

Academic Promotion Discipline Statement

Discipline area:	Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Sciences
Discipline:	Veterinary Sciences
Sub Disciplines	Anaesthesiology and intensive care; anatomy and physiology; diagnosis and diagnostics; veterinary medicine; pharmacology; urology; virology; pathology; parasitology; epidemiology; mycology; immunology; and surgery
School:	Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences

Discipline Overview

Veterinary Science is concerned with the health of domestic production and wild animals and the prevention, control, diagnosis and treatment of injuries and diseases that affect them.

Academics in this discipline may follow a more traditional academic career path while others enter academia following several years of veterinary practice or other non-university (government etc) veterinary work. While the majority of academics in this discipline undertake teaching and research, others with strong links into industry and a focus on practice concentrate on teaching and professional activity.

In this discipline, doctoral qualifications are not common amongst industry practitioners.

Gender Profile

Profession/Industry	61% female / 39% male
Higher Education Sector	% male / % female
University	50% female / 50% male

Discipline Context and Expectations

INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION	Undergraduate and master level courses in this discipline are subject to accreditation of Australasian Veterinary Boards Council through the Veterinary Schools Accreditation Advisory Committee on a seven-year cycle.
DISCIPLINE PEDAGOGIES	Undergraduate veterinary science is a six-year degree. Teaching includes lectures, tutorials, practicums and problem-based learning activities, complemented with extensive industry placements. The industry placement component may occur during the holiday period.

CLINICAL	Veterinary clinicians supervise all practical learnings in small groups and generally in the presence of the client. The complexity is maintaining professionalism with the client whilst also educating the students. Practical learning is conducted in university or external workplace environments, for example, on farms or in purpose based clinical settings.
STUDENT PROFILE	<p>All students are interviewed and competitively selected, which results in a much more engaged student cohort.</p> <p>Students are predominately school leavers and domestic, with very few being international. The students range widely in age, the norm being from 18 to 25.</p> <p>The gender profile of the cohort is predominately female, with approximately 75 percent being female and 25 percent male.</p>
STUDENT FEEDBACK/PERFORMANCE	All subjects are compulsory up until the final year, which results in the SuES response rate and scores being higher in the final year.
RESEARCH APPROACH	<p>Research in this discipline may be undertaken individually but it is largely collaborative.</p> <p>In this discipline there can be clinical research, based on the improvement of clinical technics and their application, as well as more traditional academic research. Academics do a combination of both depending on their clinical role.</p> <p>Clinicians spend a comparatively higher proportion of hours undertaking clinical work and those hours are impacted by the demands on the industry.</p>
PUBLICATION	<p>In this discipline research is predominately quantitative but not exclusively. The primary forms of publication are peer reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and occasional book chapters. However, publication of books is rare. Industry publications also have importance.</p> <p>Publications target specific areas, which may be very narrow depending on the subdiscipline within veterinary science. Some subdisciplines, depending on the specialisation, may require international publication to gain standing.</p> <p>Word count for publications and journal articles is variable and not relevant in this discipline; quality is more important. The expected average output in this area is generally one to two quality journal articles annually depending on the academic's level.</p> <p>Following the traditional science conventions for authorship, first author is lead researcher while last author is usually senior researcher.</p> <p>Journals within the discipline normally have lower Impact Factors (IF) as publications are frequently aimed at the national relatively small veterinary and farming professions.</p>
CONFERENCES	<p>The Australian Veterinary Association holds annual conferences, and their special interest groups usually host conferences annually or biennially. International conferences based on species are also held every three to four years. Discipline-based conferences (e.g. nutrition, reproduction, parasitology) can also be available.</p> <p>It is normal for academics in this discipline to present their work (or part thereof) at relevant conferences before submission in peer reviewed journals.</p>



GRANTS	At Charles Sturt funding is generally sourced from industry, rather than the Australian Research Council, and it is highly competitive. Available funding is normally for small amounts (\$15,000-20,000 grants). Larger funding amounts are generally interdisciplinary in nature.
HDR SUPERVISION	HDR students both domestic and international, are very difficult to attract in this discipline because most students are very industry focused. They are often sourced from outside the discipline.
RECOGNITION	Membership and Fellowship of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists are often important goals in the profession. Fellowship is the pathway to recognised discipline specialist qualification. US Board and European /British College status is also regarded highly as a sign of specialty training and recognition.
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT	No unique external engagement requirements in this discipline. External engagement is important in this discipline. Building industry partnerships and relationships are integral to this discipline.
PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	Professional registration with the state authority (eg NSW Board of Veterinary Surgeons), while not mandatory for teaching, is necessary for any clinical work, and is generally annually updated by most staff.

Prepared by	Academic Promotion Team	
Authorisation	Name	Approval Date
Discipline Adviser	Professor Bruce Allworth	18 October 2021
Head of School School	Associate Professor Robert Woodgate Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences	18 October 2021

