



**ST. MATTHEW'S
UNIVERSITY**



ST. MATTHEW'S UNIVERSITY

School of Veterinary Medicine Official Catalog

2024-2026



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**Born to be
a Veterinarian**



Welcome to St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine (SMUSVM)

We are very happy that you chose SMUSVM to pursue your veterinary education. You can rest assured that you have made the right choice. We are as committed to your dreams as you are and we do everything we can to help you reach your goal of becoming a successful veterinarian.

Here at SMUSVM, you will find dedicated, highly credentialed faculty and staff who are always willing to help you meet your educational goals. We maintain intentionally small class sizes so that you receive individualized support and more access to our expert faculty. Faculty advisors and student mentors are assigned to incoming students, and counseling and tutoring services are readily available. Our faculty and administration have teaching and leadership experience at a broad range of top North American veterinary colleges. Our close contact with the School of Medicine here at St. Matthew's University provides opportunities for collaborative seminars, research and teaching.

Grand Cayman offers a wonderful setting for the study of veterinary medicine. The island has a rich variety of companion animals, large animals and wildlife. Our Clinical Teaching Facility, adjacent to the Cayman Department of Agriculture, offers many opportunities for clinical training. Students travel to farms, learn large animal handling techniques, and expand their knowledge and skills in diagnostic and treatment procedures. In addition to being a breathtakingly beautiful location, Grand Cayman is one of the safest and most modern islands in the Caribbean. After spending two years and four months studying with us on Grand Cayman, you will move on to a year of clinical instruction at one of our premier affiliated veterinary schools in the United States or Canada.

Our curriculum emphasizes a strong work ethic, being a team player, having compassion for the animals, and a continuing curiosity for the developing science of veterinary medicine. We look forward to assisting you as you pursue your dream of becoming a successful practicing veterinarian.

Sincerely yours,



DR. BRENDAN LEE
DVM, MSc, MPH, PhD, DACVPM
**EXECUTIVE DEAN | PROFESSOR
OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY**

Our *Mission*

Since 2005, hundreds of students have obtained their DVM degrees from SMUSVM. Our graduates have earned licensure in nearly every state in the U.S., Canada and numerous other countries. Our students achieve exceptional scholastic success, with U.S. licensing examination pass rates comparable to U.S. schools and well above the average of other non-U.S. schools.

At the core of our mission is a commitment to the success of our students. Our aim is to provide qualified students from around the globe with the best veterinary training available.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING OUR MISSION BY:

- Providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to practice veterinary medicine in the 21st century.
- Helping students acquire the judgment and confidence necessary to become competent veterinarians.
- Motivating students to pursue knowledge outside the classroom, both during their tenure at SMUSVM and throughout life.
- Creating an environment in which students and faculty interact with each other, their patients and the community with compassion and integrity.
- Engaging students in the understanding and active practice of research. This furthers students’ knowledge of the scientific processes and increases their appreciation of the balance between research and the artful practice of veterinary medicine.

The SMUSVM *Difference*

Proven Quality of Education

St. Matthew’s University School of Veterinary Medicine (SMUSVM) offers students an excellent education that leads to long-term success in veterinary medicine. Our exceptional DVM program delivers:

RECOGNITION

Earned Affiliate Membership in the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Achieved listing with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

PASS RATES

North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) pass rates near parity with students from U.S. veterinary schools and well above the average level of students from other non-U.S. schools.

LICENSING

Fully chartered by the Cayman Islands Government.

FACULTY

Faculty and administration with teaching and leadership experience at a broad range of top North American veterinary colleges.

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

Premier clinical training sites at top U.S. and Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine.

Commitment to Success

At SMUSVM, we are as committed to your dreams as you are. Throughout your time with us, we will do everything we can to ensure your success by supporting all aspects of your education and student-life.

INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION

With the smallest class sizes of any veterinary school in North America, you will have an unmatched level of faculty support and attention.

FOCUS ON TEACHING

Dedicated, talented faculty whose time commitments are centered on teaching and mentoring.

STUDENT MENTORS

Student mentors understand the challenges of adjusting to life in veterinary school and are eager to see you succeed.

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE

Providing access to veterinary medical education with affordable tuition.

ACCELERATED SCHEDULE

Complete your Basic Sciences education on Grand Cayman in just 28 months, and then return to the U.S. or Canada for clinical training, with the ability to complete vet school in just over three years.



Top Location and Facilities

Grand Cayman is not only a beautiful location for our campus, it is also one of the safest and most modern islands in the Caribbean.

St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine offers:

PRE-CLINICAL TRAINING

Beginning in your very first semester, you will be exposed to clinical training opportunities at our multi-million dollar Clinical Teaching Facility, as well as on field visits around Grand Cayman.

ADVANCED INFRASTRUCTURE

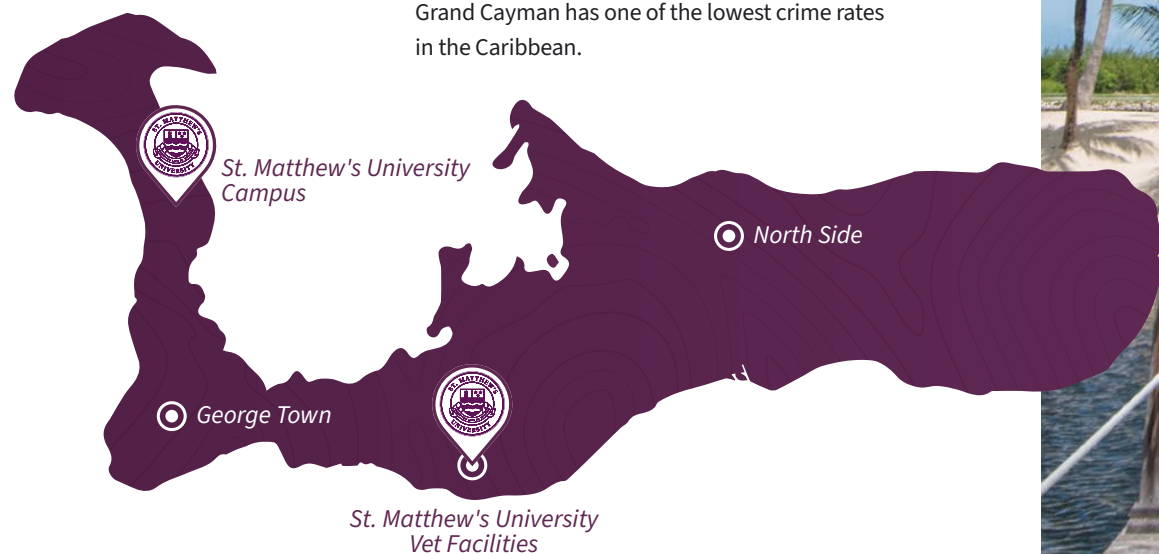
As one of the largest financial centers in the world and with a thriving tourist industry, Grand Cayman has a highly developed infrastructure comparable to the U.S.

LIFESTYLE

The Cayman Islands enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Grand Cayman has hundreds of restaurants, scores of banks, world-class hotels and many opportunities for diving, horseback riding and other recreational activities.

SAFETY

Grand Cayman has one of the lowest crime rates in the Caribbean.



People from more than 100 countries live and work in this British Overseas Territory, creating a lively and unique blend of cultures.

HEALTHCARE

The Cayman Islands has a world class health care system that includes three state-of-the-art hospitals, and boasts one of the highest physician-to-population ratios in the Caribbean.

CULTURE

As part of the British West Indies, the Cayman Islands is an English-speaking country that maintains its rich Caribbean culture and charm.

CONVENIENCE

Grand Cayman is less than an hour's flight from Miami, and also has direct flights from Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte, Houston, New York, Tampa, Toronto, Dallas and other international locations.

CAMPUS

Our modern, state-of-the-art Grand Cayman campus facilities include wireless technology that is available throughout bright, air-conditioned classrooms, labs, the library and student lounges.

HOUSING

Students may live in inviting residence suites with modern amenities, internet service, and easy access to the famous Seven Mile Beach.

Credentials

- The Government of the Cayman Islands, B.W.I. has fully chartered the School of Veterinary Medicine at St. Matthew's University.
- The School is an Affiliate Member of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.
- Graduates can pursue licensure to practice in the United States, Canada and in many other countries by either of two routes: the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) or the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, which uses the PAVE exam, followed by the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE).



The Cayman *Islands*

Cayman Life

Within the vibrant blue waters of the Caribbean is Grand Cayman, one of the three Cayman Islands. Not only does Grand Cayman offer pristine beaches and world-class diving, it boasts numerous attractions, shopping opportunities and locations to explore, including the capital city of George Town. As the largest of the three islands, Grand Cayman offers many familiar amenities and modern conveniences, including dining, transportation, entertainment and health care.

Only 480 miles from Miami, Florida, 50 miles south of Cuba, and 180 miles northwest of Jamaica, the island is easily accessible. There are at least 55 flights per week entering Grand Cayman and 28 from Miami alone. Major carriers such as Cayman Airways, American Airlines, Jet Blue, United, Delta, Southwest, WestJet and Air Canada offer direct flights from major cities, including Chicago, Toronto, New York, Charlotte, Atlanta, Houston, Tampa and London.

