

Plan of studies for the bachelor's and master's degree programs at the Vetsuisse Faculty

of November 26, 2020 (as amended August 1, 2022)

The Vetsuisse Faculty,

pursuant to § 2 of the regulations governing studies in bachelor's and master's degree programs at the Vetsuisse Faculty (Study Regulations) of December 11, 2020,

hereby adopts the following plan of studies:

I. General

AREA OF APPLICATION

Art. 1 This plan of studies applies to all students studying at the Vetsuisse Faculty (faculty in Bern).

ECTS CREDITS AND
LEARNING OUTCOMES

Art. 2 The number of ECTS credits and the learning outcomes for the individual courses are defined in the electronic course catalog and/or in the appendix.

EVALUATIONS

Art. 3 ¹ The course instructors announce the objectives, content, type, timing and prerequisites for participation in evaluations prior to the start of the course.

² An evaluation may cover several modules.

³ Students pass the evaluations in accordance with the plan of studies; they may not move to the other campus to have their evaluation done there.

⁴ The master's thesis and the special area may be completed in the other campus faculty.

CONDITIONS

Art. 4 ¹ Prerequisites for registration for a module or course can be defined, such as, in particular, previous modules, courses or knowledge acquired.

² The number of participants in a module or course may be limited or participation may be reserved for a specific target group. In particular, a restriction or combination of restrictions may apply

a for didactic reasons or

b when only limited capacity is available.

³ Criteria for participation in affected modules or courses and for the procedure for allocating module places are announced in an appropriate manner.

REGISTERING FOR AND DEREG-
ISTERING FROM
MODULES AND
EVALUATIONS

Art. 5 ¹ Students are automatically registered for modules and courses and thus also for evaluations. Deregistering from a module or course without specifying a reason is possible up to the dates published in the plan of studies.

² Students who fail their evaluations are automatically registered for their next possible retake date.

³ Deregistering from an evaluation or retake without specifying a reason is possible up to the deadlines published in the plan of studies. After that, it is only possible to deregister for good cause.

⁴ It is not possible to take part on the resit date and have it counted as the first evaluation unless there are good reasons for deregistering.

⁵ Students who fail to attend an evaluation without providing a reason or canceling, receive a grade of 1. Reasons for absence or cancellation include pregnancy complications, illness, accident or the death of a close relative.

⁶ A medical certificate must be submitted to the Dean's Office within three days; a medical examiner may be consulted.

⁷ If necessary, the persons in charge of the evaluations will take provisional measures and inform the Dean's Office, which will decide whether the absence or cancellation is permissible. A negative decision is made in the form of an announcement by the Dean's Office.

GRADING

Art. 6 ¹ Grading is governed by Section 26 of the Study Regulations.

² Ungraded evaluations are assessed in accordance with § 26 of the Study Regulations.

³ The electronic course catalog or appendices govern the grading of evaluations.

RETAKING
EVALUATIONS AND
COMPENSATION

Art. 7 ¹ Failed evaluations may be retaken twice. Further regulations are set out in Section 28 of the Study Regulations.

² All evaluations must be passed. Partial evaluations can be compensated. *[Version dated 07.08.2021]*

³ Students who have to repeat a year of study are not entitled to revisit internships they have already completed.

LANGUAGE

Art. 8 ¹ Students who have not obtained the previous education or academic qualification required for admission to studies (Art. 29 para. 3 and 4 UniG) in German or French and are not German or French native speakers may submit a written request to the Dean's Office and request an extension of the examination time. The examination time may be extended by a maximum of half an hour.

² The student's previous education or academic qualification must be certified as proof, along with a written declaration stating that the student is not a native speaker of German or French. After examining the documents, the Dean's Office decides whether to approve the application.

³ The examination time cannot be extended if a degree has been awarded in German or French.

ACCREDITATION AND
RECOGNITION IN GENERAL

Art. 9 ¹ Only ECTS credits earned within the past six years can be credited to the respective degree. The reference date for this is the day of registration for the degree and the last day of the semester in which the relevant ECTS credit was earned.

² In justified cases, the Dean may extend the crediting period upon request.

³ Modules whose ECTS credits lapse because the recognition period has been exceeded are deemed to have been definitively failed and cannot be repeated.

COMPULSORY ELECTIVE MOD-
ULES

Art. 10 ¹ Compulsory elective modules are modules that must be selected from a specified area to the specified extent.

² Once a compulsory elective module has been selected, it cannot be replaced by another module.

ELECTIVE MODULES

Art. 11 ¹ In the elective area, courses from all faculties of the University of Bern that are offered as elective courses across the University can be credited.

