

Veterinary Medicine Sustainability Certificate Program

*** Starting with Class of 2026 ***

The veterinary profession is closely involved with many sectors that have a direct impact on the environment, social issues, and economic burden. The Veterinary Medicine Sustainability Certificate program will encompass a wide breadth of topics covering three pillars of sustainability (Environmental, Social, and Economic) and provide experiential learning opportunities. Students will gain knowledge in the economic aspects of veterinary practice management, including basic business management skills. The program also provides students with a broad understanding of the environmental pillar, covering topics such as the environmental impacts of food animal production, emissions of anesthesia gases, and waste disposal. Knowledge on the judicious use of animal health products to mitigate drug resistance will equip students with important skills to fulfill their role in achieving social sustainability. Experiential learning opportunities will allow students to apply their sustainability knowledge through the interpretation and application of scientific information, analysis of tradeoffs among the pillars to achieve a goal, and development of a sustainability strategy. Additionally, they will develop soft skills in interpersonal interactions and communication.

Benefits

- 1) Students will acquire skills to develop sustainable clinical practices, advocate for sustainability within their future client base, and actively involve the public in the field of sustainable animal health.
- 2) Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of sustainability principles, particularly regarding the veterinary profession's responsibility to promote sustainable animal health.
- 3) Successful completion of the certificate program will offer newly graduated veterinarians a clear and transparent way to communicate their training and skills to potential employers, whether they are seeking animal health industry or practice positions.

To complete the certificate program:

- 1) Students must complete the required number of core elective courses (6 credits) with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.
- 2) Students must complete the required number of optional elective courses (8 credits) with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.

Required elective courses (6 credits)

VCS 822 Introduction to Sustainable Beef Systems (1 cr) Y1-2-3 — FALL

OR

VCS 892-N Concepts in Sustainable Small Animal Practice (1 cr) Y1-2 — SPRING

VCS 832 Antimicrobial Resistance in Bacteria: A one health perspective (1 cr) Y1-2-3 — FALL

VCS 891 Y Topics in Business Principles for Veterinary Practice (1 cr) Y1-2 — FALL

Fourth year

VCS 901 Externships with emphasis on Veterinary Practice Sustainability (3 cr)

Elective courses (minimum of 8 credits)

VCS 820 Topics in Global Veterinary Medicine (1 cr) Y1-2 — SPRING

VCS 840 Communication with the Agricultural Worker (2 cr) Y2-3 — SPRING

VCS891C Applied Small Animal Behavior (1 cr) Y2-3 — FALL

VCS892 L Pre-clinical Veterinary Sustainability Mentorship (1-3 cr) Y1-2-3

VDMP 816 Trade and Agricultural Health (2 cr) Y1-2-3 — FALL

VDMP 888 B Globalization & Food trade (1 cr) Y1-2 — SPRING

VDMP 891 E Ecotoxicology (1 cr) Y2 — SPRING

VDMP 891 A International Animal & Zoonotic Disease (1 cr) Y1-2-3 — SPRING

VCS 892-E Practicing Vet Med in a multicultural society (1cr) Y1-2-3 — Spring & Fall

VAP 897 Animal Welfare (1cr) Y2 — SPRING

Fourth Year

VCS 917 Advanced Rural Food Animal Business Management (1 cr)

VCS 949 Shelter Medicine - Community Outreach (1cr)

Contact Academic Programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine

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