

VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM)

College of Veterinary Medicine

Program Website (<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/>)

CIP: 01.8001 | HEGIS: 1218.00 | NYSED: 13661

Program Description

The D.V.M. program is made up of two types of courses: Foundation and Distribution. All students take Foundation courses at the same time, in a prescribed sequence. The entire program takes four years to complete (174.5 credits of in-person study).

Foundation courses account for approximately 70% for the credits required for graduation, reflecting the College's commitment to a broad, generalize veterinary education.

Distribution courses make up the remaining 30% of the credits required for graduation and offer students an opportunity to pursue their individual interests through a system of structured choices.

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 174.5

Program Requirements

The D.V.M. program is made up of two types of courses: Foundation and Distribution. All students take Foundation courses at the same time, in a prescribed sequence. The entire program takes four years to complete (174.5 credits of in-person study).

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Program Requirements - Class of 2026, 2027 and 2028

Foundation Course Requirements

Foundation/Core Course Requirements (Excluding Clinical Year Rotations)

Code	Title	Hours
VTMED 5100	The Animal Body (Foundation Course I)	12
VTMED 5701	Veterinary Practice I	1.5
VTMED 5200	Cell Biology and Genetics (Foundation Course II)	6
VTMED 5210	(VTMED 5210 Course no longer offered.)	2
VTMED 5220	Neuroanatomy	2
VTMED 5702	Veterinary Practice: Ethics and Animal Care (Foundation Course VIIb)	1.5
VTMED 5300	Function and Dysfunction: Part I (Foundation Course IIIa)	9

VTMED 5310	Function and Dysfunction: Part II (Foundation Course IIIb)	7
VTMED 5703	Veterinary Practice II	1
VTMED 5400	Host, Agent, and Defense (Foundation Course IV)	12
VTMED 5410	Veterinary Parasitology	2.5
VTMED 5704	Veterinary Practice III	1
VTMED 5500	Animal Health and Disease: Part I (Foundation Course V)	14
VTMED 5510	Animal Health and Disease: Part II	20
VTMED 5520	Diagnostic Imaging	2
VTMED 5705	Veterinary Practice: Public Health (Foundation Course VIIe)	1.5
VTMED 5706	Veterinary Practice IV	1.5
VTMED 5612	Fourth-Year Seminar	1

Total Foundation/Core Course Credits Required (excluding clinical year rotations): 97.5

Elective Course Requirements (Excluding Clinical Year)

May choose any elective courses outside clinical rotation to meet requirements, requirement/limitations noted below.

Code	Title	Hours
Anatomy Elective		
Select one of the following (required minimum 3 credits):		3
VTMED 6100	Anatomy of the Carnivore	
VTMED 6101	Anatomy of the Horse	
VTMED 6102	Anatomy of the Ruminant	
VTMED 6103	Comparative Anatomy: Pattern and Function	
Teaching, Special and Research Projects		
VTMED 6897	Teaching Projects in Veterinary Medicine	0.5-3
VTMED 6898	Special Projects in Veterinary Medicine	0.5-4
VTMED 6899	Research Projects in Veterinary Medicine	0.5-4

Limit of 10 credits total, see semester and class year limits on application information.

Total Elective Course Credits Required (excluding clinical Year): 31

Foundation (Core) Clinical Rotations (2 Credits Each)

Code	Title	Hours
VTMED 5600	Ambulatory and Production Medicine	2
VTMED 5601	Small Animal Community Practice	2
VTMED 5602	Small Animal Medicine	2
VTMED 5603	Small Animal Soft Tissue Surgery Service	2
VTMED 5604	Large Animal Medicine Service	2
VTMED 5605	Large Animal Surgery	2
VTMED 5606	Anesthesiology Service	2
VTMED 5607	Dermatology Service	2
VTMED 5608	Ophthalmology Service	2
VTMED 5609	Pathology Service	2
VTMED 5610	Radiology Service	2
VTMED 5611	Small Animal Clinical Emergency and Critical Care Medicine	2
VTMED 5613	Small Animal Surgery Orthopedic Surgery Service	2

Total Foundation/Core Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 26**Clinical Year Pathway Rotation Requirements (7 Blocks)**¹

Pathways are listed below. The makeup of the rotations for each is determined during the 2nd year.

¹ Once the pathway rotations are determined a student may revise up to three rotations if approved through the revision process.