² Courses at UZH that are not offered by the Vetsuisse Faculty may be approved by the Dean's Office.

CLINICAL EMERGENCY SERVICE

Art. 12 ¹ Students perform clinical emergency services within the "Practical Skills" module. They support the staff in the clinics and take an active part in evening and emergency shifts.

² Students may work shifts at night, on weekends, on public holidays and during semester breaks.

³ An information sheet is available with further details.

II. Studies

1. Bachelor's degree program

ASSESSMENT LEVEL

Art. 13 The assessment level consists of the following achievements:

- a Compulsory modules: *[Version dated 07.08.2021]*
 - Basic subjects of Natural Sciences
 - Principles of morphology I
 - Principles of morphology II
 - Functional principles of veterinary medicine I
 - Animal protection and welfare, animal ethology and husbandry
 - Training of practical skills I
 - Introduction to scientific work
- b Compulsory elective modules:
 - Modules as listed in the appendix
- c Elective modules

PASS STANDARD ASSESSMENT LEVEL

Art. 14 The assessment level is passed if, at the latest two years after commencement of studies:

- a all assignments pursuant to Article 13 have been completed and
- b all evaluations have been awarded at least a grade of 4.0 or “passed”.

ADVANCED LEVEL

Art. 15 ¹ Students who pass the assessment level are admitted to the advanced level.

² Modules from the third academic year may be taken early if two thirds of the coursework in the second academic year have already been completed. The Dean's Office determines which modules can be taken in advance. There is no automatic entitlement to take modules in advance. The faculty is not obliged to take into account the possibility of completing modules in advance when planning modules.

ATTAINMENTS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL

Art. 16 The advanced level consists of the following attainments:

- a Compulsory modules: *[Version dated 07.08.2021]*
 - Bacteriology
 - Herd health and population medicine I
 - Herd health and population medicine II
 - Epidemiology and biostatistics
 - Functional principles of veterinary medicine II

- Immunology and general infection biology
 - Food safety
 - Organ-system-centered block: locomotor system
 - Organ-system-centered block: blood, immune organs, laboratory medicine,
 - Organ-system-centered block: endocrinology, metabolism
 - Organ-system-centered block: reproduction, mammary gland
 - Organ-system-centered block: kidney, salt and water balance
 - Organ-system-centered block: skin
 - Organ-system-centered block: nervous system, sense organs
 - Organ-system-centered block: respiratory tract and circulatory system
 - Organ-system-centered block: digestive tract
 - Parasitology
 - Practical skills II
 - Practical skills III
 - Virology
- b* Compulsory elective modules:
- Modules as listed in the appendix
- c* Electives

PASS STANDARD

Art. 17 ¹ The bachelor's degree is passed if:

- a* all assignments pursuant to Articles 13 and 16 have been completed,
- b* all evaluations have been awarded at least a grade of 4.0 or "passed", and
- c* the ECTS credits are deemed applicable in terms of the crediting period in accordance with Article 9.

OVERALL GRADE

Art. 18 ¹ The overall grade for the degree program is determined by § 46 of the Study Regulations.

2. Master's degree program

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Art. 19 ¹ In addition to the general admission requirements for studying at the University of Bern, requirements for admission to the master's degree program are also met.

² The number of places available in the master's degree program is limited. Students who have successfully completed their bachelor's degree program at the University of Bern in the preceding semester are entitled to a place in the master's degree

program. Further details are set out in the Classification Regulations.

³ The following academic qualifications entitle students to admission to the master's degree program:

- a* Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, University of Bern or
- b* Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine UZH or
- c* degrees from foreign veterinary medicine faculties that have been recognized as equivalent by the faculty in general or by the Dean in individual cases.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Art. 20 ¹ The degree program consists of the core study phase plus a special area:

1. Core studies
 - a* Compulsory modules:
 - Modules as listed in the appendix
 - Master's thesis
 - b* Compulsory elective modules:
 - Modules as listed in the appendix
 - External internships
 - c* Electives
2. Special area in accordance with Article 21
 - a* Compulsory elective modules:
 - Modules as listed in the appendix
 - Special area rotation

² The details are set out in the appendices.

SPECIAL AREAS

Art. 21 ¹ The following special areas are available:

- a* Small animals
- b* Horses
- c* Farm animals
- d* Pathobiology
- e* Veterinary Public Health
- f* Biomedical research

² Once a special area has been selected, it cannot be replaced by another one.

³ Evaluations in other courses or compulsory elective modules may be made a condition for the completion of a special area.

⁴ The Dean's Office determines how the registration and allocation to the special areas take place.

