Course Syllabus
Practiced-Based Equine Clerkship
VEM 5730-Core/5830-Elective (veterinary students)

Course Meeting Time and Place: Monday through Sunday, hours vary as assigned each day, by the practitioner as the workload dictates.

Instructor Information

Course Coordinator: Dr. Amanda House

Dr. Amanda House: Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, VH-136, (352) 215-3717, housea@ufl.edu, Office Hours: Appointment only

Nancy Hamilton: Program assistant, VH-117, (352) 492-4308, hamiltonn@ufl.edu Office hours: 7:30-noon and 1:00-4:30.

Courtesy Clinical Faculty (private veterinary practitioners throughout Florida); Faculty Liaisons (Large Animal Clinical Sciences Faculty)

Course Overview or Purpose

The purpose of this course is to provide students with on-farm, primary care experience with horses in physical examinations, diagnosis, treatment, herd health, routine surgery and practice management.

Course Objectives and/or Goals

Students will be assigned to a participating veterinary practice and spend the majority of their time with the supervising veterinarian(s) on farm calls or performing laboratory or office duties directly related to those calls. The student will be expected to participate on farm calls Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm or whenever the practitioner’s day is completed. It is expected that students may participate in emergency calls received out of regular business hours, i.e., nights and weekends. During such activities, the participating veterinarian is expected to:

1) Involve students in as many diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as possible;
2) Discuss diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic considerations with students;
3) Take time in the practice vehicle to discuss and assess farm management, current disease problems, and application of disease prevention techniques wherever possible.

To the extent possible, as limited by the case load, this equine educational experience will include: clinical examination (physical exam and history taking), restraint, diagnosis, administration of medications, regulatory medicine, anesthesia techniques, reproductive management, vaccination programs, parasite control, dispensing medication, writing bills, practice management, laceration repair, bandaging, veterinary ethics, client communications, elective surgery and emergency procedures. Students will receive as much hands-on experience as feasible within the constraints of normal practice activity.
It is expected that students will spend approximately 10% of their time learning about the business management procedures used in the practice. The goal of this aspect of the clerkship is to expose students to the basics of veterinary practice management, including personnel management, inventory control, ordering procedures, client billing and finances. Students should be given time to discuss these issues with the responsible persons in the practice. The supervising veterinarian is expected to explain to the student the basis of client fees and how fees are reviewed.

**Selection of Practitioners**

Up to 60 equine practitioners may be selected based on the following criteria:

- The practitioner must work in a practice with an equine case load sufficient to employ a minimum of one, full-time veterinarian.
- The practitioner must be interested in teaching senior veterinary students. The practitioner must take responsibility for the total clinical training including grading and willingness to interact with the faculty liaison to evaluate the program and modify it as needed.
- The practice must be located or do significant work in Florida.

Practitioners must be in good standing with the state’s veterinary licensing board. The practitioner is appointed as a courtesy faculty and will receive faculty privileges regarding access to university facilities and resources.

Participating practices complete a contract agreement and update their practice profile annually. Multiple practitioners from multi-veterinarian practices may participate in the program according to the aforementioned criteria.

Practitioners are assigned 2-5 students in a year. Only one student will be assigned to a practice during the rotation.

Practitioners can specify the times of the year they will not be able to accommodate students.

**Faculty Liaison**

Each *practice* has a faculty liaison. That person is responsible for:

1. Meeting with the student two-three weeks prior to the rotation start to discuss an overview of the practice, including the type of accommodations available and the practitioner’s expectations.
2. The liaison would explain the student’s assignments, which include a case log, clinical SLO sheet, and a written assignment. These assignments are due at the completion of the rotation and will be reviewed by the liaison.
Selection of Practice for Each Student

The students will fill out a student profile form and the time slot for the clerkship. The course coordinator will match students with practitioners. The intent of this system is to match the students’ interests and abilities and the personality of the practitioner, the availability of housing and any special concerns of the student or practitioner.

Some of the practices may be in commuting range. For those practices that do not provide accommodations, a room may be rented from someone in the community known to the practitioner or a local bed-and-breakfast or small hotel may be used.

Student requirements are the same for other clerkships including health insurance and rabies vaccination.

Student Expectations

1. Students will arrange a PRE-CLERKSHIP meeting with their practice’s campus liaison at least two-three weeks before their clerkship begins.
2. Students are required to keep a daily case log of each individual animal health or management problem encountered during the clerkship.
3. Students are required to complete a written assignment to evaluate the clinical practice and the business management in the practice, including personnel management, staffing, inventory, billing procedures, etc.
4. Students are required to complete an Evaluation of Practice and Practitioners.
5. Students are required to wear the provided radiation dosimeter when participating in any radiographic procedures.
6. The items above must be submitted through the PBEC website by the first MONDAY after the completion of the equine practice clerkship.
7. Students must complete the Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and have them initialed by the practitioner before turning them in to the PBEC Program Assistant on the first Monday after the rotation.
8. Students must then contact their faculty liaison/course coordinator within two weeks after receiving notification to arrange for the POST-CLERKSHIP meeting.

Evaluation of Student’s Performance

A student progress report form is provided with each student packet for recording the student’s progress at the end of the first week of the rotation. This form is to be signed by the supervising veterinarian and the student certifying that the student has been informed of his/her progress in the rotation. The course coordinator or faculty liaison will also contact the supervising veterinarian at the middle of the rotation to get an oral report of the student’s progress and identify potential problems in performance that would necessitate a meeting of the student, the veterinarian, the faculty liaison and the course coordinator.

Within one week after completion of the rotation, the supervising veterinarian must submit the evaluation of student performance form to the program assistant. Students are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory system. S/U grades will be awarded by the course director and faculty

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liaisons based on participation and overall performance on the student evaluation sheets. Students must also complete an evaluation of the practice/rotation.

**Course Materials**

Recommended references: Equine Internal Medicine, Reed, Bayly, Sellon; Equine Surgery, Auer & Stick. Large Animal Internal Medicine, Brad Smith.

**Statement of University’s Honesty Policy (cheating and use of copyrighted materials)**

**Academic Integrity** – Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Student Conduct Code, the Graduate Student Handbook or this web site for more details: [www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)).

Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.*

**Policy Related to Class Attendance**

Attendance at all portions of the clerkship is required. If the student is going to miss a rotation day for any reason, he/she must first contact Dr. House. Excuses for absences will be considered on an individual basis.

**Policy Related to Make-up Exams or Other Work**

Students are expected to attend and be prepared to participate in the clerkship. Personal issues with respect to attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis.

**Statement Related to Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

**Counseling and Student Health**

Students may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the University of Florida Counseling Center, (352) 392-1575, or Student Mental Health Services, (352) 392-1171. Visit their web sites for more information: [http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu/) or [http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent](http://www.health.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs/index.htm#urgent)

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The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services, including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at (352) 392-0627 or view the Web site at: www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:
Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789.

BUT – Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.