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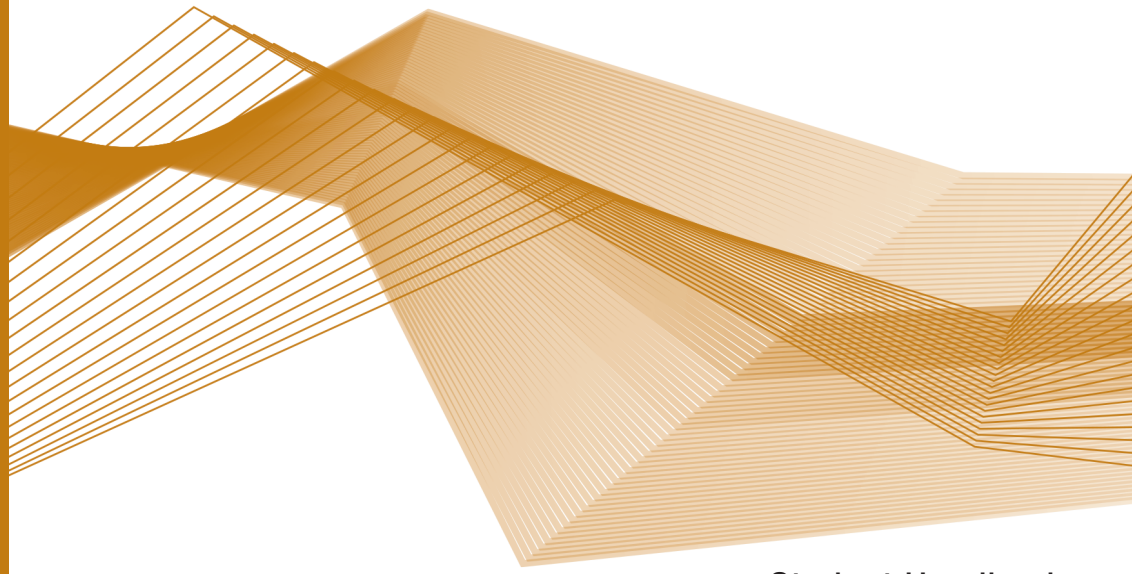
Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong
in collaboration with Cornell University

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences
賽馬會動物醫學及生命科學院

Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
獸醫學學士



Student Handbook
2019-2020

Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences

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This student handbook is applicable to the 2019/20 cohort. It may be subject to review from time to time. Students are advised to visit the College's website (http://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc) and other relevant websites for updated information.

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1. College's Welcome

Welcome to the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences of City University of Hong Kong. This student handbook gives you, amongst others, an overview of the 6-year Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme that is tailored to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based veterinary training leading to the Day One Competences needed by graduating veterinarians in order to meet international accreditation standards.

An important feature of our undergraduate programme, and part of our quality assurance procedures, is the emphasis on Day One Competences as stipulated by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and adopted by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. The College also aims to be nurturing the "One Health" paradigm to support sustainable development.

Pedagogically, part of the curriculum will be taught in an innovative Problem-Based Learning (PBL) format, modelled on the veterinary curriculum developed by our strategic partner Cornell University' College of Veterinary Medicine. In relation to the practical exposure, the programme will give you abundant opportunities to gain hands-on experience at our world-class clinical facilities, our small animal specialist teaching clinic, CityU Veterinary Medical Centre; the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory; our aquaculture facilities; and affiliated livestock and equine facilities. Throughout the curriculum, you will have access to state-of-the-art training facilities and genuine casework under the supervision of veterinary specialists and other qualified staff, and to be engaged in a full range of training experiences via different clinical platforms.

Last but not least, you will be the very unique group of locally-trained veterinary undergraduate students in the only veterinary school in Hong Kong. The prospects and opportunities that you will have in the veterinary profession, the city and the region will be unprecedented. We trust you will find your time here with us to be both challenging and rewarding, and that you will make the most of this rich and diverse environment. Again, welcome to the College.

