

## Academic Assessment Plan

### University of Florida

#### Academic Affairs

#### Academic Colleges

#### College of Veterinary Medicine

#### Veterinary Medical Sciences (MS)

##### MS Veterinary Medical Sciences

The mission of the Veterinary Medical Sciences MS graduate program is to provide high-quality research training for graduate students in the biomedical sciences. This program is designed to cultivate problem-solving abilities, independent thought, oral and written communication skills, and other attitudes and skills essential for conducting research. This program is flexible and allows students to train in various areas including comparative anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, molecular biology, animal nutrition, comparative toxicology, immunology, pathology, parasitology, epidemiology, infectious diseases, and aquatic animal health.

This program aligns with the College of Veterinary Medicine mission statement, which is "The College of Veterinary Medicine advances animal, human, and environmental health through education, research, and patient care." It also aligns with the University's mission "to lead and serve the state of Florida, the nation and the world by pursuing and disseminating new knowledge while building upon the experiences of the past."

**Responsible Roles:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Program:** Veterinary Medical Sciences (MS)

**Progress:** Ongoing

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##### PG 1: Degree completion

Track the time to completion for students in each of the master's programs, which include the on-line master's programs, the Residential masters program, and the on-campus master's programs.

##### Evaluation Method

Track time to completion for students in the various master's programs.

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

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##### PG 2: Excellent educational programs

Provide an educational environment such that students acquire the technical skills, knowledge and professional behaviors that enable them to obtain suitable employment or pursue further advanced education.

##### Evaluation Method

1. Determination of current employment or advanced studies status by direct survey of former MS students and/or via their MS degree supervisory committee chair.
2. As a whole, greater than 90% of students will be appropriately employed in a position that makes use of their MS degree or will be pursuing or have pursued further education for which their MS degree is an appropriate stepping stone.

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

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### **PG 3: Record of Publications**

Encourage residential MS students to publish scientific papers.

#### **Evaluation Method**

Track the number of scientific papers under the authorship of master's-level students.

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

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### **SLO 1: Knowledge**

1. For students in the programs that require a Master's thesis, successful completion of the thesis and thesis defense.
2. For students in the non-thesis programs, successful completion of
  - a. the capstone project (Shelter Medicine)
  - b. the final comprehensive examination (Veterinary Forensic Science and Forensic Toxicology)

**SLO Area (select one):** Knowledge (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

#### **Assessment Method**

Students will pass a general knowledge-based examination prior to receiving the MS degree. For students in the programs that require a Master's thesis, successful completion of the thesis and thesis defense is the assessment method. For students in the non-thesis programs, successful completion of the capstone project (Shelter Medicine) or the final comprehensive examination (Veterinary Forensic Science and Forensic Toxicology) are the assessment methods.

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### **SLO 2: Skills**

Students analyze and critically evaluate new information and ideas contained in books and journal articles, as well as information and ideas presented at scientific meetings, seminars and/or informal discussions with other scientists.

**SLO Area (select one):** Skills (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

#### **Assessment Method**

Students in the residential thesis-based program only successfully complete one or more

"Journal Club"-type courses that require reading, presentation and critical evaluation of scientific papers, including defense of their evaluation of the paper to the Journal Club group.

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### **SLO 3: Skills**

Students apply speaking skills needed to communicate orally in formal and informal settings.

**SLO Area (select one):** Skills (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

#### **Assessment Method**

1. Oral thesis defense (thesis-based program)
  2. Oral presentation of capstone projects (Shelter Medicine program)
  3. Students produce a proposal worthy of presentation at a local, national, and/or international scientific meeting and/or continuing education presentation (residential MS program)
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### **SLO 4: Skills**

Students write effectively in a manner appropriate to veterinary medical sciences.

**SLO Area (select one):** Skills (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

#### **Assessment Method**

1. Successful completion of master's thesis (Thesis-based programs)
  2. Successful completion of capstone project (Shelter Medicine)
  3. Students write a paper that is publishable. (Residential thesis-based program)
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### **SLO 5: Professional Behavior**

Students exhibit ethical and professional behavior during their studies and research.

**SLO Area (select one):** Professional Behavior (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

#### **Assessment Method**

Student behavior is compatible with tenets of the responsible and ethical conduct of research assessed through tracking of

1. professionalism in all interactions within the degree program
  2. compliance with rules and regulations of the degree program
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### **SLO 6: Professional Behavior**

Students exercise the etiquette of constructive criticism and respond appropriately to criticism

in a professional manner.

