



Shelter Medicine Veterinary Certificate

The Shelter Medicine Veterinary Certificate (SMVC) program is offered for current Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students. The goal of the SMVC is to prepare DVM students for long-term success in the field of shelter medicine by incorporating skills that include shelter animal care, shelter animal behavior and well-being, high-quality high-volume sterilization surgery and shelter management consultation. Attaining this certificate will provide DVM graduates with a well-rounded foundation for a career in Shelter Medicine. It will also afford veterinary students with the distinguished knowledge and skills to positively impact the medical and behavioral health of sheltered animals in the communities around them.

Benefits

- 1) SMVC students will have a well-defined pathway to successful training through the completion of complementary coursework and experiential learning to develop a wide array of skills and aptitudes for veterinary practice in a shelter setting, which will enhance their confidence and prepare them for future success in the field.
- 2) Completion of the certificate program will provide a concise and transparent mechanism for new graduates to communicate their training and skills to prospective employers and allow employers to identify students with skills needed for best practice success. SMVC students will have an advantage when communicating with future employers as completion of the program illustrates interest, commitment to the process and a specific level of education.

To complete the certificate program, students must:

1. Students must complete the required number of required core and elective courses with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.
2. Students must complete the [Fear Free Shelter Certificate®](#) (Online and Free) during their pre-clinical years.

Core courses (9 credits):

Pre-Clinical

VCS 891E Shelter Basics: Medicine & Management (1cr) Y1-2 FALL

VCS 892K Pre-Clinical Mentorship – Shelter Medicine Emphasis (1cr) Y1-2-3

VCS 817 Incident Response (1cr) Y1-2 FALL

Clinical (Fourth year)

VCS 901 Externship – Shelter Medicine Emphasis (2cr)

VCS 937 Shelter Medicine Rotation (2cr)

VCS 946 Shelter Operations Consultation (1cr)

VCS 949 Shelter Medicine Community Outreach (1 cr)

Elective courses (must take at least 6 credits from the list below)

Pre-Clinical

VCS 890 B Community Outreach Fundamentals (1cr) Y1-2 FALL

VAP 897 Animal Care & Welfare (1cr) Y2 SPRING

VCS 891C Topics in Applied Animal Behavior (1cr) Y2-3 FALL

VCS 891T Surgical Skills (1cr) Y3 SPRING

VCS 892Q Victim to verdict (1cr) Y2-3 SUMMER

VCS 892R Pre-Clinical Community Outreach (1cr) Y2-3 SUMMER

Clinical (Fourth year)

VCS 901 Externship – Spay/Neuter Emphasis (1-2cr)

VCS 942 Advanced Surgical Experience (2cr)

VCS 945 Supplemental Dentistry for Small Animals (1cr)

VCS 949 Supplemental Shelter Medicine Community Outreach (1 cr)

Contact Academic Programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine

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