The Cayman Islands' remarkable success as a financial center and tourist destination has transformed the nation into a dynamic society that has every modern convenience but still retains the charm and vibrancy of the Caribbean. People from more than 100 countries live and work in this British Overseas Territory, creating a lively and unique blend of cultures.

Everything about this exquisite island paradise is worth experiencing and celebrating, including the hospitality of the local community, rich culture, superb weather, stunning beaches and scenery, great restaurants, exciting nightlife and so much more!

As an integral part of this exceptional community, SMUSVM offers students a quality of life that few universities in any part of the world can match.

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

- Provide a world-class health care system with one of the highest physicians-to-population ratios in the Caribbean.
- Enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.
- Offer stability, a strong tourism trade, a safe community, and highly developed technology and health care resources.
- Have one of the lowest crime rates in the Caribbean and a lower crime rate than the U.S.

DINING

Cayman is a culinary playground for chefs and a paradise for people who appreciate excellent food. From haute cuisine, to casual waterfront bars and restaurants, to Jamaican style “Jerk” chicken and pork at roadside stands across the island, there is something for everyone. Diners can choose from traditional Caymanian, Mediterranean, American, Indian, Chinese, Thai and Tex Mex restaurants, or even familiar franchises like Burger King, Wendy’s, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Domino’s Pizza. Other choices range from 5-star sushi to pasta alfresco served by serenading Italian waiters. How about afternoon tea at the Ritz? The Ritz Carlton, Cayman serves an elegant tea with all the trimmings in the Silver Palm Lounge every afternoon (pre-booking highly recommended). Cravings for local food, such as turtle stew, fish rundown and stewed conch can be satisfied at Caymanian hot-spots like Welly’s Cool Spot, Champion House and Corita’s Copper Kettle.

DIVING

Some of the most vibrant coral reef systems in the world exist in Cayman waters, which offer wonderful opportunities to scuba dive, snorkel and swim in tropical seas that are warm year round. Since the main campus and residence halls are just steps away from the famous Seven Mile Beach, students can literally walk out of their class and across the street for a quick swim, snorkel, sunset volleyball game or even to study on the beach.

The calm waters and 200-foot visibility underwater make the Cayman Islands an ideal place to build experience and confidence while scuba diving and snorkeling. Divers and snorkelers can swim with the friendly rays at Stingray City, experience the magic of swimming among a school of Yellowtail fish or get up close with the various species of turtles, parrotfish, lobsters, eels, sea urchins and squid that populate the famous coral reefs.

As a premier diving destination, Cayman offers a wide choice of local dive operators that offer beginner and advanced scuba courses, as well as affordable dive trips for certified divers. For those with hectic schedules or divers who want to avoid a crowded dive boat, there are plenty of gorgeous dive sites that are an easy swim from shore.

Please be sure to observe best safety practices when exploring dive sites independently.

LEISURE & RECREATION

Along with the world class diving, Cayman has a plethora of other activities and points of interest. The Cayman Islands National Museum, which overlooks George Town harbor, houses natural and cultural histories. Just like at home, Camana Bay Cinema offers a state of the art, six screen, stadium seating cinema. With over 33 sporting associations, you are bound to find a league that’s right for you—whether it’s baseball, basketball, flag football, ball hockey, cricket, cycling or soccer. There are also multiple gyms on the island, as well as endless water sports, including swimming, sailing and kayaking.

Hotels and restaurants, such as the Wharf, Marriott and Ritz Carlton, are sparking off new trends with themed nights on a regular basis, such as disco or smooth latin beats by the pool. For a more casual experience, numerous bars and pubs dotting the island offer a cold drink while watching the sun set over the ocean or their favorite sport on TV.

CLIMATE

The weather on Grand Cayman is pleasant year round with temperatures ranging from 70° to the mid 80°s. The rainy season usually lasts from May to November; however, the rains are usually brief and the sun soon returns. Cayman does have a winter, from December to April, which is when there is infrequent rain and the cool breezes return. Hurricane season runs from June to November and Cayman is well prepared. Hurricane information packs are available from Hazard Management Cayman Islands by visiting caymanprepared.gov.ky

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

State-of-the-art telecommunications services are offered on the island. These services include local and long distance calling, mobile phones, faxing, cable and internet. Service is comparable to that found in the U.S. The main providers are Flow, Digicel, Logic and C3 Communicatons. All Cayman mobile phone service providers use GSM technology. It would be best to consult with your existing provider to ensure that your mobile phone is compatible.

As a guideline, CDMA is the technology used by Verizon and Sprint in the U.S., and Telus and Bell in Canada. GSM is the technology used by Vodafone, O2 and Orange in Europe, T-Mobile in the U.S., and Rogers Wireless and Microcell in Canada.

For more telecommunication information, please visit caymannewresident.com

HEALTH CARE

Offering both state and private health care facilities, Cayman has an excellent health care system. A wide range of specialists, including visiting doctors from the U.S. and elsewhere, operate from private clinics. Grand Cayman is well served by private dentists and optometrists. There are also three hospitals on the island, Health City Cayman Islands, Doctors’ Hospital (formerly Chrissie Tomlinson) and George Town Hospital, as well as numerous pharmacies. Many pharmacies have multiple branches, and both Foster’s Food Fair and Kirk Supermarket have in-store pharmacies, which are open 12 hours a day.

For a list of local health care contacts, please visit caymanresident.com





CURRENCY

Although the U.S. dollar is not the official currency of the Cayman Islands, it is widely accepted on the island, as are money orders and credit cards. Many merchants quote their prices in both Cayman Island dollars and U.S. dollars, and you can pay in either currency. If you pay in U.S. dollars, you will likely receive your change in Cayman dollars.

BANKING

As one of the largest financial centers in the world, banking options in Cayman are extensive. Butterfield Bank, Cayman National Bank, Proven Bank, FirstCaribbean International Bank, Scotiabank and Royal Bank of Canada offer electronic and online banking.

MOVING WITH PETS

Pets are allowed to be brought to Cayman. An import permit or valid animal passport issued by the Department of Agriculture and an official health certificate issued by a government employed or accredited veterinary inspector in the country of origin is required for the importation of dogs and cats.

For further information, please visit the Chamber of Commerce at doa.gov.ky/service/import-and-export-services

TRANSPORTATION

There are many options for navigating the island. People from all the major European countries, most major English-speaking countries (including the United States, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and South Africa), and the following Caribbean countries — Jamaica, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago — are entitled to obtain a Cayman driving license without having to take any further tests. If in doubt, call the Licensing Department at 345-945-8344 or visit dvd.gov.ky

You must apply for a Cayman license within three months of arriving. Please remember, driving is on the left side of the road like in the U.K. Cayman also offers rentals, leasing and has numerous dealerships for purchasing a vehicle. The island also has a wonderful bus system with seven bus routes, and the buses each have a distinctive colored circle on the front and rear with a route number in the middle. Residents also have the option of having their vehicles imported onto the island.

Please visit New Resident for further details:
caymanresident.com/move/shipping-to-cayman/import-duty



SCHOOLS

The Caymanian school system is based upon the English learning system. Cayman offers primary schools in each district for children 4-11 years of age, as well as government high schools, a community college, a university college and a law school. Private schools are also abundant on the island, including but not limited to, Cayman Prep & High School, Cayman International School, First Baptist Christian School, Montessori By The Sea and St. Ignatius Catholic School. The classes are taught in English, as it is the main language of the island.

Children starting pre-school can begin at the age of two and for primary school the starting age depends on whether they will be attending a British school such as St. Ignatius or American school such as Cayman International School. British schools require children to be the age of four by September and American schools require children to be age of five by September.

For further information and a detailed listing of schools, please visit:

- The Chamber of Commerce at web.caymanchamber.ky/Schools
- New Resident at caymanresident.com/schools

Admissions Criteria

Please see our website for the most current information on admissions requirements. Each candidate is evaluated on the basis of these factors:

- Academic background
- Overall grade point average
- Science grade point average
- Strength of major/minor
- GRE scores (recommended but not required)
- Letters of reference
- Personal statement
- Activities that demonstrate service to the community and to animals
- Personal interview

We recognize that since veterinary medicine deals with people as well as animals, an understanding of literature, art, history, ethics and philosophy is an asset to a veterinarian.

Science and humanities are not mutually exclusive and both are viewed as beneficial for the practice of veterinary medicine. It is strongly recommended that students be computer literate.

The following list of courses and credits indicates the minimal prerequisites that applicants must complete prior to admission to the veterinary school. Any student who has successfully completed these prerequisite courses will be considered for admission.

COURSE	LENGTH OF STUDY	CREDITS
General Biology or Zoology*	1 academic year	6 credit hours
General Chemistry*	1 academic year	6 credit hours
Organic Chemistry*	1/2 academic year	3 credit hours
Biochemistry	1/2 academic year	3 credit hours
Language Arts (English)**	1/2 academic year	3 credit hours
College Math or Computer Science	1/2 academic year	3 credit hours

*These courses must include an attached laboratory work.

**A student may substitute any course that has a writing component, such as a term paper or written project, for the Language Arts requirement.