**SLO Area (select one):** Professional Behavior (Grad)

**Responsible Role:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

**Progress:** Ongoing

### **Assessment Method**

1. Students offer constructive criticism in response to critiquing manuscripts and journal club presentations produced by their peers.

2. Students respond appropriately to "revise and resubmit" feedback from reviews of submission to scientific outlets.

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### **MS Veterinary Medical Sciences AAP Detail**

**Start:** 7/1/2017

**End:** 6/30/2018

**Progress:** Ongoing

**Providing Department:** Veterinary Medical Sciences (MS)

**Responsible Roles:** Executive Associate Dean (Vickroy, Thomas), Academic Assistant III (O'Connell, Sally), Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies (Peck, Ammon)

#### **Research (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)**

The primary objective of the Veterinary Medical Sciences graduate training program is to cultivate problem-solving abilities, independent thought, oral and written communication skills and other attitudes and skills essential for conducting research. The goal is to produce graduates who are capable of functioning successfully as independent investigators in academic, governmental or industrial research positions. Areas of concentration are administered by departmental programs in

Physiological Sciences, Infectious Diseases and Pathology, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, and Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Within these departmental programs, training includes appropriate course work and research in areas such as Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, Pharmacology, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology, Animal Nutrition, Comparative Toxicology, Immunology, Pathology, Parasitology, Epidemiology, and Infectious Diseases. Each departmental program has established its own graduate degree guidelines and core course requirements.

Graduate students in our programs identify research mentors based on their interests as evidenced in their initial statement of purpose. In the first semester the students are required to take specific "core" courses, designated in the individual department's guidelines and tracks. These "core" courses provide students the basic methods and tools used to conduct quality research. After the first year, each graduate student focuses on identifying a unique research project with the assistance of their Major Professor (research advisor) and a Supervisory Committee of at least 4 additional members.

Individualized investigations and independent study courses are often used to teach a student a particular technique in the laboratory or a new contemporary technology. Each student is constantly exposed to different laboratory and clinical facilities located within the UF Veterinary Hospital, the J. Hillis Miller Health Sciences Center, the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, and the Veterinary Academic Research Building. Laboratories are equipped for research in cellular and molecular biology, immunology, toxicology, physiology and membrane biochemistry. An infectious disease isolation facility for large domestic animals is located at the Progress Center. In addition, the new Veterinary Academic Research Building includes a Biosafety Level 3 laboratory. The U.F. Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research operates several core facilities to support biotechnology research,

provides technical training, and sponsors workshops and seminars to enhance the research environment and experience. After completing the core course requirements and any didactic courses required by the Supervisory Committee, the student registers for advanced research. Each student attends seminars and journal clubs and is trained to write scientifically. Towards the end of the graduate program students are encouraged to attend scientific meetings to present and defend their original research. This approach enables the graduate to be part of a community of scholars. In this way, each student promotes the University's mission of teaching, research, service and informing the general public.

### **Assessment Timeline (Graduate and Professional AAPs only)**

### **Curriculum Map (UG AAPs only)**

### **Assessment Cycle (All AAPs)**

#### **Assessment Cycle**

Analysis and Interpretation:

From May to June

Improvement Actions:

Completed by August 31

Dissemination:

Completed by September 30

<b>Year</b>	<b>14-15</b>	<b>15-16</b>	<b>16-17</b>	<b>17-18</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>19-20</b>
<b>SLOs</b>						
<b>Content Knowledge</b>						
#1		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Skills</b>						
#2		X	X	X	X	X
#3		X	X	X	X	X
#4		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Professional Behavior</b>						
#5		X	X	X	X	X
#6		X	X	X	X	X

### **Methods and Procedures (UG and Certificate AAPs)**

### **SLO Assessment Rubric (All AAPs)**

See attached

### **Measurement Tools (Graduate and Professional AAPs Only)**

SLOs are measured by successful completion of criterion-referenced assessments within courses, attendance at Journal Club (where appropriate), successful completion of proposed research project (where appropriate), attendance at local, national or international meetings (where appropriate), written thesis (where appropriate), capstone project (Shelter Medicine) or other scientific reports (where appropriate), and post-graduation employment or acceptance into a post-graduate academic program.

#### Assessment Oversight (All AAPs)

Name	Department Affiliation	Email Address	Phone Number
Paul Cooke, PhD	Physiological Sciences	<a href="mailto:paulscooke@ufl.edu">paulscooke@ufl.edu</a>	294-4008
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**Academic Assessment Plan Entry Complete:** ☒