

SPOTLIGHT ON

Michigan State University Veterinary Medicine

Innovative approaches in teaching the next generation of veterinarians.

From principles to practice—embedded longitudinal clinical reasoning curriculum is a cornerstone for the Michigan State DVM and Veterinary Nursing programs

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For more than 100 years, the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine has prepared the next generation of veterinary professionals. As part of the premiere land-grant university, veterinary science has always been a top focus. MSU boasts an onsite tertiary-care Veterinary Medical Center as well as the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, one of the largest in the country. Multifaceted clinical training is infused into the curriculum at the onset of the DVM program. This enables our students to develop knowledge and skills as they learn to connect biomedical training with real-life cases.

In 2018, MSU launched a new DVM curriculum designed to provide our students with a comprehensive learning approach. Traditional didactic teaching is combined with case-based learning, clinical simulations, and haptic models. The LeBlanc Clinical Skills Laboratory (CSL) and Learning and Assessment Center provide students with the hands-on and interpersonal side of training. This allows our students a safe environment to practice and build confidence prior to entering the clinic phase of training.

MSU also offers a 4-year Veterinary Nursing (VN) bachelor's degree for undergraduate students that instills clinical skills early in the curriculum. VN students have hands-on training through multiple nursing labs and with simulations and models at our CSL. Nursing students enter clinics alongside the DVM candidates as they complete 3-week-long rotations during the last 2 semesters of their education. Working side by side enhances both experiences and helps foster respectful and collegial relationships that benefit everyone in the veterinary profession.

One of the unique aspects of clinical education at MSU is the 3-week rotation system, which allows students the time to refine skills and enhance confidence. In addition to required clerkships, VN and DVM students have the ability and time to select elective rotations, which enables them to build a comprehensive set of experiences that match and expand their areas of interest. In addition, MSU students have access to live animals on the campus's vast farms and at the local Potter Park and Binder Park zoos.

Recently, MSU received \$53 million in state funding, part of which will completely renovate the Dairy farm. This investment in the Dairy further augments the College's opportunities to offer hands-on clinical training



MSU DVM students hone their skills with simulation models in the LeBlanc CSL.

and research. The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Medical Center allows our DVM and VN students to rotate and work with highly trained academic specialists, veterinary nursing faculty, and clinical faculty and staff. The interprofessional education they provide is invaluable to students, and it further reinforces the necessity for respect and appreciation among the entire veterinary health team.

Michigan State's College of Veterinary Medicine is an exciting and ever-evolving community of veterinary professionals who are entirely invested in preparing the next generation of clinicians, veterinary nurses, specialists, scientists, teachers, and policy makers. Embedded interprofessional education is the core of our mission as we learn, discover, heal, and protect.