2. The Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (JCC)

In 2017, CityU integrated the School of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Biomedical Sciences and established the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences (the "College"). The College synergizes the collaborative effort of the two academic units in education and research, and serves as the professional arm of CityU to pursue excellence in infectious diseases prevention and control, physiological and pathological research, and veterinary and human disease diagnostics and therapeutics.

The College offers the first veterinary professional degree in Hong Kong which is designed to train professionally competent veterinarians according to strenuous international accreditation standards.

Provisional Accreditation status was granted in 2017 and we maintain this status after the recent accreditation visit in February 2019. Our efforts have won enthusiastic support from the Hong Kong Government, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, generous donors and the community at large. In August 2018, the College was being renamed to Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences.
Guided by One Health core principles, the College is implementing the CityU vision to pioneer excellence in veterinary education and research in Hong Kong, Asia and the world, emphasizing Public health, Food safety, Animal welfare and Aquatic animal health for the well-being of society. Our facilities include the CityU Veterinary Medical Centre and CityU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory plus other facilities such as the newly acquired dairy farm land in Lam Tsuen in the north of Hong Kong.

After the successful completion of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, graduates may choose to practice as a veterinarian or choose to undertake post-graduate studies. Since 2015, the College has run an interdisciplinary PhD programme with joint supervision by faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Another option is to undertake the training to become a recognized veterinary specialist, and the College provides that training in several specialist disciplines.

The Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine is not the only bachelor's degree offered by the College. The Department of Biomedical Sciences, incorporated under the College, offers two bachelor degree programmes: a BSc in Biomedical Sciences and a BSc in Biological Sciences.

Ultimately, the College will create new growth points for society and new career paths for our young people, and enable CityU to become an international hub for public health.

3. The Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine (BVM) Programme

Major	(in English)	:	Veterinary Medicine
	(in Chinese)	:	獸醫學
Degree	(in English)	:	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
	(in Chinese)	:	獸醫學學士
Award Title#	(in English)	:	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
	(in Chinese)	:	獸醫學學士

Period of Study	**Year**
Normal period of study	6 years
Maximum period of study	8 years

Study Load	**Credit Unit**
Minimum number of credit units required for the award	252credits
Maximum number of credit units permitted	273 credits
Maximum and Minimum Study Load per semester	21 credits

3.1 Overview of the Curriculum Structure

The curriculum allows students to gain in-depth knowledge through major studies, and a solid scientific background through college's specified requirements. The Gateway Education (GE)

courses on the other hand assist students to diversify their knowledge for a well-rounded development. The curriculum structure (collectively the "**BVM Degree Requirements**") is as follows:

BVM Degree Requirements		**Normative 6-year Degree**
Major Requirements	Core Courses	222 credits
	Elective Courses	N/A
Gateway Education (GE)	University Requirements • GE1401 - University English • GE2401 - English for Science • GE1501 Chinese Civilization – History and Philosophy	9 credits
	Distributional Requirements[1] Area 1: Arts and Humanities Area 2: Study of Societies, Social and Business Organizations Area 3: Science and Technology	12credits
	College-specified Requirements • PHY1400 - Introductory Physics for Biologists • BCH1100 - Chemistry • BCH 2007B - Principles of Organic Chemistry	9 credits
Minimum number of credit units required for the award		**252 credits**

[1] Students are required to take a minimum of 3 credit units from each of the following specified areas – 1: Arts and Humanities, 2: Study of Societies, Social and Business Organizations, and 3: Science and Technology