AIM OF THE CORE ROTATIONS
AND SPECIAL AREA ROTATIONS

Art. 21a *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* The core and special area rotations are intended to introduce all students to the clinical activities in prescribed academic fields of veterinary medicine. Details are set out in the appendix.

DURATION, REQUIREMENTS,
VACATION

Art. 21b *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* ¹ The core and special area rotations are spread over 17 calendar months in the third, fourth and fifth semester of the master's degree program.

² During the rotation period within the 17 calendar months, 16 weeks are reserved for individual work on the master's thesis and 12 weeks for external internships.

³ The remaining time counts as vacation time.

STANDARD WORKING HOURS

Art. 21c *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* ¹ The standard working time during rotations shall be 50 hours per week.

² Students may participate in night shifts and weekend shifts with the option of time off in lieu.

PLANNING ROTATIONS

Art. 21d *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* All students are allocated rotation places in a given sequence. During the planning period in the second semester of the master's degree program, students have the opportunity to exchange rotations with each other. In doing so, the requirements of the plan of studies must be observed.

COMPENSATION

Art. 21e *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* ¹ There is no entitlement to a salary for rotations.

² Students are not subject to the Ordinance on the Employment Relationship of Interns (Intern Ordinance, PAV) of the Canton of Bern.

EVALUATIONS

Art. 21f *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* Students are assessed continuously during the rotations. Specific evaluations are carried out for this purpose.

ABSENCES

Art. 21g *[Inserted on 07.07.22]* ¹ Absences in core rotations and clinical rotation tracks are only permissible for good cause that cannot be postponed, in particular illness or accident.

² Appropriate evidence (in particular a doctor's certificate) must be submitted for each absence.

³ In the event of justified absences of up to ten percent of the required rotation duration, the employee may waive making up for the rotation.

⁴ Justified absences of up to 50% of the required rotation duration may be made up retrospectively.

⁵ If verified absences exceed 50% of the required rotation duration, the respective rotation must be repeated. The plan of studies determines the retake.

⁶ Absences during external internships are governed by a leaflet on the plan of studies.

MASTER'S THESIS

Art. 22 ¹ The master's thesis is governed by Section 40 of the Study Regulations.

² The master's thesis is a distinct academic paper written independently by the student during their master's degree program. Further details are set out in the "Information sheet for students and supervisors on completing the master's thesis at the Vetsuisse Faculty in Bern and Zurich".

³ Each master's thesis must be accompanied by a learning agreement between the student and their supervisors, setting out the topic and title of the master's thesis as well as details about the timing of the thesis (e.g. submission of a first draft of the thesis, definitive submission deadline, etc.). The submission deadlines set by the faculty remain reserved. The learning agreement must be concluded by the end of the first semester and submitted to the Dean's Office.

⁴ The master's thesis is supervised by full and associate professors, assistant professors, associate professors, lecturers, assistant lecturers with tenure-track contracts, veterinary medicine consultants and postdoctoral researchers. The master's thesis committee (paragraph 7) monitors the quality of the master's theses and acts as an arbitration board in the event of problems.

⁵ In the learning agreement, a co-supervisor is appointed in accordance with paragraph 4 who is also involved in the assessment of the final version of the master's thesis.

⁶ The master's thesis committee consists of three members: one representative from each of the three departments of the campus faculty. It is self-constituting. The master's thesis committee is elected by the campus faculty.

INDEPENDENCE
DECLARATION

Art. 23 The master's thesis must include the following dated and signed declaration at the end of the thesis:

"I hereby declare that I have written this thesis independently and that I have not used any sources other than those indicated. I have marked all passages taken verbatim or in essence from sources as such. I am aware that otherwise, pursuant to Article 36 (1) (r) of the Law of September 5, 1996 on the University, the Senate is entitled to revoke the title conferred on the basis of this thesis."

APPRAISAL AND
GRADING

Art. 24 ¹ The master's thesis must be submitted to the supervisor and co-supervisor within the deadline specified in the learning agreement. If the student fails to meet the deadline, the thesis is awarded a grade of 1.

² The master's thesis is assessed by the supervisor and co-supervisor with a grade in accordance with § 26 (2) of the Study Regulations. They agree on a grade.

³ The master's thesis is credited only if the grade is satisfactory.

⁴ If the grade for the master's thesis is insufficient, the master's thesis may be retaken once. To do this, a new master's thesis must be written on a new topic with different supervisors.