TO LEARN MORE,
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
veterinary.stmatthews.edu/admissions



Admissions Committee

The committee reviews completed applicant files for the upcoming semester. The application files are reviewed by admissions staff in Orlando and by members of the SMUSVM faculty. The committee reviews each application to ensure that all specific prerequisite courses have been taken. The committee then selects those students who exhibit the strongest potential to flourish in our rigorous veterinary medicine curriculum and who possess the potential to become a professional and ethical member of the profession. Candidates who meet the admissions criteria will be interviewed prior to a final decision. Applicants should submit materials early and ensure that their application file is complete. The admissions committee will not review incomplete documentation.

We Are Here to Help

At SMUSVM, our team of admissions advisors are pleased to assist you and will respond to any concerns promptly and professionally. Please feel free to contact our friendly and knowledgeable admissions advisors at:

Admissions Department
St. Matthew's University
11486 Corporate Blvd, Suite 120
Orlando, FL 32817
☎ +1 800.498.9700 or 407.488.1700
✉ admissions@stmatthews.edu

Due to our rolling admissions, there is no deadline to apply. However, seats in each class are competitive and early applicants will have the advantage of securing a place in the semester of their choice. Semesters begin in September, January and May.



Personal Statement

Applicants must submit a personal statement with the application form. This offers an opportunity for the applicant to describe personal attributes, characteristics and interests that support their decision to study veterinary medicine. The admissions committee is interested in participation in research projects, hobbies and health related employment or experiences. Use specific examples to demonstrate motivation, commitment to pursuing a veterinary medical career, and the ability to work with people. Compassion, empathy and the ability to deal with everyday problems are considered important qualities. We focus as much on the determination and life experience of our candidates as on their academic background.

Letters of Recommendation

Confidential appraisals by college advisors, instructors or veterinarians are a very important part of the application. These recommendations may also include a letter from a peer. Ask for recommendations from individuals who can give a concise and thorough assessment of your personality, industry, reliability and motivation. Applicants are given the option of signing a waiver regarding the confidentiality of these letters. At least two letters of recommendation are requested from each applicant.

International Transcripts

Students with academic transcripts from outside the United States or Canada must have them evaluated on a course-by-course basis by an evaluation service such as World Evaluation Services (www.wes.org), Josef Silny & Associates, Inc. (www.jsilny.com), or a service that is a National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) member (www.naces.org).

Interview

When a candidate is favorably considered, the admissions committee schedules an interview. For all new students, the interview may be in person or by video conference. The interview serves both the applicants and the committee by providing an opportunity for the applicant to ask pertinent questions and introduce any special circumstances that should be considered. The committee gains the opportunity to determine if the candidate demonstrates the personal qualities that are required in a good veterinarian. These qualities include motivation, commitment to a veterinary medical career, empathy, compassion, maturity and flexibility in dealing with problems.

Notification of Acceptance

Letters of acceptance or non-acceptance are sent within one week after the admissions committee has reached a decision. Students who are accepted are asked to return a letter of intent within a week. The letter of intent must be accompanied with a seat deposit fee to reserve a place in the upcoming class. This seat deposit fee is part of the first semester tuition.

Re-Application

Unsuccessful applicants may reapply by repeating the admissions process. A new application form, a new personal statement and new letters of recommendation must be submitted along with the application fee payable to St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Advanced Standing and Transfer Students

Applications for admission with advanced standing are welcomed from students from veterinary schools recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and/or the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). Transfer students undergo the same admissions process as first-time applicants in that they must submit a complete application packet to ensure a timely review. Acceptance of transfer credit is at the discretion of the SMUSVM. We encourage applications from people with related work experience. However, veterinary technicians and assistants will not be granted advanced standing based on work experience.

SMUSVM will submit transcripts to any university or college for a student requesting a transfer, if that student is in good standing. However, acceptance of credits is at the sole discretion of the other institution.

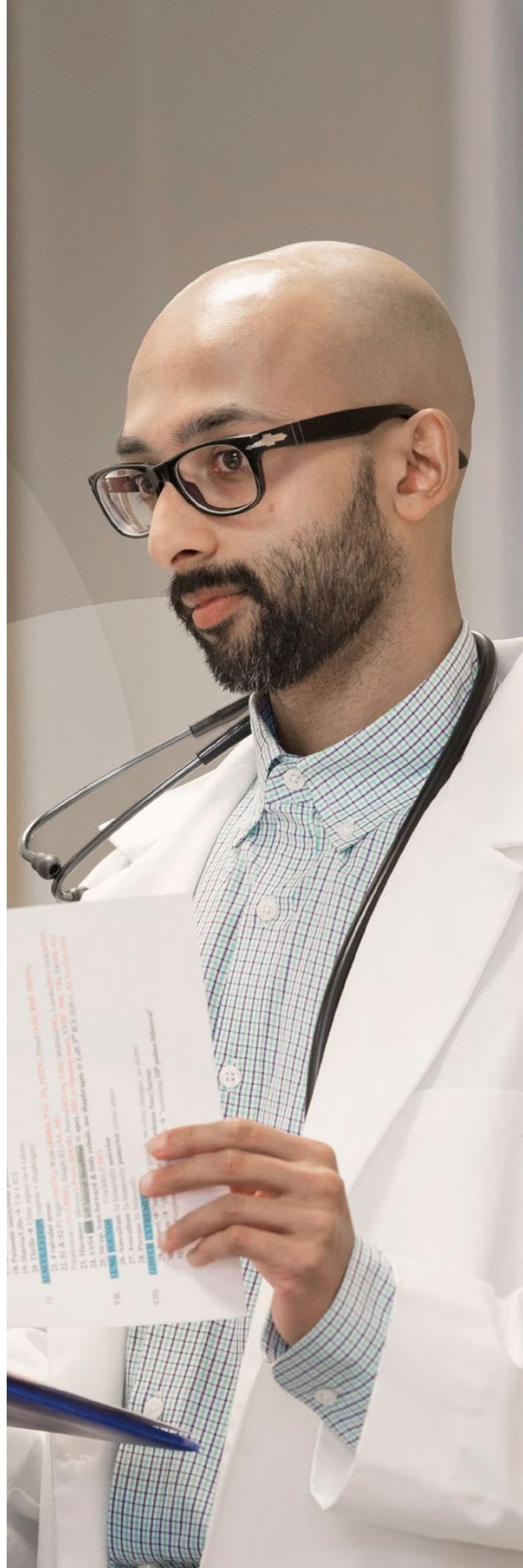
Application List

A completed application file will include:

- Completed application form*
- Official academic transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Official GRE scores (recommended but not required)
- Personal statement
- Current resume

*A completed VMCAS application can be submitted in lieu of the SMUSVM form.

Financial Information



Tuition and Fees

Tuition and fees are billed on a semester-by-semester basis for students in Basic Sciences and in Clinical Sciences. Tuition and fees for students in Basic Sciences are due upon registration and must be received no later than fifteen days prior to the first day of classes. Non-payment by the first day of classes may result in registration being canceled. Tuition and fees are subject to change. Students with an outstanding balance are not eligible to register for the next semester without clearing their outstanding balance to the satisfaction of the Financial Office. For students in both Basic Sciences and Clinical Sciences, a \$100 USD late fee will be charged if tuition and fees are not paid on time.

Clinical Sciences

Tuition and fees are charged for all clinical rotations. Tuition and fees for students in the Clinical Sciences are due prior to registration and at least 30 days prior to the commencement of the semester and/or of the clinical rotation.

Students who delay in proceeding through their clinical rotations may be charged for additional clinical semesters. Additional charges may be due if students participate in clinical rotations at an affiliate school with costs exceeding the standard SMUSVM subsidy rate.

TO LEARN MORE,
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
[veterinary.stmatthews.edu/admissions/
tuition-and-fees](https://veterinary.stmatthews.edu/admissions/tuition-and-fees)



TUITIONS AND FEES	USD
Tuition per semester Basic Sciences	\$14,993
Tuition per semester Clinical Sciences	\$24,757
Information Technology Fee* (per semester)	\$100
Administrative Fee (per semester)	\$5,380
ONE TIME FEES	
Cayman Entry Fee**	\$113
Seat Deposit	\$500
MISCELLANEOUS FEES	
Part-Time Tuition per Credit Hour	\$909
Part-Time Administrative Fee per Credit Hour	\$285
Malpractice Insurance Clinical Science Only (per year)	\$20
Transcript Request	\$10
Letter of Reference, First 3 free, thereafter	\$10
Document copies up to 15pgs. (Over 15pgs., \$1 per page)	\$15
Recreation Fee (Cayman Only)	\$35
Leave of Absence Fee	\$500
Graduation Fee	\$500
Late Registration Fee	\$250
Lab Fees	\$150-200
White Coat Ceremony Fee (6th Semester)	\$60
Late Payment Fee	\$100
Returned Check Fee	\$35

* Laptops are required for all students | ** Cayman Island Government Fee

Basic Sciences Refund Policy

All refunds will be made within thirty (30) days of the withdrawal date. Before any refund can be initiated, a withdrawal form must be completed and submitted to the Dean of Basic Sciences.

Basic Sciences tuition will be refunded according to the following schedule*:

Prior to the start of the semester	100%
During the first week of the semester	93%
During the second week of the semester	87%
During the third week of the semester	80%
During the fourth week of the semester	No Refund

Clinical Sciences Refund Policy

Any student withdrawing from a clinical rotation, subsequent to assignment and acceptance, will not be eligible for a refund on tuition for that semester of rotation.