3.2 List of core courses under major requirements

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Units
PHY 2400	Advanced Physics for Biologists	3
TBA*	Biology of Populations, Species and Ecosystems[HY1]	3
BMS 2803	Biology of Cells	3
BMS 2804	Veterinary Microbiology	3
BMS 2805	Biochemistry for Veterinary Science	3
BMS 2806	Genes, Inheritance and Genetic Disorders	3
VM 2001	One Health	3
VM 2002	Animal Welfare 1	3
VM 2003	Extensive Livestock Farming Systems	3
VM 2100	Statistics for Evidence-based Biological and Veterinary Sciences	3
VM 2101	Marine Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health	3
VM 2102	Animal Behaviour and Handling	3
VM 2103	Animal Nutrition and Welfare	3
VM 2104	Introduction to Food Safety	3
VM 2105	Introduction to Zoonoses	3
TBA*	Fresh Water Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health [HY2]	3
VM 2107	Intensive Animal Husbandry	3
VM 3001	Animal Body I	3
VM 3002	Animal Body II	15
VM 3003	Food Safety and Regulation	3
VM 3004	Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine	3
VM 3010	Veterinary Practice Parts I & II: Physical Examination and Clinical Procedures	3
VM 3100	Function and Dysfunction	18
VM 4000	Host, Agent and Defense	15
VM 4001	Clinical Pharmacology/ Toxicology	3
VM 4002	Conservation Medicine	3
VM 4010	Veterinary Practice Parts III & IV: Veterinary Communication, Business and Professional Development	3
VM 4011	Veterinary Practice Part V: Transition to the Profession	1
VM 4101	Animal Health and Disease: Part I	18
VM 4102	Animal Health and Disease: Part II	18

VM 4103	Zoo and Exotic Animal Diseases	3
VM 4104	Transboundary Animal Diseases	3
VM 4105	Clinical Seminars	1
VM 4201	Aquatic Veterinary Medicine I (Fin fishes)	3
VM 4202	Aquatic Veterinary Medicine II (Invertebrates)	3
VM 4301	Clinical Rotations: Part I	10
VM 4302	Clinical Rotations: Part II	18
VM 4303	Clinical Rotations: Part III	18
VM 4401	Research Project I	3
VM 4402	Research Project II	3
Total credit units		**222**

** Course codes will be advised upon University's approval*

3.3 Curricular Milestones (non-credit bearing)

The curricular milestones are compulsory requirements not affiliated with particular courses, but must be satisfactorily completed before a student can advance in the programme. These are:

(a) A TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based test) or 100 (Internet-based test), or an IELTS overall band score of 7 and 7 in each category prior to graduation;

(b) the satisfactory completion of VM1001 Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills prior to commencing VM1002 Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Studies (EMS);

(c) the satisfactory completion of 12 weeks of VM1002 Animal Husbandry EMS during the Summer Terms or teaching breaks prior to commencing the third year of the programme;

(d) the satisfactory completion of 26 weeks of VM1003 Clinical EMS during the Summer Terms or teaching breaks prior to graduation; and

(e) the satisfactory completion of a register of veterinary skills prior to graduation.

3.3.1 VM 1001 - Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills

Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills will be taught in an intensive period commencing at or about the beginning of the Summer Term. It will be followed by one clear week before any scheduled Husbandry EMS begins to allow time for remediation and reassessment should any students be judged inadequate in their interactions with some species. It will also leave 12 weeks comprising the Summer Term (which is free of scheduled classes for BVM students), the 'swot vac' and summer examination period and the term break vacation period in which to undertake 6 weeks of Husbandry EMS. The format will be a 'Round Robin' with 5-8 students in each group under close supervision by a College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences staff member and the activities will take place on a farm or in a kennel, cattery, or stables that has the standard handling facilities for the particular species. Some animal handling skills will be covered in courses conducted prior to Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills, particularly in the Animal Behaviour and the Extensive Livestock Farming Systems courses.

For all species of animal, students will consider on-farm etiquette (or in kennel/cattery), observe the water supply, food supply, and waste disposal in the particular establishment. A staff member will explain the indicators of the temperament of individual animals of the particular species followed by the students' assessment of the breed and temperament of the individual animals presented for the class. After a demonstration by the supervising staff member, students will undertake animal handling activities several times, and then the competence of each student for the particular exercise will be assessed by the staff member on a 'shows day-one competence' or 'not yet competent' basis.

