



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

University Council

August 14, 2026

UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM COMMITTEE – 2026-2027

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Graduate School – Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett

Ex-Officio – Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Undergraduate Student Representative – TBD

Graduate Student Representative – TBD

Dear Colleagues:

The attached proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine for an Area of Emphasis in Clinical Veterinary Training and Research under the major in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (M.S., Thesis) will be an agenda item for the August 21, 2026, Full University Curriculum Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Rodney Mauricio, Chair

cc: Interim Provost Ron Walcott

Dr. Marisa Anne Pagnattaro

PROPOSAL FOR AN AREA OF EMPHASIS

Date: January 21, 2026

School/College: College of Veterinary Medicine

Department/Division: Large Animal Medicine

Program (Major and Degree): Comparative Biomedical Sciences (M.S., Thesis)

Area of Emphasis Title: Clinical Veterinary Training and Research

CIP: 26140101

Which campus(es) will offer this program? Athens

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2027

1. Area of Emphasis Description:

Provide a description of the area of emphasis, including the focus and objectives.

The Department of Large Animal Medicine (LAMS) in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) proposes an Area of Emphasis in Clinical Veterinary Training and Research to be offered under the thesis M.S. in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBS). This area of emphasis is intended for residents pursuing specialty training in large animal critical care, medicine, surgery, sports medicine, and other related clinical fields. The area of emphasis is designed to formally recognize the substantial scholarly and academic work already embedded in veterinary residency training and to provide additional graduate-level structure, mentorship, and professional development emphasizing clinically relevant research training and scholarly productivity.

Students in this area of emphasis will complete all current degree requirements for the thesis M.S. In addition, students in this area of emphasis will engage in advanced coursework and independent scholarly activity aligned with their clinical specialty. The program provides foundational training in scientific communication, research ethics, and clinical literature analysis, alongside elective courses tailored to the resident's area of focus. By the end of the program of study, students will have completed a mentored research project under the guidance of their primary mentor and graduate committee, culminating in a written thesis, oral defense, and a publication-ready manuscript.

This area of emphasis is designed to be completed concurrently with the standard three-year residency program and is structured to complement, rather than compete with, the house officer's clinical responsibilities. The curriculum allows flexibility while maintaining consistent academic rigor and meaningful engagement in clinically focused research.

2. Area of Emphasis Requirements:

Include prefixes, numbers, and titles of required courses, number of credit hours required, residency requirements (if any), and grade requirements (if any). Attach a list of requirements for the major which includes the new area of emphasis.

Students pursuing the Area of Emphasis in Clinical Veterinary Training and Research will complete the requirements for the thesis M.S. in CBS. The area of emphasis curriculum emphasizes foundational scientific knowledge, research methodology, and scientific writing skills. A central component of the program is a mentored research project in which students undertake a faculty-guided investigation designed to result in a publication-ready manuscript. The overall goal is for residents to earn a master's degree concurrently with clinical residency training, thereby gaining structured preparation in research, teaching, and discipline-specific advanced study.

Required Coursework and Research Components (12 hours)

Graduate-level statistics course (3 hours)

VETM 7000, Master's Research (6 hours)

VETM 7300, Master's Thesis (3 hours)

Area of Emphasis Courses (minimum of 10 hours)

Students must complete all AoE-designated courses listed below. Several courses are repeatable and are intended to be taken across multiple semesters; however, students are expected to complete a combination of these courses and may not fulfill the AoE requirement solely through repeated enrollment in a single course.

LAMS 7650, Seminar in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery (1 hour; repeatable)

LAMS 8010, Problems in Large Animal Pathophysiology (1 hour; repeatable)

LAMS 8030, Large Animal Morbidity and Mortality Rounds (1 hour; repeatable)

LAMS 8040, Journal Club: Critical Appraisal of Clinical and Translational Literature (1 hour; repeatable)

LAMS 8100, Introduction to Study Design in Veterinary Medicine (1 hour)

LAMS 8110, Large Animal Research Project Development (1 hour)

LAMS 8120, Developing Competitive Grant Proposals in Veterinary Medicine (2 hours)

LAMS 8180, Applied Research Methods for Clinical Investigators (1 hour)

Remaining Coursework (minimum of 8 hours)

The remaining credit hours required to reach the minimum of 30 total hours are fulfilled through graduate-level coursework selected in consultation with the student's advisory committee, based on the student's area of study and research focus.

Total = minimum of 30 hours

The proposed Area of Emphasis in Clinical Veterinary Training and Research is intended to formally recognize the graduate-level coursework, research activity, and scholarly engagement already occurring within large animal residency training. Although residents routinely participate in academic and research activities consistent with a master's program, these efforts are currently heterogeneous

and do not culminate in an awarded degree. Establishing a formal pathway to degree completion ensures appropriate academic recognition for this work and aligns the educational expectations of residency training with those of peer institutions. Many peer institutions already offer the opportunity to earn a master's degree alongside residency training, which can be a strong draw for applicants; offering this area of emphasis allows the department to address a potential competitive disadvantage in resident recruitment.

While residents may pursue the existing Comparative Biomedical Sciences (M.S.) degree, the training needs of clinically focused veterinary residents differ from those of traditional CBS graduate students. Residents require targeted preparation in clinical research, scientific communication, and teaching that is directly relevant to the hospital setting, rather than the broader biomedical emphasis of the standard curriculum. In addition, the unpredictable and demanding nature of clinical residency schedules necessitates an academic framework that can accommodate variability while maintaining rigor. The area of emphasis structure proposed here allows these specialized training needs to be addressed within the existing degree program while providing the flexibility required to integrate graduate education with intensive clinical responsibilities.

Documentation of Approval and Notification

Proposal: Area of Emphasis in Clinical Veterinary Training and Research under the major in Comparative Biomedical Sciences (M.S., Thesis)

College: College of Veterinary Medicine

Department: Large Animal Medicine

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2027

School/College:

- Head of the Department of Large Animal Medicine, Dr. Kira Epstein, 1/21/2026
- College of Veterinary Medicine Dean, Dr. Lisa K. Nolan, 1/21/2026
- Graduate School Associate Dean, Dr. Anne Shaffer, 3/9/2026