Any new applicant to SMUSVM requesting withdrawal within three days of payment of the seat deposit shall receive a full refund of all tuition and fees paid.

**All fees, including the first semester seat deposit fee of \$500 USD are excluded from this refund policy and are not refundable (after the first three days' exemption as previously described).*

Other Charges

Students attending Basic Sciences on Grand Cayman will be billed monthly for any accrued miscellaneous charges. Payment is due upon receipt of these invoices. Non-payment of accounts will result in the loss of credit privileges on campus.

Financial Assistance

Since its founding, St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine has always been able to offer a cost-effective tuition that compares well to other veterinary schools. At the same time, it has been able to maintain its rigorous academic and professional standards, making it a strong choice for those dreaming of becoming a veterinarian. The Office of Financial Aid is here to assist enrolled students with their financial issues and concerns, including debt management and consolidation options after graduation. We are also here to help you avoid possible pitfalls that can come from dealing with money and finances.

Loans, if available, and scholarships may assist you with funding your education. Please ensure that you apply for financial aid programs at least 45 days prior to your tuition due date.

Students must make a realistic assessment of their financial situation prior to coming to the island. When devising a budget, students should consider the following expenses:

Tuition / Utilities / Health Insurance / Books / Phone / Evacuation Insurance / Equipment / Internet / Personal Expenses / Room and Board / Transportation

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact us at:

Office of Financial Aid
St. Matthew's University
11486 Corporate Blvd, Suite 120
Orlando, FL 32817
☎: +1 800.498.9700 / 407.488.1700 / 800.565.7177
✉ fa@stmatthews.edu



Scholarships

In order to best support our students and help make an excellent medical education more accessible, we offer a variety of meaningful grants and scholarships. These include:

- U.S. and Canadian Academic Scholarship
- Transfer Scholarship
- International Scholarship
- Opportunity Grant
- The Cayman Islands Scholarship

For more information about these opportunities, please visit veterinary.stmatthews.edu/admissions/scholarships

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Our Curriculum



Our curriculum integrates basic and clinical sciences to provide students with the framework needed to apply their accumulated knowledge in a clinical setting.

SMUSVM students develop their knowledge of all species in both normal and abnormal states, advancing their skills from basic coursework into the clinical applications. Our veterinary graduates are equipped to not only treat diseases of animals, but also to solve disease problems that affect both animals and humans. With the increase in frequency of zoonotic diseases and the focus on “One Health,” this is an increasingly important part of veterinary education. Sensitivity to the human-animal bond has become a very important component of clinical veterinary medicine and can have a major impact on the success of the veterinarian in a private practice setting.

At SMUSVM, we believe that learning to balance hard scientific skills with accomplished people skills is vital to the veterinarian’s success. During the first seven (7) semesters, students participate in a series of basic and clinical science programs that provide the knowledge that will lead to success in the clinical application stage of their clinical practice training. Relevance of basic science information to solutions of clinical problems is key to the educational process. Students learn the role of veterinary medicine in the community and the effect that disease has on animals and the family involved, as well as the potential for transmission of zoonotic agents from animals to humans.

Each credit in the Basic Science curriculum is equivalent to either 15 lecture hours or 30-45 laboratory session hours. Laboratory sessions provide the opportunity for students to develop the ability to make observations and improve their analytical skills. Also, some students learn more quickly in this hands-on experience.

Calendar

2024-2026

SEMESTER	TERM DATES	DIPLOMA DATE
Spring 2024	Jan 8 - Apr 19	June 8
Summer 2024	May 6 - Aug 16	October 5
Fall 2024	Sep 2 - Dec 13	February 8, 2025
Spring 2025	Jan 6 - Apr 18	June 14
Summer 2025	May 5 - Aug 15	October 4
Fall 2025	Sep 1 - Dec 12	February 14, 2026
Spring 2026	TBD	TBD
Summer 2026	TBD	TBD
Fall 2026	TBD	TBD

COURSE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
SEMESTER I		
VB101	Veterinary Anatomy I	4
VB103	Veterinary Histology and Embryology	5
VB105	Veterinary Physiology I	5
VB120	Veterinary Immunology	3
VB110	Professional Development I	1
SEMESTER II		
VB201	Veterinary Anatomy II	5
VB205	Veterinary Physiology II	4
VB207	Veterinary Parasitology	4
VB211	Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology	4

COURSE	COURSE NAME	CREDITS
SEMESTER III		
VB301	Veterinary Pharmacology I	3
VB303	Veterinary Pathology I	3
VB305	Veterinary Virology	3
VB307	Veterinary Public Health/ Epidemiology	4
VC310	Professional Development II	0.5
VC311	Veterinary Clinical Skills I (Companion Animals)	3
VC321	Animal Welfare and Behavior	2
SEMESTER IV		
VB401	Veterinary Pharmacology II	4
VB403	Veterinary Pathology II	5
VCS405	Veterinary Clinical Pathology	4
VCS407	Veterinary Ethics and Communication	2
VCS411	Veterinary Clinical Skills II (Livestock)	2
SEMESTER V		
VCS501	Veterinary Anesthesiology	2
VCS503	Principles of Veterinary Surgery	2
VCS505	Veterinary Toxicology	3
VCS507	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	4
VCS509	Veterinary Clinical Nutrition	3
VCS511	Theriogenology	4
SEMESTER VI		
VCS601	Small Animal Medicine I	6
VCS605	Food Animal Medicine & Surgery	6
VCS607	Exotic Companion Animal Medicine	3
VCS611	Veterinary Clinical Skills III	2
SEMESTER VII		
VCS701	Small Animal Medicine II	6
VCS703	Small Animal Surgery	6
VCS705	Large Animal Medicine & Surgery	7
VCS710	Professional Development III	0.5

Courses Description

Semester I

VB101
VETERINARY ANATOMY I
4 CREDITS

This course will introduce the students to basic anatomical concepts, including anatomic terminologies and directional terms. The course focuses on comparative gross anatomy of the canine, and to a lesser extent bovine, feline and porcine. In the laboratory, embalmed canine cadavers will be fully dissected and compared with prosections of the other species. Lecture/tutorials will reinforce observations in the laboratory and will highlight structures of clinical importance to the practice of veterinary medicine, as well as to research and other areas of veterinary interest. The course will be integrated with radiographic anatomy and live animal palpations of the canine and equine . The topics for this course include osteology, thoracic limb, thorax, abdomen, spinal cord and peripheral nervous system.

VB103
VETERINARY HISTOLOGY AND EMBRYOLOGY
5 CREDITS

This course introduces the first-semester veterinary student to veterinary histology (microscopic anatomy) and embryology (developmental anatomy) of mostly domestic animals. Since animal bodies are made of organs, tissues and cells, this course will provide essential background knowledge for your understanding of several other courses in the veterinary curriculum, e.g. physiology, pathology and medicine. Following a brief review of cell biology, the basic tissue types (epithelia and connective tissue) will be covered. This will provide the background for a discussion of early embryonic development, followed by a systems-based approach to the microscopic and developmental anatomy of domestic animal species.

VB105
VETERINARY PHYSIOLOGY I
5 CREDITS

Veterinary Physiology I provides a basic introduction to the functions of the different systems of the animal body through lectures, in-class discussions, review of

journal articles and other relevant exercises. The course aims to provide knowledge of how the different body systems function independently and interdependently in a healthy animal. It provides knowledge that helps students understand normal functional parameters and how diseases alter them. The knowledge acquired from this course will help students understand the genesis and progression of the disease process so that one day they can treat diseases. You must know what a normal body function is before you can understand the mechanism of any disease and the progress (prognosis) of any form of disease treatment.



VB120
VETERINARY IMMUNOLOGY
3 CREDITS

The course will give a review of the innate and acquired immunity and their components, including both the humoral and cellular arms of the immune response. The course is designed to help students understand the animal body defense mechanisms at cellular and molecular levels. The role of host defense mechanisms and the development of acquired immunity after infection will be discussed. The use of the different immunological tests in diagnosing animal diseases, malfunctions of the immune response and the role of vaccines in disease prevention will be covered.

VCS110
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
1 CREDIT

This course will provide students with a forum to discuss major current issues facing veterinary medicine in a discussion/seminar format. The course will also introduce practice and business management concepts to begin preparing students for the business aspect of veterinary medicine.

Semester II

Courses during the second semester total 17 credit hours.

VB201
VETERINARY ANATOMY II
5 CREDITS

This course is a continuation of Anatomy I (VB 101). The tutorials, laboratories, radiographic anatomy and live animal palpation will follow a similar format and approach as in VB 101. The topics include the comparative gross anatomy of the pelvic viscera (urogenital organs), pelvic limb, perineum, and head and neck. Neuro-anatomy and avian anatomy are integrated into this section.

VB205
VETERINARY PHYSIOLOGY II
4 CREDITS

This course will focus on the control, physiological mechanisms, and pathophysiology of the cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, and non-ruminant and ruminant



digestive systems. The basic physiology of birds, reptiles and fish, and how specific aspects of physiology differ between these taxa and mammals, will also be presented.