Students will be required to achieve day-one competence in all activities. There will be an opportunity in the week following the 'round robin' period for remedial teaching, learning, and assessment.

3.3.2 VM 1002 - Animal Husbandry Extra-mural Studies

The completion of this curricular milestone requires 12 weeks of satisfactory performance while engaged in the husbandry and management of dairy cattle, beef cattle, small ruminants, horses, dogs, cats, pigs, poultry and fish. Academic oversight of Animal Husbandry EMS will be provided by the coordinator of one of the animal husbandry courses who will be assisted by a trilingual (English, Cantonese and Mandarin) Husbandry EMS liaison officer. The students will work under the day-to-day direction of the farm/establishment manager and actively participate in the routine management of the herd/flock/kennels. They will make observations as appropriate of the structure of the animal holding facilities and the impact of weather events on animals in those facilities, management of the food and water supply, management of waste, food conversion efficiency, reproductive rates, growth rates, animal identification techniques, and data records and recording.

Students will undertake their Animal Husbandry EMS in one- or two-week blocks with each block being undertaken in a different farm or other animal establishment. Some of the establishments will be outside of Hong Kong.

Animal Husbandry EMS makes a major contribution towards the AVBC Standard 4 requirement for students to have access to, and hands-on experience with, a sufficient number and variety of animals of the main domestic species to ensure that students become competent in their handling and develop knowledge of their husbandry and behaviour. It also makes a major contribution towards the AVBC Standard 9 requirements for students to develop their competence in animal management and understanding of farm systems and to develop the ability to recognise and advise on normal animal husbandry and management. It also makes a contribution to RCVS competence 17: The ability to handle and restrain animals safely and humanely; and competence 21: The ability to assess the physical condition, welfare, and nutritional status of animals.

3.3.3 VM 1003 - Clinical Extra-mural Studies

The completion of this curricular milestone requires 26 weeks of satisfactory performance while engaged in clinical experience in veterinary practices covering companion animals, dairy cattle, beef cattle, small ruminants, horses, dogs, cats, pigs, poultry and fish. Academic oversight of Clinical EMS will be provided by the coordinator of one of the

clinical courses, but the students will work under the day-to-day direction of the head veterinarian of the particular practice and be allocated to work with individual clinicians on a one-to-one basis. Some of the clinical experience will be in static clinics and hospitals, some in in-house veterinary departments of large livestock industry establishments, some in ambulatory services, some in a slaughterhouse or abattoir, and some in a veterinary diagnostic laboratory.

With the permission of the owners, in accordance with the policy of the particular practice, and within the legal constraints of the Veterinary Surgeons' Registration Ordinance, students will participate in a subordinate role to and under the close supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon in the clinical examination, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery of animals and the recording of case data. Students will also make observations as appropriate of the layout of the veterinary clinic/hospital, the services provided by the practice, pharmacy management, pricing, staffing, teamwork, professional behaviour, animal management by nursing and lay staff, and record management.

Students will undertake their Clinical EMS in one- to four-week blocks with each block being undertaken in a different practice. Some of the establishments may be outside of Hong Kong. There are minimum and maximum requirements in terms of the number of weeks in each type of practice but students can follow their personal interests within those boundaries. All students will undertake Basic Equine Practice EMS, but Advanced Equine Practice EMS is only available by invitation.

Clinical EMS makes a major contribution towards the development of the Competences, skills and attributes required by the AVBC of veterinary graduates. It also makes a contribution to the development of the general professional skills and attributes, practical and clinical Competences expected by the RCVS of newly-qualified graduates, except that the student may not happen to experience situations in which Competences 25 (reporting of notifiable diseases) or 29 (reporting of suspected adverse reactions) apply. Clinical EMS will also contribute to the underpinning knowledge and understanding required by RCVS in relation to the development of effective interpersonal skills and an ethical approach to animals and veterinary practice

3.3.4 Register of veterinary skills

Students will maintain a register of the skills they have acquired during the course of the programme. It is a simple but comprehensive checklist of experiences and observations the requisite is integrated with the Day One Competences (see next section). You will be introduced to the register during the Pre-EMS.

