

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

FACULTY OF VETERINARY SCIENCE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS IN VETERINARY SCIENCE

March 2010

INTRODUCTION

Following the previous announcement on the changes in the degree programme in veterinary science, we would like to inform all prospective students, their parents/guardians and potential donors of the implementation of this programme which will continue to allow graduates to register and work as veterinarians in South Africa.

NEW DEGREE STRUCTURE

The new programme will consist of a core-elective, 6 year single degree structure which is an internationally recognised and recommended approach. All candidates will complete a core curriculum of 4.5 years (9 semesters). They will then complete a chosen elective over the next 4 months which will give them increased competencies to enter practice in their chosen career paths. The training will be concluded with approximately 12-14 months of experiential training in the core and chosen elective components.

Students who are currently in the BSc (Veterinary Biology) II and III years of study will be required to complete the current seven year two-degree programme. Second year students of 2010 will be selected at the end of 2010 for admission to the third year of study in 2011. Both groups, on completion of the BSc (Veterinary Biology) degree, register for the current 4-year BVSc degree programme. They will then graduate in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

ADMISSION AND SELECTION

Admission to the Veterinary Science programme is by selection as the number of places in the programme is limited.

The minimum entry requirement is the National Senior Certificate (NSC) with the following subjects and minimum performance levels:

APS	Group A		Group B	
30	Two languages	Mathematics	Physical Sci	Two additional subjects
	4; one must be English	4; provided Phys Sci is at level 5	4: provided Maths is at level 5	4

An Admission Point Score (APS) of 30 will be required (the sum of the 6 highest performance levels excluding Life Orientation). The selection procedure will make provision for various categories and will be reviewed on an annual basis for approval by Faculty Board and Senate.

Competence in Mathematics and Physical Science at school-leaving level is a requirement for registration as a veterinarian with the South African Veterinary Council.

Provision will be made for the following categories, each with its own specific criteria:

Category	Description
Category 1	School leavers – open category
Category 8	School leavers – designated groups
Category 2	Completed first semester
Category 3	Completed second semester
Category 4	Completed 3 rd semester of the Extended programme
Category 5	International students
Category 6	Graduates

The Faculty of Veterinary Science views student selection as a key component of its endeavours to meet the veterinary needs of the country and the specific requirements of higher education legislation. To this end the Faculty of Veterinary Science once again states its intent to actively recruit and select students to ensure that the student body will ultimately reflect national demographics. It may also consider market needs in allocating specific positions for e.g. state veterinary service (national and provinces), the defence force and the needs of neighbouring countries who do not have a faculty of veterinary science, etc.

Students who are unable to obtain admission due to an APS score below 30 may still obtain admission to the four-year BSc programme offered at the Mamelodi campus provided they have the necessary subject combination and an APS of 22 or more. These students may be able to transfer to the mainstream programme at the end of the third semester provided they have passed all their modules (category 4 above).

IMPLEMENTATION

Changing a programme from 7 to 6 years has major implications on the logistics of both old and new programmes in terms of facilities, timetables and human resources. The most important of these is to ensure that the final year (which is an experiential training year) of both programmes do not overlap as the current facilities and human resources (staff to student ratios) can only accommodate an absolute maximum of 140 students. It is therefore inevitable that applicants and students will have to contend with transitional arrangements in the first few years of the new programme in order to ensure a smooth transition from the one to the other.

With this in mind, the following arrangements will be in effect from 2010 onwards:

- Applications close on 30 June of the year preceding the intake to allow time for the selection process.
- There will be no intake into BSc (Veterinary Biology) I in 2010.
- The first intake into the new BVSc degree programme will be in 2011. This intake will not accommodate students who complete the NSC in 2010 (category 1 above). They will be considered together with the 2011 cohort for admission to BVSc I in 2012. This intake will cater for both cohorts in an equal manner.

- Students who have been admitted to BSc (Biological Sciences) I in 2010 will be required to apply for admission to BVSc I by 30 June 2010. These students will be considered for admission to BVSc I in 2011 at the end of 2010 according to an approved selection policy. Ample opportunity has been created for them as the majority of the places available in the programme for 2011 has been assigned to these first year students in this cycle. This will obviously change in subsequent years.
- Selected students will qualify for exemption from the first year subjects already completed on application but will have to do additional subjects in 2011 while registered for BVSc I on the Hatfield campus of the University (Medical Terminology in the first semester; Introductory Animal Science, Animal Nutrition and Professional Life in the second semester) in order to progress to BVSc II in 2012. Provided timetable allocations permit, they may also be able to do second year subjects presented by the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences which are required in the veterinary science programme and obtain exemption from these in the following year. These students will graduate at the earliest in 2016 – this will imply that this first batch of students will still be required to complete the degree programme in 7 years.
- Students who have registered for the first time in the extended programme in 2010 may gain admission to BVSc I in the middle of 2011 after selection provided they have passed all the modules at that time. They will then be required to complete the second semester of the first year for promotion to BVSc II in 2012.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

The first year of study of the new programme is very similar to the existing first year of the BSc (Veterinary Biology) and BSc (Biological Sciences) programmes. During the first semester one additional module, Medical Terminology has been included, whereas the second semester has three new modules, Animal Nutrition, Introductory Animal Science and Professional Life. It is these three modules which are referred to in the third bullet under implementation.