VB207
VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY
4 CREDITS

This course will provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and resources in veterinary parasitology to benefit from clinical training and to apply directly as entry-level professionals in any branch of veterinary medicine. The biological basis of major parasitic diseases relevant to veterinary medicine, including zoonotic infections, and strategies for the diagnosis, prevention and control of these infections will be covered. Parasitic organisms among the Protozoa, Arthropods and Helminths will be within the scope of the course.

VB211
VETERINARY BACTERIOLOGY AND MYCOLOGY
4 CREDITS

The course covers basic and pathogenic bacteriology and mycology. The objective of the course is to give veterinary students a thorough introduction to the theoretical and practical basis for the study of bacterial and fungal pathogens of animals. Lectures cover descriptions of the organisms themselves, as well as virulence, pathogenesis, diagnosis and control of animal pathogens. Zoonotic potential of some of the microbes and food safety issues are also discussed. To relate concepts of lectures to practicals, laboratory exercises are carried out using microbiological techniques for isolation and identification of disease causing bacteria.

Semester III

Courses during the third semester total 18.5 credit hours.

VB301
VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY I
3 CREDITS

The course focuses on the global principles of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and drugs affecting the autonomic nervous system. Additionally, categorical classes of anti-infectives, anti-nematodal, antineoplastic, gastrointestinal and dermatology drugs will be presented. Upon completing this course, students will have obtained the pharmacologic knowledge base that can positively impact therapeutic choices that influence treatment, cure, prevention and mitigation of disease states and conditions in animals. Legal and regulatory issues that affect the practice of veterinary pharmacy will be emphasized. Additionally, current topics in veterinary medicine and veterinary pharmacy will be discussed.

VB303
VETERINARY PATHOLOGY I
3 CREDITS

This course examines diseases and their processes in tissues and organs of domestic animals. The general disease processes of cells and tissues — degeneration, necrosis, inflammation, growth abnormalities and neoplasia — are studied, as well as the healing process. This course begins the study of the diseases of the various organ systems.

VB305
VETERINARY VIROLOGY
3 CREDITS

This course investigates the basic properties and clinical aspects of important domestic and foreign animal viruses. Topics discussed include the nature, taxonomy, replication and pathogenesis of important virus families, as well as clinical and pathological characteristics, methods of diagnosis, epidemiology, and methods of treating, preventing and controlling the spread of specific viral diseases of veterinary significance.

VB307
VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH/EPIDEMIOLOGY
4 CREDITS

The course provides a basic introduction to the fundamentals of epidemiology and public health through lectures, in class discussion, review of journal articles and other exercises. The aim of the course is to provide the knowledge and skill set that a day-1 ready graduate can use to successfully understand, create and implement preventive measures to mitigate disease and contamination in the clinic, on the farm, in the wider community, in food production systems and retail establishments, while mitigating environmental impacts.

VCS310
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT II
0.5 CREDIT

This course will focus on the preparation of resumes and cover letters for employers, and managing financial/ business issues, including student debt. Attendance is mandatory to achieve a Pass grade.

VCS311
VETERINARY CLINICAL SKILLS(COMPANION ANIMALS)
3 CREDITS

This course is the first in a series of clinical skills courses and is intended to introduce students to the clinical aspects of veterinary medicine, with a primary focus on dogs, cats and horses. Additionally, an emphasis is placed on performing a complete physical exam. Other topics covered include breed identification, husbandry and preventive medicine practices, restraint and handling techniques, and an introduction to medical records. Field trips and practical labs are an important component of this course.

VCS321
ANIMAL WELFARE AND BEHAVIOR
2 CREDITS

This course will examine fundamental principles related to the development of behavior in domesticated animals and demonstrate how knowledge of animal behavior is relevant to clinical practice. Students will learn how to apply behavior and welfare principles to facilitate safe and humane animal handling, care and management. The course will promote behavioral wellness and positive human-animal interactions, and prepare students for advanced coursework in applied animal behavior, such as clinical treatment of problem behaviors.



Semester IV

Courses during the fourth semester total 17 credit hours.

VB401
VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY II
4 CREDITS

The second in the pharmacology series, categorical classes of drugs presented are: CNS depressants, anesthetics, analgesics, histamine, serotonin, behavioral management, prostaglandins, anti-convulsants, cardiovascular, acid/base, renal, blood, endocrine and ophthalmic. Students will learn/practice accurate drug dosing calculations. Upon completing this course, students will have obtained the pharmacologic knowledge base that can positively impact the therapeutic choices that influence treatment, cure, prevention, and mitigation of disease states and conditions in animals.

VB403
VETERINARY PATHOLOGY II
5 CREDITS

This course continues the discussion of anatomic pathology with a focus on disease processes in specific domestic species (dogs, cats, horses, livestock) and specific organ systems, including: bones and joints, skeletal muscle, nervous, eye and ear, integument, alimentary, liver, pancreas, peritoneum, urinary, respiratory, cardiovascular, hematopoietic, endocrine and reproductive. The course also includes six hours of necropsies of domestic and exotic animals.

VCS405
VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY
4 CREDITS

Students learn the fundamentals of veterinary clinical pathology testing and interpretation in common biochemistry/endocrinology and cytopathology results.

Our program prepares graduates to be competent, caring veterinarians who have the skills of lifelong learning.

VCS407
VETERINARY ETHICS AND COMMUNICATION
2 CREDITS

The course provides a basic introduction to the fundamentals of communication and the understanding of veterinary ethics through lectures, in class discussion, role playing assignments, review of relevant articles and other exercises. The aim of the course is to provide the knowledge and skill set that a day-1 ready graduate can use to successfully understand, create and implement effective communication skills, obtain a thorough clinical history from a client and follow essential ethical responsibilities in a clinic setting, on the farm, in the wider community or wherever their veterinary career takes them.

VCS411
VETERINARY CLINICAL SKILLS II (LIVESTOCK)
2 CREDITS

This is the second in the series of Clinical Skills courses intended to introduce students to the practical aspects of veterinary medicine. Livestock Clinical Skills is designed as an introduction to farm animal clinical practice. In this course, students are introduced to the basics of working with food and fiber producing animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, New World camelids, and swine. The course is presented as a series of lecture and laboratory sessions that begin with an introduction to production medicine, followed by species-specific sections covering husbandry and management practices, handling and restraint, physical examination, basic clinical procedures, preventive medicine, and the characteristics and identification of common breeds.

Semester V

Courses during the fifth semester total 18 credit hours.

VCS501
VETERINARY ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA
2 CREDITS

This lecture course will introduce students to the principles of general and local anesthesia in both small and large animal species. A review of the most commonly used drugs for sedation, analgesia and anesthesia will be completed with a focus on the clinical advantages, disadvantages and side effects of each drug class. The components of the anesthesia machine will be discussed using the trace of the oxygen molecule from source to waste gas line to highlight the basics of any anesthesia machine that the student will come across in practice. Anesthetic delivery circuits and other inhalant anesthesia delivery equipment will also be covered. The course will also review anesthesia monitoring practices, with a focus on detection of anesthetic emergencies and complications, and how to respond correctly. Various patient medical conditions, plus diagnostic and surgical procedures, will be discussed as to anesthetic requirements, risks and complications that may develop. Finally, common anesthetic protocols and plans for general practice situations will be reviewed and a final assignment of a Patient Plan for Anesthesia will be required to assess the student's understanding of these principles.



VCS503
PRINCIPLES OF VETERINARY SURGERY
2 CREDITS

This course is designed to introduce students to basic principles of veterinary surgery and teach common surgical procedures. This will be the basis of surgical knowledge that students will be expected to retain and expand upon in their Small and Large Animal Surgery courses and Surgical Externship. This class is a combination of lectures and labs given throughout the semester.

VCS505
VETERINARY TOXICOLOGY
3 CREDITS

Basic and clinical aspects of the more common poisonings that affect domestic animals/birds and wildlife will be considered. Emphasis will be given to intoxication resulting from drug interactions, pesticides (rodenticides, insecticides, herbicides), heavy metals (arsenic, copper, lead, iron, zinc, etc.), poisonous plants, mycotoxins, gases, feed additives, poisonous and venomous animal toxins, household toxins, prescriptions/recreational/over the counter medications, selected industrial pollutants and forensic considerations.

VCS507
VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING
4 CREDITS

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of diagnostic imaging, with emphasis on radiographic interpretation and ultrasound. Brief introduction to other imaging modalities, such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance (MR) and nuclear medicine (NM), as used in veterinary medicine, will also be provided.

VCS509
VETERINARY CLINICAL NUTRITION
3 CREDITS

This course has been designed to introduce students to concepts of small and large animal clinical nutrition. The aim is to provide detailed knowledge of key concepts, nutritional disorders, the diverse aspects of feeding behavior and practices, and nutritional management of various species. Students will learn the basic nutrient requirements for large and small animal species, how to interpret common feed types, to calculate energy requirements, read pet food labels,



and to understand regulations on pet food. Key nutritional factors and the relation to various disease states will be addressed in certain species.

VCS511
THERIOGENOLOGY
4 CREDITS

The course presents material on the normal and abnormal reproductive function of dogs and the common livestock species, including cattle, sheep, swine, goats and horses. Laboratories on breeding soundness and semen morphology of dogs are included. Special attention is made toward dystocia correction of livestock, stallion handling and management, assisted reproduction technologies, and breeding soundness of mares and cows. Pelvic examination of cattle and horses are emphasized.

