

Certificate Programs

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine offers five elective Certificate Programs to current DVM students:

Aquatic Animal Health
Food Animal
Shelter Medicine
Veterinary Business Management

Each certificate program has unique requirements and standards for admission, and all are recognized at graduation. These certificates allow UF DVM students to pursue a more in depth, focused education with the purpose of providing more experience for these specific fields after graduation.

Aquatic Animal Health

Aquatic animal medicine is a rapidly expanding specialty of veterinary medicine within the American College of Zoological Medicine. Aquatic animal medicine emerged as a veterinary discipline in 1968 when the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine had its organizational meeting in Menlo Park, California. Since then the discipline has expanded considerably and today includes aspects of food supply veterinary medicine through aquaculture practice, zoological medicine with aquatic display animals, companion animal and wildlife medicine. The certificate program is a broad educational program that gives veterinary students a unique opportunity to nurture their interest in this exciting and diverse field. This certificate program is the first of its kind and faculty members are anxious to work with motivated students to help them meet their career goals.



Food Animal

A Certificate in Food Animal Veterinary Medicine is offered to encourage the development of students capable of providing professional service to the area of food animal medicine. Students participating in the certificate program are mentored through didactic, clinical and extracurricular activities that provide a strong entry level training in food supply veterinary medicine. The certificate will identify the new graduate veterinarian as capable and ready for an entry level position in a food animal practice or a food systems profession who will be prepared to provide leadership in the area of food systems veterinary medicine. This process will also pave the way for specialty training in an internship or residency program and/or advanced training in a MS or PhD program.



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Shelter Medicine

Nationally, there is a shortage of veterinarians adequately trained in the clinical, managerial, and legal issues in shelter medicine as well as high-quality high-volume spay/neuter. This is a transitional time for the animal welfare field as growing demand for animal-friendly solutions is challenging traditional sheltering paradigms, and veterinarians are needed to lead this transition. The Shelter Medicine Program offers a broad range of training opportunities in this emerging specialization. Certificate students will develop strong skills in companion animal group health and sterilization. Students exposed to the sheltering system and the problems of animal homelessness will graduate with a clear understanding of the urgency of the problem and how they, as veterinary professionals, are positioned to provide key leadership to benefit shelters. Even students who do not pursue a career in shelter medicine are likely to be supportive of their colleagues or help in other ways through private practices.

Veterinary Business Management

The College of Veterinary Medicine offers a Veterinary Business Management Certificate to further the education of veterinary students with regards to business and personal finance, practice ownership, business and employee management and career path preparation. This certificate is designed to prepare veterinary students to become business owners. Through courses and clinical experiences students will obtain significant understanding of accounting, finances, human resources, operation management, marketing and communication skills.