The entire first year will be offered at the Hatfield campus of the University of Pretoria where after the remaining years will be offered on the Onderstepoort campus of the University of Pretoria.

The second year of study deals exclusively with basic veterinary disciplines such as Anatomy, Histology, Microbiology and Physiology as well as modules in Animal Science, Pasture Science and Professional Life.

The third year will be devoted to the causes and effects of disease and includes modules on Infectious Diseases, Parasitology, Toxicology, Pharmacology, Organ Pathology and Professional Life.

In the fourth year the student will be confronted with modules aimed at diagnostics and therapeutics and in the first semester of the fifth year with community interaction. Specific species directed modules in these semesters will also be presented. In the second semester of the fifth year the emphasis will be on the didactic components of the elective modules.

The remaining approximately 12 - 14 months will be devoted to experiential training in the core and experiential components in the academic hospital as well as in satellite and other approved facilities.

A macro-curriculum is attached to the end of this document.

ACCOMMODATION

Students can obtain accommodation in the residences of the University at the Hatfield campus for the first year and at Onderstepoort for the remainder of the programme. Allocation of accommodation is subject to selection and availability of rooms.

LANGUAGE OF TUITION

The language of tuition in the Faculty of Veterinary Science is English.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All students registered for BSc(Biological Sciences) in 2010 will be notified of the application procedure for BVSc during the course of the first semester in 2010. The closing date is 30 June 2010.

FURTHER INFORMATION

General information on the University of Pretoria as well as on the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and the Faculty of Veterinary Science can be obtained on the web at <http://www.up.ac.za>

Further information can be obtained from the Client Service Centre of the University of Pretoria at 012 420 3111 or by e-mail at csc@up.ac.za

If you need specific information on the BSc (Biological Sciences) degree or on the recognition of credits, please contact Mrs H van Vuuren in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at 012 420 2726 or by e-mail at henda.vanvuuren@up.ac.za

If you need more information on the BVSc degree, please contact the following:

Mr Joe Vhengani, Head Student Administration, Onderstepoort at 012 529 8061 or by e-mail at joe.vhengani@up.ac.za

Mrs A Burger in the Faculty of Veterinary Science at 012 529 8193 or by e-mail at antoinette.burger@up.ac.za

MACRO-CURRICULUM

FIRST YEAR : FIRST SEMESTER	FIRST YEAR : SECOND SEMESTER
THEME: NATURAL SCIENCES	THEME: NATURAL SCIENCES
Academic literacy 110	Academic literacy 120
Computer literacy 111	Information literacy 121
Mathematics 134	Biometry 120
Chemistry 117	Chemistry 127
Physics 131	Introductory Genetics
Molecular and cell biology 111	Animal Nutrition
Medical Terminology 180	Introductory Animal Science
	Professional Life

SECOND YEAR : FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND YEAR : SECOND SEMESTER
THEME: BASIC VETERINARY DISCIPLINES	THEME: BASIC VETERINARY DISCIPLINES
Veterinary Anatomy + Embryology	Veterinary Anatomy + Embryology
Veterinary Histology	Veterinary Histology
Veterinary Physiology	Veterinary Physiology
Veterinary Ethology + Genetics	Veterinary Ethology + Genetics
Animal Science	Animal Ecology
Veterinary Microbiology	Veterinary Immunology
Pasture Science (to be developed)	Professional Life
Professional Life	

THIRD YEAR : FIRST SEMESTER	THIRD YEAR : SECOND SEMESTER
THEME: CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DISEASE	THEME: CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF DISEASE
Veterinary Infectious Diseases	Veterinary Infectious Diseases
Veterinary Parasitology	Veterinary Parasitology
Veterinary Toxicology	Veterinary Toxicology
General Veterinary Pharmacology	General Veterinary Pharmacology
General and Organ Pathology (GOP)	General and Organ Pathology (GOP)
Applied Veterinary Physiology	General Surgery
Professional Life	Professional Life

FOURTH YEAR : FIRST SEMESTER	FOURTH YEAR : SECOND SEMESTER
THEME: VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS	THEME: VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery	Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
Equine Medicine and Surgery	Porcine Health and Production
Veterinary Reproduction	Poultry Health and Production
Diagnostic Imaging	Veterinary Reproduction
Clinical Pathology	Diagnostic Imaging
Diagnostic Pathology	Anaesthesiology
Professional Life	Diagnostic Pathology
	Professional Life

FIFTH YEAR : FIRST SEMESTER	FIFTH YEAR : SECOND SEMESTER
VETERINARY COMMUNITY INTERACTION	ELECTIVE DIDACTIC
Veterinary Public Health	All students do a short course in
Veterinary Practice Management (Professional Life)	Research Methodology and a short project in the elective module
Tropical Animal Health	
Veterinary Epidemiology	
Bovine Health and Production	Choose between:
Small Stock Health and Production	1. Small Animal and Exotic Practice
	2. Equine Practice
	3. Production Animal and Wildlife Practice
	4. Veterinary Public Health and State Veterinary Practice

SIXTH YEAR : FIRST 8 MONTHS	SIXTH YEAR : LAST 4 MONTHS
CORE CLINICS	ELECTIVE CLINICS