3.4 Aims of Major

The College aims to train veterinarians that fulfil the Day One Competences as stipulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and adopted by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). As a college that strives to be a premier provider of veterinary research, training and service in Asia, the College is also committed to attaining the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) Day One Competences (OIE recommendations on the Competences of graduating veterinarians ('Day One graduates')).

Each competency is related to a course learning objective present in the courses of the curriculum which will be mapped against the RCVS Day One Competences. Thus it will not be possible for a student to graduate who has exceeded the pass mark for the course by being very proficient at one aspect but at the same time scoring a very low mark for an aspect directly linked to a Day One competency. To graduate, a student must not only exceed the pass mark for a particular course but also achieve Day One competency in the skills and attributes associated with that course.

The curriculum was designed with five objectives:

(a) To meet the accreditation standards set by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council;

(b) To include courses of particular relevance in east, south-east, and south Asia and arranged in themes
    - Animal Welfare
    - Aquatic Animal Health
    - Emerging Infectious Diseases
    - Food Safety

(c) To include pre-clinical courses in Year 1 and 2 to prepare students for para-clinical and clinical studies in subsequent years;

(d) To include para-clinical and clinical courses in Years 3 – 6 which are modelled on Cornell's veterinary medicine curriculum;

(e) To meet the University's undergraduate requirements;

3.5 Intended Learning Outcomes of Major (MILOs)

Upon successful completion of this major, students should be able to:

1. Have an understanding of the scientific principles underlying veterinary medicine;
2. Acquire the basic clinical skills and attitudes necessary to care for the common domestic; animals and other species entrusted to our stewardship;
3. Acquire critical thinking as evidenced by successful problem solving;
4. Demonstrate sound clinical judgment and medical decision-making skills;
5. Show an understanding of the interactions among animals, people, and the environment;
6. Display a commitment to professionalism, including a commitment to animal welfare and to following the best practices in relation to ethical, cultural, global, business management, and legal issues;
7. Subscribe to the need for self-education and lifelong learning skills to promote professional growth;
8. Demonstrate an understanding of the limits of one's knowledge and skills and the ability to address those limits through effective use of sources of information and expertise;
9. Satisfy a series of Day one Competences; and
10. Have particular knowledge and understanding of the issues related to Emerging Infectious Diseases, Food Safety, Animal Welfare and Aquatic Animal Health.

4. Curriculum Structure of the 6-Year Degree

4.1 Study Plan

Students are required to undertake courses without intermission in order to fulfill the BVM Degree Requirements within the normal study period. Students are expected to follow the below progression pattern of study:

Year of Study	Semester A	Semester B
1	GE1401 - University English	GE2401 - English for Science
	GE1501 - Chinese Civilisation - History and Philosophy	VM2002 - Animal Welfare 1
	VM2001 - One Health	VM2003 - Extensive Livestock Farming Systems
	VM2102 - Animal Behaviour and Handling	PHY1400 - Introductory Physics for Biologists
	BCH1100 - Chemistry	Biology of Populations, Species and EcoSystems[HY3] (course code to be advised)
	GE 1136 - Animal Ethics, Welfare and Law - A Regulatory and Policy Review	A GE course in Area 2 to prepare for professional development
	GE1351 - Food Production and Security	
Summer Term	VM 1001 Pre-EMS Animal Handling Skills & VM 1002 Animal Husbandry Extra-Mural Studies	
2	VM2100 - Statistics for Evidence-based Biological and Veterinary Sciences	BMS2805 - Biochemistry for Veterinary Science
	Fresh Water Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health [HY4](course code to be advised)	BMS2806 - Genes, Inheritance and Genetic Disorders
	VM2107 - Intensive Animal Husbandry	VM2104 - Introduction to Food Safety
	PHY2400 - Advanced Physics for Biologists	VM2105 - Introduction to Zoonoses