Semester VI

Courses during the sixth semester total 17 credit hours.

VB601
SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE I
6 CREDITS

Small Animal Medicine I is presented in a body-systems format and employs team-teaching by groups of experienced small animal clinical educators, each of whom is an internal medicine specialist and content expert in the respective topic. Gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary, urinary, endocrine-metabolic, hematological, dermatologic and respiratory diseases of domestic dogs and cats are covered with respect to etiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, examination and diagnosis, management, prognosis and prevention. Application of the problem-based approach to case diagnosis and management is emphasized.

VCS605
FOOD ANIMAL MEDICINE & SURGERY
6 CREDITS

The Food Animal Medicine and Surgery course uses a problem-oriented approach to veterinary medicine, focusing on bovine (dairy, beef and feedlot), ovine, caprine, camelid (both New and Old World species), porcine and poultry. Key diseases are examined in detail, covering their etiology, pathophysiology, clinical signs, diagnosis, differential diagnoses, treatment options (both medical and surgical), prognosis and prevention. Ample case studies and clinical scenarios are discussed for each organ system. The course places special emphasis on topics of national and international importance, including the economic impact of diseases, zoonotic diseases, antibiotic use in food animals, the role of animals in climate change, sustainable agricultural practices, optimal husbandry practices and animal welfare issues.

VCS607
EXOTIC COMPANION ANIMAL MEDICINE
3 CREDITS

This course covers anatomy, physiology, husbandry and medicine of commonly kept exotic companion animals, including birds, small mammals and reptiles. Discussion topics include clinical diagnostic techniques (including animal handling and restraint, physical examination, clinical sampling, imaging, necropsy), infectious and noninfectious diseases, and medical and surgical approaches to treating these diseases.

VCS611
VETERINARY CLINICAL SKILLS III (CLINICAL ROTATIONS)
2 CREDITS

This is the last in a series of clinical skills courses that are held in semesters 3, 4 and 6. These courses are designed to introduce students to clinical practice and provide the opportunity to develop many of the clinical, communication and practical skills that are necessary to practice the art of veterinary medicine. In Clinical Skills 3, we will review the basic techniques involved in examining patients, and provide knowledge and experience in more advanced techniques for patients that may have specific medical issues. The course will be given as a series of discussions, assignments, labs, student presentations, group case work-ups and shadowing opportunities. Towards the end of the semester, students will be involved with a communications lab in conjunction with the Ethics and Communication course, during which VCS611 students will work up a mock case with a 4th semester student playing the role of the client.

Semester VII

Courses during the seventh semester total 19.5 credit hours.

VCS701
SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE II
6 CREDITS

In Small Animal Medicine II, specialty topics, including cardiology, neurology, oncology, infectious diseases, ophthalmology, and emergency and critical care are presented by experienced clinical educators with specialty-board certification in the respective field.

VCS703
SMALL ANIMAL SURGERY
6 CREDITS

Small Animal Surgery covers the common surgical conditions of dogs and cats. Lecture sessions detail the clinical presentation, diagnosis and surgical management of soft tissue and orthopedic injuries and diseases. In the laboratory, the students first review the techniques of small animal ovariohysterectomy, castration and exploratory laparotomy, introduced and performed on cadavers in the Principles of Surgery course. This is followed by soft tissue cadaver labs, entailing gastrotomy, gastropexy, intestinal resection and anastomosis, cystotomy and splenectomy. Basic orthopedic procedures, such as cruciate repair and femoral head and neck resection, are practiced. The principles learned in these lectures and labs are re-enforced through a required surgical externship.

VCS705
LARGE ANIMAL MEDICINE & SURGERY
7 CREDITS

The general principles of the practice of equine medicine and surgery are presented in a combination of lecture and practical sessions organized in a body-systems format. The common medical and surgical conditions of domestic horses are discussed with respect to etiopathogenesis, clinical signs, examination and diagnosis, management and prevention. Application of the problem-based medical record is emphasized as a fundamental approach to case diagnosis and management. Classroom learning is facilitated with case-based discussions and hands-on laboratories on physical examination, diagnostic techniques, and basic medical and surgical procedures.

VCS710
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT III
0.5 CREDIT

Students will continue individual professional development by exploring employment contracts, interviewing strategies and negotiating skills as they pertain to veterinary medicine. Job queries will be explored, as well as current salary and benefits typical of new veterinary graduates.

Fourth Year Clinical Program

St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine has arrangements with numerous U.S. and Canadian Colleges of Veterinary Medicine to provide the important bridge from academic classroom settings to hands-on, real-world settings. SMUSVM students, working together with U.S. and Canadian-based 4th year veterinary students, have direct contact with patients of a variety of species and work with state-of-the-art technology in the diagnosis and treatment of life-threatening medical conditions. Through a series of clinical rotations in the schools' mixed track programs, providing wide-ranging small-animal and large-animal hospital experiences, students will be called on to integrate their knowledge acquired during the preclinical years. Key areas of focus include professional judgment, teamwork, problem-solving expertise and communication skills. Students will have SMUSVM oversight by U.S. and Canadian staff during their rotations, to ensure a great transition from the Grand Cayman campus and success in the clinical programs.

Clinical rotation students will be required to devote considerable time to rigorous case analysis, providing comprehensive and appropriate rationale for their conclusions. During this one-year period, opportunities for closely-monitored externships with practicing veterinarians will be available in many geographic locations, offering the student first-hand exposure to veterinary practice in the field and a potential springboard to career-building opportunities. Regardless of which affiliate school is attended, successful completion of the clinical program will culminate in the granting of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) by SMUSVM. St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine has affiliate agreements with the following AVMA-accredited schools of veterinary medicine.

Clinical Rotations

UNITED STATES

Iowa State University
Louisiana State University
Mississippi State University
University of Georgia
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri
Washington State University

CANADA

University of Prince Edward Island



Administration

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PRESIDENT

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DVM, MSC, MPH, PHD, DACVPM
**EXECUTIVE DEAN AND PROFESSOR
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ASSOCIATE DEAN OF CLINICAL AFFAIRS

TERRY MOYA
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ADRIANA MARIN-NEGRON
DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

RIPLEY MILLER
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GLORIA MIRANDA-AVILA
REGISTRAR

**The leadership at St. Matthew's
University School of Veterinary
Medicine bring in-depth
experience and knowledge to
the challenge of veterinary
medical education.**



Faculty



JAMES O. ADEKEYE
DVM, MS, PHD
**PROFESSOR AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT
OF VETERINARY BASIC SCIENCES**

Dr. Adekeye completed his Master of Science degree and his PhD coursework at Kansas State University, and his DVM and PhD degrees at Ahmadu Bello University. He has been associated with educational organizations worldwide, including the University of Guelph Biomedical Sciences, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada) Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, the Center for Tropical Veterinary Medicine in Edinburgh, the Norwegian Veterinary College, the Central Public Health Laboratory in London, the Veterinary Public Health Laboratory at Kansas State University, and the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta (CDC), where he trained in epidemiology and health administration.

[Read full bio](#)



SHAIBU MOHAMMED ATABO
DVM, MSC, PHD
PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY ANATOMY

Dr. Atabo earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto (UDUS) in Nigeria in 2012. He worked briefly as a veterinary consultant to a poultry farm in Zamfara State. Later, he joined the College of Agriculture and Animal Sciences in Bakura, in the same state, as lecturer where he was primarily in charge of the teaching of veterinary gross anatomy, histology, embryology, laboratory dissection of animals and supervision of undergraduate research in anatomy. He served in these capacities for six years during which he also acquired his Master's degree in Veterinary Anatomy from his Almer Mata and consequently rose to the rank of a senior lecturer in the college.

[Read full bio](#) | satabo@stmatthews.edu



LAWRENCE OKONKWO AKA
DVM, MSC, PHD
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
VETERINARY PHYSIOLOGY**

Lawrence Okonkwo Aka, has worked extensively as a university professor of Veterinary Physiology for over 21 years. He has served as an astute researcher, consultant to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital of the University of Nigeria and as a mentor to students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He has researched widely in various aspects of Veterinary Physiology, and has taught Veterinary Physiology, as a visiting professor, in various universities. He served as the Chair, Department of Veterinary Physiology, University of Nigeria until his appointment at SMUSVM. In addition, Dr. Aka has published over sixty (60) articles in reputable peer reviewed journals, and has presented conference papers at several conferences, including the 2nd International Conference on Cancer Biology, Therapeutics, and Drug Discovery and Delivery.

[Read full bio](#)



ELAINE BLYTHE
RPH, PHARM D
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY
PHARMACOLOGY, BASIC SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT**

Elaine Blythe earned her BS in Pharmacy from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1992 and her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Creighton University in 2003. She specializes in veterinary pharmacology education for pharmacy and veterinary students. An associate professor at St. Matthews University School of Veterinary Medicine since 2010, Elaine teaches seven credit hours of pharmacology. Before this, she spent 10 years teaching at Creighton University. Dr. Blythe has developed numerous courses in veterinary pharmacy, authored over 45 publications and delivered more than 50 presentations. She has over 15 years of regulatory affairs consulting experience for veterinary drug distributors. Additionally, she is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, offering online courses in veterinary pharmacy.