- Small Animal
- Equine
- Mixed
- Exotic Pets/Small Animal
- Zoo/Wildlife
- Production

Total Pathway Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 14**Clinical Year Elective Rotation Requirements (3 Blocks)**

May be satisfied by repeating a core rotation or any elective rotations (maximum repeat 3 blocks)

Total Elective Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 6**Total Credits Required for Completion of Degree Requirements**

- Total Foundation/Core Course Credits Required (excluding clinical year rotations): 97.5
- Total Elective Course Credits Required (excluding clinical Year): 31
- Total Foundation/Core Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 26
- Total Pathway Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 14
- Total Elective Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 6

Total Credits: 174.5**Required Curriculum Milestones (4 Total)**

The DVM program includes four Curriculum Milestones that each student must successfully complete before advancing to the next phase of the program and/or graduating. The three OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) Milestone exams are clinical skills assessments held at key points following relevant instruction. They ensure that students are competent in fundamental skills before they progress in the curriculum. The Fourth Year Milestone ensures that students meet performance expectations during their clinical rotation year and undertake any necessary remediation prior to graduation.

As degree requirements, the Milestones are not affiliated with a particular course. Rather, when successfully completed, the results are recorded on the student's transcript. To help students track their progress, audits of their degree requirements include the Milestones.

Milestone I

To satisfy this milestone students must effectively and efficiently demonstrate technical skills and professional reasoning abilities.

Milestone II

To complete this milestone students must effectively and efficiently demonstrate surgical skills.

Milestone III

To complete this milestone students must effectively and efficiently demonstrate technical skills and professional reasoning abilities.

Fourth Year Milestone

A student earns this milestone by successfully completing their clinical year requirements, including any required remediations assigned by the Clinical Assessment and Teaching Support Committee. Students who do not earn this milestone by the end of the clinical year will have up to 7 clinical rotation blocks to successfully complete their required remediation and earn the milestone. Students who do not earn this milestone within this time frame will be administratively withdrawn from the college with no opportunity to reapply or otherwise continue in the DVM program.

**Program Requirements - Class of 2029
Foundation Course Requirements**

Foundation/Core Course Requirements (Excluding Clinical Year Rotations)

Code	Title	Hours
VTMED 5100	The Animal Body (Foundation Course I)	13
VTMED 5701	Veterinary Practice I	1.5
VTMED 5200	Cell Biology and Genetics (Foundation Course II)	7
VTMED 5220	Neuroanatomy	2
VTMED 5702	Veterinary Practice: Ethics and Animal Care (Foundation Course VIIb)	1.5
VTMED 5300	Function and Dysfunction: Part I (Foundation Course IIIa)	9
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VTMED 5704	Veterinary Practice III	1
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VTMED 5510	Animal Health and Disease: Part II	20
VTMED 5520	Diagnostic Imaging	2
VTMED 5705	Veterinary Practice: Public Health (Foundation Course VIIe)	1.5
VTMED 5706	Veterinary Practice IV	1.5
VTMED 5612	Fourth-Year Seminar	1

Total Foundation/Core Course Credits Required (excluding clinical year rotations): 97.5

Elective Course Requirements (Excluding Clinical Year)

May choose any elective courses outside clinical rotation to meet requirements, requirement/limitations noted below.

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Limit of 10 credits total, see semester and class year limits on application information.

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VTMED 5609	Pathology Service	2
VTMED 5610	Radiology Service	2
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VTMED 5613	Small Animal Surgery Orthopedic Surgery Service	2

Total Foundation/Core Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 26

Clinical Year Pathway Rotation Requirements (7 Blocks)

²

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Total Pathway Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 14

Clinical Year Elective Rotation Requirements (3 Blocks)

May be satisfied by repeating a core rotation or any elective rotations (maximum repeat 3 blocks)

Total Elective Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 6

Total Credits Required for Completion of Degree Requirements

- Total Foundation/Core Course Credits Required (excluding clinical year rotations): 97.5
- Total Elective Course Credits Required (excluding clinical Year): 31
- Total Foundation/Core Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 26
- Total Pathway Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 14
- Total Elective Clinical Year Rotation Requirements: 6

Total Credits: 174.5

Required Curriculum Milestones (4 Total)

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Administrative Requirements

- Payment of any outstanding amounts due the College of Veterinary Medicine or other units of Cornell University
- Completion of Exit Interview required of all financial aid recipients

Other Requirements

- To receive the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree, candidates must successfully complete curricular requirements, pay all fees, and be recommended for graduation by the faculty of the college.
- Residency and Full Time Student Status (8 semesters/terms)

