

The faculty within the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences (VCS), College of Veterinary Medicine is proposing a change in the curriculum for the PhD degree.

Approximately 80% of the PhD degrees obtained in the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences are awarded to individuals who already have obtained a postgraduate degree (Masters or DVM degree or both) prior to starting the doctoral program. Both of these post graduate programs require a significant amount of graded course work. Currently a Masters degree in the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences requires 21 graded credits and the average veterinary curriculum requires an approximately 100 graded credits in biomedical sciences before entering the final year of clinical training.

The faculty in the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences believe that the goal of the PhD degree is to provide the student with an opportunity to perform an in-depth study of a very focused area once a base of knowledge has been achieved. We believe that our students are unique in that they have generally already obtained a significant amount of didactic training before beginning their doctoral degree training.

Our students will have the greatest benefit from spending the majority of their time on very focused study (independent as well as guided reading, participating in small seminars, etc) and designing and performing experiments, developing statistical and grantsmanship skills and having dedicated time to write. Therefore, we are requesting this change in our curriculum to reduce the number of required graded 500 or above level course credits from 34 to 15 credits for the PhD degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

Since some of our students do enter the doctoral program without a Masters or DVM , a total of 21 graded course credits would be required for a doctoral degree for those students. This is the same number of graded credits as is currently required for the Master's degree in our department.

It should be noted that in either situation listed above, the student's graduate committee always has the right to require that an individual student take additional credits that the committee thinks will be beneficial to a student's training.

We are proposing the following for the requirements for a PhD in the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences:

1. Doctoral students are required to take a minimum of 21 graded credits at the 500 level or higher
2. Doctoral students with a postgraduate degree (MS or DVM) are required to take a minimum of 15 graded credits at the 500 level or higher

Departmental requirements:

1. VM 576 (Introduction to Veterinary Clinical Research) (2 credits)

2. A statistics course (400 level or above) is required.

Statistics 412 is acceptable but cannot be used for the 15-21 credits of 500 level or above course work requirement.

VPh - 505 Design and Analysis of Biomedical Experiments (3 credits) is the college's 500 level statistics course. This could be applied to the 15 -21 credits of 500 level or above requirement.

Alternative 500 level or above statistics courses as approved by the student's advisor are acceptable.

3. Five credit hours of a seminar course in which oral presentation is a requirement are required. Students may elect to take the department's approved seminar course (VMS 582, 1 credit hour) or another seminar course recommended by and with the approval of their advisor.

Only 3 credits of the seminar requirement may be used for the 15 credits of 500 level or above requirement.

4. Additional courses should be selected that would provide in-depth training and instruction in a basic area of emphasis. The courses should include the most advanced ones appropriate to the area of emphasis listed in the Graduate Study Bulletin or approved for graduate credit. All courses must be approved by the degree advisory committee before the student enrolls in the course. The student must consult the Graduate School Policies and Procedures manual for any changes in requirements, and must submit a Program of Study to the Graduate School by the end of their first semester of study.

An example this curriculum might include:

Required for the 15 credits:

VM 576	2 credits
VPh 505	3 credits
VMS 582	3 credits
Other courses at the 500 level or above	<u>7 credits</u>
	15 credits
Additional credits graduate (to include research credits)	<u>57 credits</u>
Total Graduate Credits for the VCS PhD	72 credits