

March 18, 2020

Dear PVM Faculty,

Thank you to all of you for being flexible, creative and innovative in determining how to deliver your instruction online for the rest of the semester. We are plowing new ground.

As you should have seen in the messages sent to the DVM and VN students yesterday (you were copied), all lecture and laboratory courses must be converted to online delivery for the remainder of this semester. Final exams will be delivered online as well. The only in-person instruction that will continue is clinical rotations for 4<sup>th</sup> year DVM students and 3<sup>rd</sup> year VN students. Here is additional guidance. Please feel free to reach out to Jim, Pete or me if you want to discuss ideas for delivering your content online.

### Online Instruction

- Asynchronous instruction should be used as much as possible. That means that you record the lecture and the students have access to it sometime later.
- You may still give your lecture at the regularly scheduled time and record it using BoilerCast.
  - Report at the scheduled time and room for your class.
  - Wear the microphone.
  - Use the computer for your PowerPoint.
  - Students may not be in the lecture room when you give the lecture according to the Office of the Provost.
  - The BoilerCast recording must be processed before it will be available to the students. This could take from a couple hours up to 24 hours.
- You may also record your lecture using Camtasia, Kaltura, or WebEx. See the instructions sent by PVMIT and the TLT web site: <https://www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/teaching-remotely/>
- WebEx should not be used to present standard lectures to a class of students. WebEx should be reserved for sessions in which discussion with the instructor is an essential part of the instruction.
- Use your learning objectives to help you be creative in developing learning materials in a different way to accomplish similar objectives. This is particularly challenging for laboratories. In most cases, students will not be able to perform the skills required in the course but they could watch videos of the skills being performed and critique them. This would require knowledge of the procedure and critical thinking.
- **Student Engagement:** With students learning remotely, it is important to promote a sense of engagement through frequent communications to the students. You can utilize the Discussion Board feature in Blackboard or use other programs such as Slack or GroupMe. We want to avoid a sense of isolation and encourage discussion even if it has to be at a distance.
- **We are encouraged by the Office of the Provost to use our first class after spring break as a “syllabus day” to explain the changes in the course that will occur to finish the semester remotely.**

## Online Exams

- ExamSoft and Blackboard can both be used for DVM student testing and Blackboard can be used for VN student testing. ExamSoft requires internet connection for uploading/downloading the exam but not during the exam. Blackboard requires internet connectivity throughout. ExamSoft automatically locks down the student's computer so they cannot open any other programs while they are taking a secure exam. You can also give non-secure exams that allow them to access other programs and browsers during their exam. Additional software has to be implemented to lockdown Blackboard exams.
- If you have not used ExamSoft, PVM-IT can help you get started. The course has to be linked to ExamSoft in order to use it. Please send an email to PVM-IT requesting the use of ExamSoft if you are not currently using it.
- Several faculty have been using ExamSoft and are available to help you create questions and exams if PVM-IT is overwhelmed. Larry Adams and I are both available.
- We have looked into proctoring services and have decided that they are not viable options for us. The cost is very high and we do not think they will provide the extent of monitoring that we desire. This is consistent with the university's recommendation to not pursue proctoring services and instead convert exams to open-book exams or rely on an honors system. Our expectations of integrity and honesty have been communicated to the students.
- DVM semester exams have been moved to 12:30 pm EDT on their scheduled date to accommodate students in multiple time zones. Student Services will send out updated calendar events for students.
- Final exam start times for DVM students have been rescheduled to accommodate students in multiple time zones. Final exams for DVM students will begin at either 11:00 am EDT or 4:00 pm EDT. An updated DVM final exam schedule will be released this week and these updated times are available on the "PVMEvents" Outlook-based calendar.
- All students are expected to start the exam at the scheduled time and upload within 15 minutes of completion. PVM-IT staff will be available to provide help to any students who have trouble opening the exam. Instructions will come from PVM-IT regarding how students should contact them.
- Online exams will be timed and students with accommodations will have their appropriate accommodation in the system as long as we have been notified of their accommodation. Exams will automatically close at the end of the exam time.
- Students are allowed to have a sheet of scrap paper during the exam for their use to write out thoughts or ideas. The scrap paper should be shredded following the exam.
- Students will not be able to ask questions during exams. Please proof your exams carefully and consider asking another faculty member or TA to read the questions for clarity before the exam is posted.