PASS STANDARD

Art. 25 ¹ The master's degree program is passed if:

- a all assignments pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 have been completed,
- b all evaluations have been awarded at least a grade of 4.0 or "passed",
- c the master's thesis has been awarded a grade of at least 4.0, and
- d the ECTS credits are deemed applicable in terms of the crediting period in accordance with Article 9.

OVERALL GRADE

Art. 26 The overall grade for the degree program is determined by § 46 of the Study Regulations.

III. Legal protection

Art. 27 The provisions of the Study Regulations apply.

IV. Final provisions

MODIFICATIONS TO THE
PLAN OF STUDIES

Art. 28 Modifications to the plan of studies are subject to approval by the Vetsuisse Faculty.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Art. 29 This plan of studies enters into force on August 1, 2021.

Place,

On behalf of the Vetsuisse Faculty
The Dean:

Modifications

Entry into force

Amendment of July 8, 2021, entered into force on August 1, 2021

Amendment of July 7, 2022, entered into force on August 1, 2022

This document is a translation and is intended for information purposes only. It is not legally binding. Consequently, in the event of any dispute over the interpretation of an Article, the text of the original German version always prevails.

Appendices

Overview of the Bachelor degree program and evaluations (semesters 1-2)

| Year | Evaluation | Module | ECTS | Subject | Type of evaluation | Semester | Grading | Type of module |
|----------|------------|--|------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1st year | 1.1 | Basic subjects of Natural Sciences | 12 | Chemistry, physics and radiation physics/general radiology | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 1.2 | Principles of morphology I | 6 | Anatomy locomotor system | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 1.3 | Principles of morphology II | 11 | Anatomy General histology and cytology Embryology Comparative morphology | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 1.4 | Functional principles of veterinary medicine I | 16 | General pathology Biochemistry Classic genetics Molecular genetics Physiology Cell and molecular biology | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 1.5 | Animal protection and welfare, animal ethology and husbandry | 6 | Animal protection Animal ethology Animal ethics Basics of herd health and population medicine | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 1.6 | Training of practical skills I | 5 | Introduction to general surgery Introduction to hospital hygiene and safety aspects Introduction to teamwork, communication Handling of different animal species Demonstration of clinical cases | Portfolio | Fall/spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 1.7 | Introduction to scientific work | 1 | Literature research Evidence based medicine | Portfolio | Spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 1.8 | Compulsory elective modules | 2 | Digitalization Sustainability | Depending on the course | Spring | Pass / fail | CE |
| | 1.9 | Elective modules | 1 | Separate list of VSF elective courses or university-wide elective courses at the University of Bern | | According to offering unit | | E |
| | | Total | | 60 | | | | |

Key:

Elective area mode: is regulated within the module

C = Compulsory module

CE = Compulsory elective module

E = Elective module

Overview of the Bachelor degree program and evaluations (semesters 3-4)

| Year | Evaluation | Module | ECTS | Subject | Type of evaluation | Semester | Grading | Type of module |
|--------------|------------|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| 2nd year | 2.1 | Organ-system-centered block: locomotor system | 8 | Clinical and organ-block-related subjects | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 2.2 | Organ-system-centered blocks: Blood, immune organs and laboratory medicine | 5 | Clinical and organ-block-related subjects | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | | Respiratory tract and circulatory system | 11 | | | | | |
| | | Skin | 4 | | | | | |
| | 2.3 | Functional principles of veterinary medicine II | 9 | General pharmacology, toxicology General animal nutrition Biochemistry Physiology Animal husbandry | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 2.4 | Immunology and general infection biology | 7 | General infectiology General pathology Immunology | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 2.5 | Bacteriology | 5 | General and specialized bacteriology | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 2.6 | Training of practical skills II | 7 | General surgery Clinic days, practice days, paraclinic days Communication basis 1 Propaedeutics for various animal species Night and emergency services Skills Lab | Portfolio | Fall/spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 2.7 | Herd health and population medicine I | 1 | Population-relevant animal species (bees, fish, pigs, ruminants, wild animals) | Oral/written individual examination | Spring | Pass / fail | C |
| Total | | | 57 | | | | | |

Key:

Elective area mode: is regulated within the module

C = Compulsory module

E = Elective module

Overview of the Bachelor degree program and evaluations (semesters 5-6)

| Year | Evaluation | Module | ECTS | Subject | Type of evaluation | Semester | Grading | Type of module |
|----------|------------|---|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 3rd year | 3.1 | Organ-system-centered block: Digestive tract Endocrinology, metabolism | 10.5 3.5 | Clinical and organ-block-related subjects | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 3.2 | Organ-system-centered block: salt, water balance Reproduction, mammary gland Nervous system, sense organs | 6 8 7 | Clinical and organ-block-related subjects | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 3.3 | Virology* | 5 | Virology | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 3.4 | Epidemiology and biostatistics* | 3 | Epidemiology Biostatistics | Oral examination | Fall | Pass / fail | C |
| | 3.5 | Food safety* | 3 | Food safety | Oral examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 3.6 | Training of practical skills III | 9 | Anatomy Professional knowledge Clinic days, paraclinic days Communication basis 2 Night and emergency services Propaedeutics for various animal species Skills Lab | OSPE*** | Spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 3.7 | Herd health and population medicine II | 1 | Population-relevant animal species (bees, fish, pigs, ruminants, wild animals) | Oral/written individual examination | Spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 3.8 | Parasitology** | 5 | Parasitology | Oral examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 3.9 | Elective modules* | 2 | Separate list of VSF elective courses or university-wide elective courses at the University of Bern | | According to offering unit | | E |
| | | Total | | 63 | | | | |

Key:

* Modules that may already be started in the 2nd year

**Lecture begins with equivalent to 2 ETCS in 4th semester

***OSPE – Objective structured pre-clinical exam

C = Compulsory module

E = Elective module

Overview of the Master degree program and evaluations (Master semesters 1-2)

| Year | Evaluation | Module | ECTS | Subject | Type of evaluation | Semester | Grading | Type of module |
|----------|------------|--|------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| 4th year | 4.1 | Specific topics in clinical sciences | 9 | Anesthesia Drug prescription Pets Clinical oncology Clinical pharmacology and toxicology Complementary medicine Specialized animal nutrition | Written individual examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 4.2 | Presenting problems (key symptoms)* | 18 | Acute abdomen Diarrhea, vomiting Cough, dyspnea Lameness, ataxia Poor performance, seizures Polyuria, polydipsia, anuria Pruritus, alopecia Shock Clinical infectiology, immunology & immunoprophylaxis | Written individual examination | Spring | Grade | C |
| | 4.3 | Elective track | 12 | Biomedical research track Small animal medicine track Farm animal medicine track Pathobiology track Equine medicine track Veterinary Public Health track | Portfolio | Spring | Pass / fail | CE |
| | 4.4 | Veterinary Public Health, epizootic diseases, animal welfare | 5 | Animal disease control Animal welfare law | Oral examination | Fall | Grade | C |
| | 4.5 | Herd health and population medicine II | 4 | Population-relevant animal species (poultry, pigs, ruminants and other animal species) | Oral/written individual examination | Fall | Pass / fail | C |
| | 4.6 | Training of practical skills IV | 7 | Bacteriology internship Clinical days, practical days Communication 3 Night and emergency services Parasitology internship Pathology internship | Portfolio | Fall/spring | Pass / fail | C |
| | 4.7 | Compulsory elective modules | 4 | Separate list of VSF elective courses | Depending on the course | | Pass / fail | CE |
| | 4.8 | Elective modules | 1 | Separate list of VSF elective courses or university-wide elective courses at the University of Bern | | | According to offering unit | E |
| | | Total | | 60 | | | | |

Key:

C = Compulsory module

CE = Compulsory elective module

E = Elective module

* Non-exhaustive list

Overview of the Master degree program and evaluations (Master semesters 3-5)

| Year | Evaluation | Module | ECTS | Subject | Type of evaluation | Grading | Type of module |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------|---|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 5th - 5.5th year | 5.1 | Core rotation* 1 | 9 | | Oral examination | | C |
| | 5.2 | Core rotation* 2 | 9 | Small animals, horses, farm animals, pathology | Oral examination | Pass / fail | C |
| | 5.3 | Core rotation* 3 | 9 | | Oral examination | | C |
| | 5.4 | Supraspecies rotation | 7 | Anesthesiology, dermatology, neurology, radiology | Portfolio | Pass / fail | C |
| | 5.5 | Clinical rotation track** | 20 | Small animals, horses, farm animals, pathology, VPH, biomedical research | Oral examination | Pass / fail | CE |
| | 5.6 | External internships | 15 | | Portfolio | Pass / fail | CE |
| | 5.7 | Master's thesis | 20 | Master's thesis Laboratory animals Data collection, analysis, scientific work | Written/oral presentation | Grade | C |
| | 5.8 | Professional knowledge | 1 | Business management, economics, legislation | Portfolio | Pass / fail | C |
| | Total | | | 90 | | | |

Key:

* Core rotation includes the subjects that are not selected as clinical rotation track

** Rotation tracks VPH and biomedical research include the core pathology rotation

C = Compulsory module

CE = Compulsory elective module