[Read full bio](#)



GILLIAN DECLERCQ
BSC, BVSC, MSC
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL
SKILLS, DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL
TRAINING FACILITY**

Dr. Gillian Declercq worked for the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as a State Community Service Veterinarian in South Africa for several years. In this position, she provided training to small scale and emerging farmers in sustainable livestock production and disease management. She piloted multiple mobile veterinary clinics in conjunction with animal welfare organisations that provided clinical veterinary support for small animals and livestock. These projects and others were used as a base for clinical veterinary training for students and new veterinary graduates during their year performing compulsory community service. Dr. Declercq presented and taught at multiple farmers' days and agricultural expos.

[Read full bio](#) | gdeclercq@stmatthews.edu



ALAN EMSLEY
BSC, PHD
ADJUNCT PROFESSOR (NON-RESIDENT)

Alan Emsley has devoted his career to the application of genetics and statistics to animal agriculture, while employed by government and several global leaders in food production. After serving in leadership roles in the corporate world, he applied his skills in his own company to educating professionals in China and other international locations. He also served as consultant to clients seeking guidance in applying genetics and statistics to breeding and pharmaceutical industry applications. As a member of the university's Clinical Placement Team, he has assured more than 400 students of their clinical placements in their final program year.

[Read full bio](#)



CHARLES DICKINSON
DVM, MS, DIPLOMATE ACVIM
**PROFESSOR AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT
OF VETERINARY CLINICAL SCIENCES**

Dr. Dickinson received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Colorado State University in 1988. After two years as an instructor with the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at Colorado State, Dr. Dickinson entered clinical practice as an associate veterinarian with Tri-State Large Animal Hospital in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He joined the staff at the Oregon State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital as a Clinical Fellow in large animal medicine and surgery in 1992. In 1996, Dr. Dickinson completed a residency in Equine Internal Medicine at Colorado State University, received the Master of Science degree in Clinical Sciences, and successfully completed the certifying examination of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

[Read full bio](#) | cdickinson@stmatthews.edu



MARIANTHI IOANNIDIS
DVM
**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTOLOGY,
EMBRYOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY
DEPARTMENT**

Marianthi Ioannidis is an Associate Professor in Histology, Embryology and Pathology. She graduated in 2018 from the University of Liège in Belgium and completed her residency in anatomic pathology at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands in 2023. Her areas of expertise include domestic/zoo and free ranging wildlife. Marianthi Ioannidis has also been serving as a student chair for the Wildlife Disease Association for 4 years and is currently a member at large for the Council and an officer for the student activities.

[Read full bio](#)

Faculty



ZUHAIR ISMAIL
BVMS, ABVP
PROFESSOR

Dr. Ismail graduated with honors from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). He was then granted a scholarship at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine Large Animal Teaching Hospital to pursue specialized veterinary training in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, and was enrolled in a one-year internship and 3-years residency programs. He was instrumental in developing the clinical program at SMUSVM. During his academic and research career, Dr. Ismail has focused on promoting concepts of animal welfare among veterinary students, university students and the public at large. Throughout his career, Dr. Ismail authored more than 130 peer-reviewed articles and served as reviewer for more than 10 international veterinary journals.

[Read full bio](#)



JULIE WHITE
DVM, DACVP
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, PATHOLOGY

Prior to beginning her teaching position in the Cayman Islands in 2022, Dr. White worked for over three years as a pathologist for Inotiv (formerly Bolder BioPath). She primarily provided pathology support to investigators working with models of IBD, psoriasis, lupus and other inflammatory/autoimmune diseases. She continues this collaboration on a limited basis, particularly in the area of IBD research. Dr. White served for over 10 years as a pathologist, mentor and assistant professor at the Tri-Institutional Laboratory of Comparative Pathology (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Medical College and The Rockefeller University) in New York City, where in addition to providing research support, she participated in training clinical residents, pathology fellows and medical students.

[Read full bio](#)



KATHERINE WATKINSON
BSC (HONS), BVETMED, MRCVS
CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

Katherine Watkinson is a clinical instructor for veterinary clinical skills and surgery. She graduated from the University of Leeds after studying Zoology, with a year in industry as an animal keeper in a safari park. This involved working predominantly with lions, tigers, bears, wolves and asian elephants. Following her year in industry, she focused her studies on behavioral genetics, before graduation. In addition to this, Katherine also gained experience working in a contract research organization before focusing on completing a second degree. She attended the Royal Veterinary College to study veterinary medicine. During this time, she took up employment as a stockman on a farm, working mainly with swine but also gained husbandry experience with sheep and dairy cattle.

[Read full bio](#)



Standards of Performance

Registration

Students must be registered and enrolled at all times unless they have received written approval for a “Leave of Absence.” Students may take only two total Leaves of Absences during their entire career at SMUSVM, and only after receiving written approval from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Acceptable reasons for granting a leave of absence are listed later in this section. The student will be charged an administrative fee and must register during a Leave of Absence to maintain their place in the program. If a student fails to enroll, their status will become “Withdrawn” and they must apply for readmission. Students will not automatically be considered enrolled. Possible student status’ include only: Basic Sciences (semester noted), Clinical Sciences (semester noted), Approved Leave of Absence (up to two semesters total), Dismissed, Alumni or Deceased.

The registration process is as follows:

Registration will begin online (www.smuonline.com) approximately six weeks prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should register at this time. Transfer students and students who have failed courses must correspond with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs prior to registering. The Registrar will coordinate with the Associate Dean for course approvals to ensure that all class rosters are correct. The registrar will verify class attendance to Student Accounts so that Financial Aid monies can be released to students. All students must be registered by the end of each semester’s registration period. No financial aid monies will be released until a student’s registration is complete. Any student who fails to comply with these procedures will not be admitted to class for the new semester, will not receive financial aid funds and/or will not receive credit for clinical studies. Any student who is in clinical rotations and has not completed the required registration procedures will be removed from their site.

Official Leaves of Absence

The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or their designee will consider all requests for an Official Leave of Absence by students who:

- Experience financial hardship and need to take time off to raise funds for their education.
- Suffer an illness or injury, or have a family member who suffers an illness or injury that requires the student’s presence.
- Need limited time off to take advantage of an educational opportunity to travel, conduct research or attend classes elsewhere.

Only two Leaves of Absence for one semester each may be granted. Each request is subject to approval. Decisions are based on whether a semester away is likely to allow the student to resolve a situation and whether the student’s performance and behavior suggest a reasonable chance of success upon return. Students who are not granted official leaves may apply for readmission when they are ready to resume their education. Students may be required to begin paying any outstanding debt if they fail to enroll for the next semester or take an unapproved leave.

Student Performance

Student performance is determined on the basis of achievement in each prescribed course or clinical rotation. Students must achieve a passing level established by the faculty of each course or clinical rotation to earn promotion from semester to semester.

GRADING SYSTEM AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS POLICY

SMUSVM uses the following grading system:

GRADE GPA	GPA	% GRADE
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	4.0	90-93%
B+	3.5	87-89%
B	3.25	84-86%
B-	3.0	80-83%
C+	2.5	77-79%
C	2.25	74-76%
C-	2.0	70-73%
D+	1.5	67-69%
D	1.25	64-66%
D-	1.0	60-63%
F	0.0	<59%

Academic Standards Policy

SMUSVM students are expected to be aware of and follow all academic policies outlined in the Student Handbook.

Attendance

Classes at SMUSVM are small and interaction among students and teachers is encouraged. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. For specific details concerning the attendance policy, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Graduation

In order to graduate from St. Matthew’s University School of Veterinary Medicine, students must apply for graduation, satisfactorily complete all of their required classes and be in good standing with the school.



Licensure

In order to practice in the United States, SMUSVM graduates must use one of two possible licensure paths: either through the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG) process or the procedure established by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB), known as the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Experience (PAVE). In either case, the graduate then must pass the North American Veterinary Licensure Examination (NAVLE). Both programs require proof of proficiency in the English language prior to the veterinary medical portions of the process. For the ECFVG program, the graduate must complete a Basic and Clinical Sciences Exam and a Clinical Proficiency Exam before being certified and eligible for the NAVLE. Under the AAVSB program, the student must pass the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or an equivalent test such as the TOEFL exam prior to sitting for the PAVE examination. Passage of the PAVE examination is required before taking the NAVLE. Students can find complete information on these two pathways at the following web sites:

aavsb.org/PAVE
for the AAVSB program or
avma.org/education/ecfvg
for the ECFVG program.

Standards of Professional Behavior and Academic Honesty

STUDENT CONDUCT ACADEMIC HONESTY AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Each student is expected to behave in a manner consistent with the university's mission as an educational institution. Behaviors judged unprofessional, unethical, dishonest, illegal, threatening or dangerous may be considered examples of misconduct. Specific examples of violations that fall under the purview of the disciplinary policies can be found in the Student Handbook. Also included in the Student Handbook are Guidelines for Academic Honesty. The university expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach.

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and outside the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Whenever there is a reasonable basis to believe that a student may have violated one or more provisions of the Student Handbook or any other rule, policy or standard of the school, the matter should be reported to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. The Dean (or designee) will conduct an investigation, the nature and extent of which will be determined at the discretion of the Dean (or designee).

