VDPAM Preceptorships
General Syllabus

Course Instructors:
VDPAM 420 Preceptorship in Veterinary Medical Practice
  420A: Mixed Animal Practice with Food Animal Emphasis
    Dr. James Thompson 294-1500 jthompsn@iastate.edu
  420B: General Mixed Animal Practice
    Dr. Jennifer Schleining 294-1500 jschlein@iastate.edu
  420C: Government Agency or Food Processing Company
    Dr. Alex Ramirez 294-7463 ramirza@iastate.edu
VDPAM 424 Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology: Dr. Eric Burrough 294-0190 burrough@iastate.edu
VDPAM 466 Animal Behavior and Welfare: Dr. Suzanne Millman 294-2817 smillman@iastate.edu
VDPAM 479 Swine: Dr. Locke Karriker, 294-2283, karriker@iastate.edu
VDPAM 482 Beef: Dr. Terry Engelken 294-2192 engelken@iastate.edu
VDPAM 485 Dairy: Dr. Pat Gorden 294-3096 pgorden@iastate.edu

Deliverables for students
- Unique, highly relevant, hands-on veterinary experience for participating students
- Development of specific skill sets
- Documented experience that is highly valued by future employers
- Enhanced cultural and professional awareness for participating students through interaction with active practitioners
- Exposure to diverse practice and livestock production environments

Learning Objectives - After completion of a VDPAM preceptorship, students will be able to:
- Perform clinically relevant, species specific, veterinary procedures specific to the chosen preceptorship.
- Describe general daily professional activities of the mentor and classify them as technical veterinary, business management, personnel management, or public service activities.
- Complete a detailed case report in the specified format in accordance with the instructions provided by the preceptorship course instructor-in-charge. Describe the impact of the experience on future career objectives.

Expectations
- These courses incorporate a practitioner to mentor your activities and travel to their practice environment rather than relying on a university instructor and hospital case load to facilitate information delivery and practical application of concepts you have learned during your VM1-3 education. This improves the quality and quantity of your existing experience by adding further practical experiences.
- During the preceptorship, you will seek out, acquire, test your knowledge or ability in, and document clinical skills.
- Attendance during the business hours of the work week as defined by the Mentor is mandatory.
• There is no opportunity to make up sessions or elements of preceptorships.
• Students are responsible for notifying both the mentor and course instructor-in-charge of absences that can not be avoided prior to the absence. Absence from the course does not relieve the student of completing the minimum course activities for a grade.
• Withdrawal from a preceptorship with less than 1 month prior notice to the mentor and course instructor-in-charge will result in a failing grade.
• Active attention and participation in discussion will dramatically improve your experience, understanding of concepts, and final grade.
• The University Policy on class cancellation for weather will be followed.
• The Student Honor Code applies to these preceptorships. Any suspicion of cheating will result in an “incomplete” grade for all involved until a complete investigation can be conducted. Confirmed cases will be dealt with as harshly as University Policy allows.
• In most instances, you will be handling real client information and cases. Respect client confidentiality and realize that even the rumor of health issues can adversely impact profitability, employee morale, and regulatory compliance for that producer. Additionally, discussing client specifics outside of the preceptorship reflects poorly on your professionalism and Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine. Any suspicion of violation of confidentiality policies will result in an “incomplete” grade for all involved until a complete investigation can be conducted.
• There is no required textbook for these preceptorships. No final exam will be conducted.
• All requirements must be completed before a grade will be assigned for the course. Required elements include a Case Report written in scientific journal manuscript form (i.e. JAVMA), PxDx Skills Log, Mentor Evaluation, Clinic Evaluation, and Exit Interview with Course Instructor.
• A final exit interview will be conducted by the Course Instructor-in-charge once all other assignments are submitted. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule and complete this exit interview within 4 weeks of completing the preceptorship. This is a required activity.
• An evaluation of the student by the preceptorship mentor will be solicited by the course instructor-in-charge and this evaluation will be part of the final grade for the course.
• Students must comply with all biosecurity requirements at sites visited.
• You are responsible for your own safety. If you are concerned that circumstances present an unnecessary risk, please ask the mentor for guidance on minimizing risk before continuing an activity. If you are still concerned for your safety, you may choose to discontinue participation and consult with the course instructor-in-charge on how to handle the situation.
• You will be working on and observing active production farms. You are present at the Mentor’s discretion. Please respect their objectives, be courteous, and helpful at all times. Follow all safety instructions and ask for clarification when you do not understand how to complete a task or activity.
• The following criteria are grounds for immediate dismissal from a preceptorship course, assignment of an unsatisfactory or failing grade, and possible criminal prosecution:
  o Violation of safety procedures outlined by the Mentor.
  o Violation of farm biosecurity requirements.
- Behavior defined as “unprofessional” or “dishonorable” conduct in any state’s Veterinary Practice Act.
- Any violation of the Iowa Veterinary Practice Act.
- Any violation of the ISU CVM Student Honor Code.
- Any mistreatment/abuse of animals.
- Any activity that threatens the livelihood of the Mentor or their clients.