- Eight semesters (fall and spring) of full-time study is required. External transfer students are credited with one semester in residence for each full-time semester (or equivalent) earned at another institution. To satisfy a semester in residence a student must be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credit hours. Carrying fewer than 12 credits will have financial aid implications, potential impacts for international student status and subject to academic review.
The DVM program is not eligible for pro-rated tuition or In Absentia status
- All graduation requirements for the DVM degree must be completed within six years of a student's initial registration in the DVM program. This requirement applies to all veterinary students except those participating in the DVM/PhD degree pathway (two years DVM, up to four years PhD, two years DVM total up to eight years of a student's initial registration in the DVM program).
- Maximum enrollment of 23.5 credits per semester.
- May not graduate with any outstanding incomplete or NGR grades.
- Final GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Reminders

- It is your responsibility to know the requirements for graduation and to complete them on time. You may check your progress towards degree completion using the "Academic Requirements" tab in student center. Be aware that courses with "R", "Incomplete" or "NGR" grades do not count.
- Complete any course(s) for which you receive a grade of "Incomplete" or "NGR" within the time specified by the course instructor and notify the CVM Registrar's Office, in writing, immediately upon completion. Then, check your grade record on Student Center a week or two later to confirm that the grade has been recorded. This is important since faculty members are entitled to sabbatical leave, retirement, and other absences from the college, and may not be around to help clean up your record the last minute before graduation.

University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

The Cornell D.V.M. graduate will demonstrate:

- An understanding of the scientific principles underlying veterinary medicine
- The basic clinical skills and attitudes necessary to care for the common domestic animals and other species entrusted to our stewardship
- Critical thinking as evidenced by successful problem solving
- Sound clinical judgment and medical decision-making skills
- An understanding of the interactions among animals, people, and the environment
- A commitment to professionalism, including a commitment to animal welfare and to following the best practices in relation to ethical, cultural, global, business management, and legal issues.
- Self-education and lifelong learning skills to promote professional growth
- An understanding of the limits of one's knowledge and skills and the ability to address those limits through effective use of sources of information and expertise

Program Calendar

Class of 2026

Fall 2025

Date	Event
August 25, 2025	First Day of Term
August 25, 2025	First Day of Instruction
December 14, 2025	Last Day of Instruction
December 14, 2025	Last Day of Term

Winter 2026

Date	Event
December 15, 2025	First Day of Term
December 15, 2025	First Day of Instruction
January 18, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
January 18, 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring 2026

Date	Event
January 19, 2026	First Day of Term
January 19, 2026	First Day of Instruction
May 17, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
May 17, 2026	Last Day of Term

Class of 2027

Fall 2025

Date	Event
August 18, 2025	First Day of Term
August 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
September 1, 2025	Labor Day - No Classes

October 10-12, 2025	Fall Break
November 22-30, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Instruction
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Term

Winter 2026 (Not Required)

Date	Event
December 18, 2025	First Day of Term
December 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
January 16, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
January 16, 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring 2026

Date	Event
January 20, 2026	First Day of Term
January 20, 2026	First Day of Instruction
March 14-22, 2026	Spring Break
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Term

Summer 2026

Date	Event
May 18, 2026	First Day of Term
May 18, 2026	First Day of Instruction
August 23, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
August 23, 2026	Last Day of Term

Class of 2028

Fall 2025

Date	Event
August 18, 2025	First Day of Term
August 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
September 1, 2025	Labor Day - No Classes
September 25-28, 2025	Fall Break
November 22-30, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Instruction
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Term

Winter 2026 (Not Required)

Date	Event
December 18, 2025	First Day of Term
December 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
January 16, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
January 16, 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring 2026

Date	Event
January 20, 2026	First Day of Term
January 20, 2026	First Day of Instruction
March 14-22, 2026	Spring Break
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Term

Summer 2026 (Not Required)

Date	Event
May 18, 2026	First Day of Term
May 18, 2026	First Day of Instruction
August 14, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
August 14, 2026	Last Day of Term

Class of 2029

Fall 2025

Date	Event
August 18, 2025	First Day of Term
August 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
September 1, 2025	Labor Day - No Classes
October 10-12, 2025	Fall Break
November 22-30, 2025	Thanksgiving Break
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Instruction
December 17, 2025	Last Day of Term

Winter 2026 (Not Required)

Date	Event
December 18, 2025	First Day of Term
December 18, 2025	First Day of Instruction
January 13, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
January 13, 2026	Last Day of Term

Spring 2026

Date	Event
January 14, 2026	First Day of Term
January 14, 2026	First Day of Instruction
March 14-22, 2026	Spring Break
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
May 15, 2026	Last Day of Term

Summer 2026

Date	Event
May 18, 2026	First Day of Term
May 18, 2026	First Day of Instruction
August 14, 2026	Last Day of Instruction
August 14, 2026	Last Day of Term