The Dean (or designee) may, but need not, convene a disciplinary committee comprising any number of faculty, administrators, and/or students to assist the Dean (or designee) in resolving the matter. The composition of any such committee, and the role it plays in the process, will be determined at the discretion of the Dean (or designee).

Before any disciplinary action is taken, the student will be given notice of the alleged violation and an opportunity to respond, including an opportunity to identify any witness, document or other evidence that the student believes is relevant. The Dean (or designee) will determine what evidence is relevant to consider and what weight it should be given.

The Dean (or designee) will determine whether a violation has occurred based upon a preponderance of the evidence, i.e., whether it is more likely than not that a violation has occurred. If the Dean (or designee) determines that a violation has occurred, the Dean (or designee) will determine one or more appropriate sanctions, which may include disciplinary counseling, fines, probation, suspension, dismissal, and/or any other sanction(s) that the Dean (or designee) determines is appropriate in light of all the circumstances, including but not limited to the nature of the offense and any history of misconduct by the student.

The Dean (or designee) will inform the student of the Dean's (or designee's) determination with respect to whether a violation has occurred and, if so, the sanction(s) that will be imposed as a result. A student who is found to have committed a violation may appeal that finding

and/or the sanction(s) imposed to the Executive Dean if and to the extent that the student believes the finding and/or sanction(s) was the result of bias or some other fundamental unfairness in the disciplinary process.

Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the Executive Dean within seven days of the date upon which the student received notice of the decision that is being appealed. The Executive Dean (or designee) will determine what steps, if any, are necessary to resolve the appeal.

The Executive Dean (or designee) may dismiss the appeal as being untimely or as not stating a proper basis for appeal; uphold the decision on the merits; vacate some or all of the decision and remand the case to the Dean for further action; vacate some or all of the decision below and make new findings as to whether the student committed the alleged violation(s) and/or the sanction(s) to be imposed as a result; or take such other action as the Executive Dean (or designee) deems appropriate under the circumstances. Decisions of the Executive Dean (or designee) are final.



Students Services

New Student Orientation

Each semester, all new students, including transfer students, are scheduled for orientation, course registration and advisory activities just prior to the first day of classes. The Office of the Dean collaborates with faculty, staff and returning students to facilitate the introduction of new students to SMUSVM administrators, faculty, teaching and learning philosophies, programs, policies, and procedures. Members of the Associate Student American Veterinary Medical Association chapter introduce new students to life on campus and are available to answer questions about the SMUSVM experience.

Academic Assistance, Guidance and Counseling

The office of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs works closely with faculty to provide direction and support for students in times of academic difficulty. The two unit Chairs (Veterinary Biosciences and Veterinary Clinical Sciences) organize academic advisement programs and assist the Dean in remediation planning. Academic Counseling is available to any student who wishes to explore learning and study skills development, time-management or test taking strategies, or is required for confidential assistance with personal matters, social adjustment, family crisis management and help planning alternate programs of study. Academic Counseling can also assist in the reassessment of priorities when circumstances necessitate a change of plan.

Information Technology

SMUSVM utilizes high-speed networking to aid in the delivery of classroom and study materials. To ensure a smooth user experience, students are required to own a laptop or notebook computer during their entire time with SMUSVM.

Campus Housing

For a smooth transition to Grand Cayman, SMUSVM provides living space in the Residence Hall for incoming students. These are modern accommodations located within biking distance of the campus. A housing application is included with the student's acceptance packet. Students bringing dependents arrange their own housing. SMUSVM will be more than happy to provide whatever assistance possible.

More information may be obtained by contacting the U.S. office at +1 800 4989700.

Off Campus Housing

The housing market on Grand Cayman is strong and presents many opportunities for student tenants to find homes. Most rental units come furnished (i.e., stocked with standard furnishings (such as beds, tables, appliances, couches, window dressings, etc.) or fully furnished (i.e., everything but your own clothes and personal belongings is included). Utility costs (e.g., for electricity, water, etc.) are expensive compared to U.S. standards. Rental rates are generally highest in the Seven Mile Beach, George Town and South Sound areas. Security deposits are common and usually equal one month's rent, so be sure to figure this into your budget.

Housing can become somewhat more difficult to find if you have young children or pets living with you or if you prefer to smoke inside. Landlords and property managers have the right to refuse to rent to you for these reasons. Fortunately, off-campus housing advice and support is available to all SMUSVM students.

Lynne Walton, current Student Housing Support & Coordinator/International Student Settlement Advisor can be contacted at lwalton@stmatthews.edu. Assistance can be provided to students in finding off-campus housing before landing on Grand Cayman.

For students who prefer to live in one of the many other apartments or homes in the area, our dedicated SMUSVM Housing Coordinator can assist you in finding just the right place for you.



Recreation

Numerous recreational and sporting opportunities are available for SMUSVM students. The school has a corporate membership at a local gym that students may access every day. Access to Seven Mile Beach is only steps away from the campus and several golf, cycling and running areas are nearby. Many local sports leagues are open to students. St. Matthew's University has volleyball equipment that may be checked out by all students.

Health and Immunization Information

MEDICAL DECLARATION COVER LETTER

Students must complete and submit the Medical Declaration Cover Letter, available at: veterinary.stmatthews.edu/downloads

HEALTH SERVICES

There are three modern hospitals on Grand Cayman that provide affordable basic health care services. All students are required to maintain a personal health insurance policy.

St. Matthew's University participates in numerous events and fundraisers while collaborating with organizations including Johns Hopkins International, Cayman Heart Fund, the Department of Agriculture and Cayman Islands Humane Society.



Student Government and Organizations

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE PRACTITIONERS (AAFP)

The AAFP is a new club that focuses specifically on feline medicine and feline-only veterinary practice. Perfect for all cat lovers!

WORLD AQUATIC VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (WAVMA)

WAVMA members are enthusiasts of marine life and animals. This club focuses primarily on marine health and caring for aquatic animals. Members often work in concert with ZEW club members to host events and activities.

AMERICAN HEARTWORM SOCIETY (AHS)

The AHS is the veterinary profession's leading resource on heartworm information. This group connects the SMUSOM community with valuable info and events.

SHELTER MED

This group focuses on supporting island shelters by organizing and participating in fundraising events like dog walks and dog washes.

PICKLEBALL/RUNNING CLUB

This group aims to help the student body stay active and healthy. They help organize group runs and pickleball events, and participation is open to all.

VETERINARY BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (VBMA)

This group aims to help members prepare for the business and financial realities of small-business ownership, practice management, developing financial wellness and more.

CHRISTIAN VETERINARY MISSION (CVM)

This non-denominational group helps support members by hosting bible studies, sharing daily scriptures and attending services together.

NUTRITION CLUB

The Nutrition Club supports members by highlighting important aspects of nutrition, scheduling guest speakers and connecting students with local healthy food providers.

PRIDE CLUB

The Pride Club is an inclusive space where people of all gender and sexual orientations are appreciated and celebrated. All are welcome to enjoy the camaraderie and fun had in Pride Club.

FARM ANIMAL MEDICINE CLUB

The Farm Animal Medicine club allows students interested in practicing beef, dairy, small ruminant and swine medicine to get additional exposure to case presentations and guest speakers, as well as field experience. Meetings are held twice a month and case challenges are posted monthly.

STUDENT ASSOCIATE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (SAAVMA)

The Student Associate American Veterinary Medical Association (SAAVMA) facilitates communication between students and administration, serves as a link to the professional organization of the AVMA, and advocates for volunteer activities and social events.

STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VETERINARY NUTRITION (SCAAVN)

The Animal Nutrition Club at SMUSVM was officially recognized by the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition (AAVN) as the second student chapter in 2009. The club then has changed its name to reflect this honor as the Student Chapter of the American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition (SCAAVN).

The mission of SCAAVN is to provide a forum for the continued animal nutrition education of veterinary students. Goals of the club are achieved through field trips, case study discussions, lectures, webinars and wet labs.



Empowering the
next generation
of Veterinarians.

STUDENT VETERINARY EMERGENCY CRITICAL CARE SOCIETY (SVECCS)

The SMUSVM chapter of Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society aims to promote student participation and interest in veterinary emergency and critical care medicine. Their goal is to provide opportunities for members to obtain hands-on experience in veterinary emergencies and critical care. This experience expands student education and career opportunities in the field of emergency medicine. The club has hosted a wide range of lectures and wet labs for the student population at SMUSVM, including wound management, ruminant emergency management, radiographic diagnosis of emergency conditions, toxicology cases and stenting. Additionally, members have the opportunity to participate in emergency large animal calls on the island.

ZOOLOGICAL, EXOTICS, WILDLIFE MEDICINE CLUB (ZEW)

The mission of the ZEW club is to provide a forum for students who seek to enhance their knowledge and skills in order to improve the health and welfare of zoological, exotic and wildlife species.

ZEW coordinates talks from professionals in the field of animal medicine and conservation in an effort to further the students' education. Additionally, ZEW seeks to locally support the propagation and conservation of exotic animal species through volunteer programs and donations to zoologic institutions, aquaria and wildlife rescue efforts.

Disclaimer

The information in this catalog is subject to change. Such changes may be without notice. Potential students should not consider this catalog to represent a contract between St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine and an entering student. Tuition, fees and other expenses are listed in U.S. dollars, unless otherwise noted.

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