| Dairy Skills 2 | Terri Ollivett/JP Martins | Specific block(s) | FA Core |
| Dairy Skills 3 | Terri Ollivett/JP Martins | Specific block(s) | FA Core |
| Food Surgery Animal Elective | | Specific block(s) | FA Core |
| SA Ortho Surgery | Susan Schaefer | Specific block(s) | SA & MA Core |
| Small Animal ER | Jon Bach | All blocks | SA & MA Core |
| Ophthalmology | Seth Eaton | All blocks | SA, MA & Equine Core |

SELECTING ELECTIVES

Note the number of weeks allotted for elective time in chosen area of emphasis. Students are responsible for identifying the kinds of experiences they will use to complete the electives in the 4th year program. Electives support career goals and may include:

UWVC rotations

Students may select any rotations offered in UWVC, including repeating required rotations or rotations/courses that offered as electives.

Externships

- Experiences outside the SVM
- Typically supervised by non-SVM veterinarians or other qualified professionals
- Usually involves clinical experiences (or possibly research for some 'other' emphasis students)
- UW Affiliate Agreement required for academic credit & liability coverage
- Both evaluations of student performance by the externship provider and an evaluation from the student about the experience are required for credit/grade.
- 10 weeks of externship are available to all students. Approval for additional weeks of externship from Associate Dean Maki or Associate Dean Schmidt.
- Externship details are recorded the 4th year scheduling system after the scheduling lottery process is complete.
- Cancellation of confirmed externships is strongly discouraged. Cancellations may create a poor impression of UW students and limit opportunities for future SVM students to participate at the same site.

An externship is an elective rotation in the 4th year of the veterinary medical education program that occurs outside the SVM and allows students to pursue activities not offered in depth in the SVM/UWVC. Externships focus on an activity that will provide extended experience(s) in the veterinary medical profession. Each externship experience is typically 1-6 weeks in length.

The externship provider should provide a quality professional experience for the student. The provider and student agree upon activities in which the student will engage. The provider should provide guidance to the student on how the student should interact within the organization and how the organization will mentor and evaluate the student. The provider must complete an externship evaluation form provided by the SVM.

Each week of externship is one credit, provided all the requirements of the externship are met. The provider defines the hours and days of the week that the student will be engaged in the

experience and the expectations, typically the award of credit should reflect a minimum of 45 contact or effort hours per week.

SVM provided software manage all required externship paperwork. It is the student's responsibility to ensure these processes are complete both before (affiliate agreements) and after (evaluations) the externship.

The State of Wisconsin covers students against professional liability while participating in 4th year course work, including UWVC rotations, externships and directed studies provided they are officially enrolled for academic credit at the time. The following is the statement the SVM and UW campus have issued regarding liability coverage for students:

"Students in required clinical or training experiences will be protected as agents of the State of Wisconsin under section 895.46(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes while they are acting within the scope of their required program. They are protected for claims from others alleging negligent acts or omissions causing injuries to others or damage to property. Protection is continuous under the statute."

Students must not be listed as an employee and covered by Workers Compensation while away from the UWVC on externship or directed study; this will invalidate UW coverage and leave students vulnerable for liability.

The externship facility may choose to reimburse students for expenses related to their participation in the experience (e.g. travel, lodging etc.).

When away on field experiences, students should be respectful of differences of opinion with colleagues and supervisors, remembering that there is almost never a single "right way" to approach cases/procedures. Associate Dean Maki or Associate Dean Schmidt will very rarely approve withdrawal from externships or directed studies, or shortening them from their originally planned length. However, overt problems (no one at the site, sexual harassment, personally dangerous conditions, etc.) should be reported to Associate Dean Maki or Associate Dean Schmidt /OAA as soon as possible: 608-263-2525.

Directed Studies

- SVM faculty or clinician supervised experience either in or outside of the SVM/UWVC
- Allows students to pursue a project-based opportunity in the student's interest area
- May include educational programs intended for post-graduate continuing education when considered appropriate by the Curriculum Committee
- The directed study details are entered in 4th year scheduling system after scheduling lottery is complete and must include SVM faculty or clinician sponsor, description of project, objectives and assessment plan.

A directed study is an elective rotation in 4th year overseen by SVM faculty or clinician. It meets the interest of students outside the regular clinical and didactic rotations and is typically

project-based. The student and SVM faculty or clinician must discuss the project, objectives and assessment plan in advance. When the experience is completed, the SVM faculty or clinician submits the grade for the directed study.