## Faculty Advisors

- For those of you who are faculty advisors, second year DVM students will need to select their electives for semester 5. You need to be available to speak with them via phone or another means. Communication regarding fall semester enrollment will be sent out to students on Monday and they are being instructed to reach out to their advisor for career and curriculum advice.
- You will receive a DocuSign-based document from your advisee indicating any electives they have requested. This online document replaces the paper form used in the past when students met with advisors. Please monitor your inbox for this email as your online signature is needed before your advisee can be enrolled in fall courses.
- We will be having an orientation session to semester 5 and off-campus experiences for the second year class on April 1, 2020 via WebEx.
- You will not be receiving PIN numbers for your advisees for this registration period because the Student Services staff will register the students.

## Syllabus Addendum

- Please be sure to include specific changes to exams, assignments, and grading in the Syllabus Addendum. It needs to be transparent how the students will be assessed.
- Addendums should be posted on Blackboard by Sunday, March 22, 2020 and the final version emailed to Jim ([jweisman@purdue.edu](mailto:jweisman@purdue.edu)) so they can be uploaded to the University's syllabus repository.

## Clinical Rotations

- At this time, we are allowing students to complete their clinical rotations in the veterinary hospital but this could change quickly.
- **It is essential that individuals who are ill not come into the hospital.** Ill individuals should stay home and contact their healthcare provider. According to information on Purdue's COVID-19 web site, individuals who are sick should not report to work until they are symptom-free and have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. If there is reason to believe that an individual may have COVID-19, they should consult a medical professional.
- We want to reduce interpersonal contact as much as possible by social distancing. However, when you are working on an animal with another person, there often cannot be much distance between people.
- As the caseload is reduced, the number of cases per student, and thus the learning experiences, may be reduced. We should try to have DVM students focus on the competencies they need to graduate as a competent veterinarian. The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) has published the Competency-based Veterinary Education (CBVE) Framework and 8 core **Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)** that all DVM students should be able to perform competently at graduation. These EPAs are workplace-based activities that integrate multiple competencies and can be applied to any species.

Here are the **8 core EPAs for all veterinary students:**

1. Gather a history, perform an examination, and create a prioritized differential diagnosis list
2. Develop a diagnostic plan and interpret results
3. Develop and implement a management/treatment plan
4. Recognize a patient requiring urgent or emergent care and initiate evaluation and management
5. Formulate relevant questions and retrieve evidence to advance care
6. Perform a common surgical procedure on a stable patient, including pre-operative and post-operative management
7. Perform general anesthesia and recovery of a stable patient including monitoring and support
8. Formulate recommendations for preventive healthcare

Booklets describing each of these EPAs and their corresponding competencies are available on the AAVMC website:

<https://www.aavmc.org/additional-pages/competencybasedveterinaryeducation.aspx>

These EPAs are commonly performed in many of our clinical rotations and are the activities in which the DVM students should be spending the most time to maximize their learning.

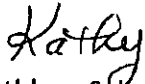
- **Rounds** are excellent learning experiences.
  - Protecting time each day for rounds will ensure rich learning experiences. If the caseload is low enough, twice daily rounds is preferable, possibly led by different instructors.
  - We should not have rounds in our standard rounds areas because it is not possible to maintain social distancing in these small spaces. As Dr. Lowery's message said, either a large classroom should be utilized where 6 feet can be maintained between people or rounds should be conducted remotely using WebEx.

- Each service should be planning how to deliver your rotation online if we are forced to discontinue clinical teaching. Some ideas for online delivery include:
  - Virtual rounds
  - Clinical case work-ups (known/historic or contemporary)
  - SOAPS or case reviews
  - Use of video-recorded clinical encounters

#### **End of the Year Events**

- The White Coat Ceremony has been postponed. Details will follow once they are determined.
- The Graduation Gala is cancelled.
- Commencement and the Oath Ceremony have been cancelled in their routine form, but we are investigating other possibilities. Information will be released at a later date.

Sincerely,



S. Kathleen Sansbury, DVM, MS, DACVS  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs  
Professor, Small Animal Surgery