**Enrollment**

Complete the [VDPAM Preceptorship Application](http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/students) (found at [http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/students](http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/students)).

Each preceptorship can be for 1-6 credits (1 credit for every week). Registering for one week may be particularly helpful for students enrolling in a one week GPVEC course.

Completed applications should be submitted to Erica Hellmich at ericah@iastate.edu, her mailbox in 2412 Lloyd Vet Med, or personally to her office in the Field Services Building **at least 30 days before the start of the preceptorship**.

Students are required to complete an application for every preceptorship the student participates in for credit.

**Mentor Selection**

- Students should schedule a meeting with the appropriate course instructor-in-charge to clarify objectives, obtain suggestions for an appropriate location and review course expectations **BEFORE THEY CONTACT A POTENTIAL MENTOR**. Failing to so could result in the student having to call the mentor back and explain that the experience was not approved.
- All practices must be pre-approved before attendance for the student to receive credit for the preceptorship.
- Students need to contact the potential mentor to confirm the mentor is willing to schedule a preceptorship for the proposed dates and reviews expectations after confirming the destination with the course instructor-in-charge.

**Assignments**

- Post-preceptorship Skills Assignment: Your skills and procedures log should be tracked in E*Value using the PxDx function daily during your preceptorship. On completion of your experience, run a procedure report and submit on Blackboard.
- Case Report: The student should identify an interesting case early in the preceptorship focused on production animal species. This case should be used as the basis of a case report written in scientific journal format (i.e. JAVMA) including the signalment, history, diagnostic work up, treatment(s), case outcome, and discussion including a literature review.
- Clinic evaluation: A link to the clinic evaluation will be emailed to the student during the preceptorship.
- Mentor evaluation letter: The mentor needs to complete Mentor Evaluation PDF (found on Blackboard) and e-mail or mail evaluation to the instructor-in-charge.
- Post preceptorship meeting with course instructor-in-charge: Once the mentor evaluation letter is received, the student meets with the course instructor-in-charge for a brief exit interview to discuss evaluations, the student’s experience, and provide feedback to the student.
All assignments will be due 4 weeks after your preceptorship.

For each preceptorship the student participates in for credit all assignments must be completed. Within the Blackboard course there are multiple modules; Preceptorship 1, Preceptorship 2 and so on. On the student’s first preceptorship in a course, complete the preceptorship 1 module. If student goes on another preceptorship in the same course, complete the preceptorship 2 module, etc.

**Academic Dishonesty and the Honor Code**
Student conduct follows Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. The instructor/instructor-in-charge observing academic dishonesty reports the student suspected of academic dishonesty to the CVM Office of Academic and Student Affairs Director of Student Programs and/or Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs who reports the alleged violation to the Dean of Students Office. The violation also is submitted to the ISU CVM Honor Board. Additional campus-wide policies regarding academic misconduct are found at: [http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html).

**Disability Accommodation**
Individuals with physical or mental impairments who are otherwise qualified to pursue their studies may request reasonable accommodations to enable them to continue their studies. For more information, see: [http://www.eoc.iastate.edu/discrimination/disability](http://www.eoc.iastate.edu/discrimination/disability).

**Harassment and Discrimination**
Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment. For more information, or if you believe you are a victim of discrimination or harassment, please visit the following URL for additional guidance: [http://policy.iastate.edu/policy/discrimination/](http://policy.iastate.edu/policy/discrimination/).

**Religious, Civic, and Military Accommodations**
There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices, or required civic or military duty. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices [http://www.eoc.iastate.edu/discrimination/religious](http://www.eoc.iastate.edu/discrimination/religious)
Civic [http://www.dso.iastate.edu/sa/juryduty](http://www.dso.iastate.edu/sa/juryduty)
Military [http://www.veterans.iastate.edu/active-duty#leave](http://www.veterans.iastate.edu/active-duty#leave)

**Unforeseen Circumstances and Adaptation of the Syllabus**
Note: Information in the syllabus is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and posted on the course site on Blackboard Learn or the appropriate Learning Management System.