Didactic rotations at the SVM

- Offered usually only once or twice per year
- Certain lecture/lab courses within the SVM
- All didactic rotations have limited enrollment and participation may depend upon being selected for the rotations through the scheduling lottery

VACATION AND OTHER RELEASE TIME

- 5 weeks of vacation (in 1-week blocks minimum, from Monday - Sunday) scheduled directly 4th year scheduling system. **Of the 5 weeks, two must be taken consecutively and align with UW SVM block dates.**
- 5 professional days
 - 2 maximum per rotation
 - not first/last day of rotation
 - Requested of rotation coordinator and then reported in OAA Google document
- 1 NAVLE release day
 - Reported to rotation coordinator and then OAA Google document
- Sick days
 - No specific amount
 - Preschedule routine medical appointments
 - Reported to rotation coordinator before start of shift and then OAA Google document
- Release time for religious reasons

Note: UWVC rotation responsibility typically runs through the Monday morning of the next rotation cycle. While it may be possible for students to switch call/case responsibilities with another student to allow leave during the weekend to travel to a next block externship, this must be approved by the faculty or clinician in charge of the rotation, and may not be possible on very busy clinical rotations.

Reporting Professional/NAVLE/Sick Days

- Make request via Vocera or email to clinicians or service coordinators for the rotation on when the absence occurs.
- Professional, sick, NAVLE leave must be reported on OAA Absences Reporting link after clinician approval.

4th YEAR SCHEDULING LOTTERY

- Managed through the lottery process which will begin immediately following winter break.

- Students enter 4th year rotation requests into software used for 4th year scheduling.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS IN 4th YEAR

- UWVC Rotations are graded A/S/D/F
- All rotations must be completed with a passing grade of A or S
- Externships are graded S/F
- Directed studies are graded A/S/D/F
- Didactic rotations are graded either A to F or A/S/F
- A student will be allowed to repeat or remediate the first 4th year educational opportunity in which they have earned a D. Both the original grade and the repeat grade will appear on the official transcript, but only the repeat grade will be used to calculate the cumulative GPA.
- A grade of D in a second rotation, or a grade of F in any rotation, makes a student academically ineligible to continue in the DVM curriculum; an appeal process through the Educational Policy Committee is available as outlined in the DVM Program Academic Standards document (see below).
- See the document Academic Standards and Associated Procedures for the DVM degree program: <https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/education/dvm/policies-guidelines-standards/> for more information on 4th year academic policies.

FINANCIAL AID FOR THE 4TH YEAR

While students begin 4th year in May, they pay tuition for the 4th year in September and January, just as in VM1-3 years. Tuition for the 4th year will be the same the VM1-3 classes are paying (no extra tuition for year 4 despite 12-month length of study). Students pay six credits of segregated fees for summer. Similarly, financial aid checks will be distributed in September and January as in the past.

Students should submit federal loan application materials in the spring of 3rd year, same as previous years.

If students need money to cover expenses over the May – September period, they should submit a short-term loan form Office of Student Financial Aid <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/>. The short-term loan is repaid from a combination of fall and spring semester financial aid.

The earliest the summer short-term loan checks will be available to students is mid-May.

Contact Pahoua Xiong, Financial Aid Advisor, pahoua.xiong@wisc.edu with additional questions on financial aid.

INTERNSHIPS AND RELATED POST-GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Options:

- VIRMP Matching Program
 - <http://www.virmp.org>
- Non-VIRMP Internships
- Residencies
- Graduate degree programs, research fellowships

General tips:

- Schedule some core rotations in area of internship interest before November.
 - Helps define level of potential interest and areas of interest
 - Work with clinicians who can write letters of recommendation
- Schedule externships and interviews to places interested in applying to early in the year
 - Sometimes students can coordinate an externship with an internship interview; this will save money and may improve chances.
 - Leave some vacation time for site visits/interviews if finances permit. Best time to visit = November/early December.
 - Leave a week on a less time-intensive rotation or vacation to prepare applications (late October/early November).
 - Let clinicians know internship intentions early in the rotations; seek feedback about chances, and their support.
 - Seek advice about internship programs from both clinicians and residents.

NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY LICENSING EXAM (NAVLE)

Administered by the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA)

<https://www.icva.net/>

The NAVLE is a computer-based test, comprised of 360 clinically relevant multiple-choice questions. See <https://www.icva.net/> for a wealth of information regarding the exam including application instructions, requirements, deadlines and fees.

Licensure in the U.S.

Licensure in the U.S. is under the control of each state. Students should understand the rules and regulations for licensure in the state(s) in which they wish to be licensed as regulations vary.

Wisconsin has an online exam on state and federal laws, which all Wisconsin license applicants must pay separately for and pass. Some states have additional exams required for licensure. Be sure to check the following website for contact information and requirements in different states: <http://www.aavsb.org/>