	BCH2007B - Principles of Organic Chemistry	VM2101 - Marine Aquaculture and Aquatic Animal Health
	BMS2803 - Biology of Cells	VM2103 - Animal Nutrition and Welfare
	BMS2804 - Veterinary Microbiology	VM3001 - Animal Body I
Summer Term	VM 1002 Animal Husbandry Extra-mural Studies	
3	VM3002 - Animal Body II	VM3100 - Function and Dysfunction
	VM3003 - Food Safety and Regulation	
	VM3010 - Veterinary Practice Parts I & II: Physical Examination and Clinical Procedures	VM3004 - Evidence Based Veterinary Medicine
Summer Term/ teaching break	VM 1003 Clinical Extra-mural Studies	
4	VM4000 - Host, Agent and Defense	VM4101 - Animal Health and Disease: Part I
	VM4001 - Clinical Pharmacology/ Toxicology	VM4201 - Aquatic Veterinary Medicine I (Fin Fishes)
	VM4002 - Conservation Medicine	
Summer Term/ teaching break	VM 1003 Clinical Extra-mural Studies	
5	VM4102 - Animal Health and Disease: Part II	VM4011- Veterinary Practice Part V: Transition to the Profession
		VM4103- Zoo and Exotic Animal Diseases
	VM4010 - Veterinary Practice Parts III & IV: Veterinary Communication, Business and Professional Development	VM4104 - Transboundary Animal Diseases
		VM4202 - Aquatic Veterinary Medicine II (Invertebrates)
		VM4105 - Clinical Seminars
		VM4301 - Clinical Rotations: Part I

Summer Term/ teaching break	VM 1003 Clinical Extra-mural Studies	
6	VM4302 - Clinical Rotations: Part II	VM4303 - Clinical Rotations: Part III
	VM4401 - Research Project I	VM4402 - Research Project II

Note that some of the activities may be scheduled at night, on weekends or during vacations.

Please visit the Undergraduate Catalog at http://www.cityu.edu.hk/cityu/prgm/prgm.htm for course details.

5. Attributes of Veterinary Graduates stipulated by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc.

City University of Hong Kong is engaged in a process with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC), ultimately leading towards international accreditation of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine. The Programme was granted "Provisional Accreditation" after admission of the first cohort of BVM students in September 2017, which has recently be re-confirmed in June 2019. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is engaged in the accreditation process under their reciprocal recognition agreement with the AVBC and the most recent accreditation review was carried out jointly by these two bodies in February 2019.

Graduates of AVBC/RCVS accredited schools are expected to be eligible to work as veterinarians in the jurisdictions that recognise these particular accrediting authorities. Besides, individual graduates need to fulfil the registration requirements of any relevant professional bodies, which can include certain minimum fitness to practice standards relating to medical or physical conditions, conduct or competence issues, disciplinary findings, convictions, language skills, etc. (as an example, information about the registration requirements of the Veterinary Council of New Zealand can be found here).

Information about registering as a veterinary surgeon in Hong Kong is available on the website of the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong: https://vsbhk.org.hk.

China's Ministry of Agriculture will also allow veterinary graduates who are Chinese nationals and are registered in Hong Kong or Macau to sit the Chinese National Veterinary Licensing Examination.

(The following paragraphs are reproduced from the website of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc.)

ATTRIBUTES RELATING TO KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Graduates will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Scientific method at a level adequate to provide a rational basis for present veterinary practice, and to assimilate the advances in knowledge which will occur over their working life;
- The normal structure, function and development of animals, their interactions with their environment and the factors which may disturb these;
- The underlying basis of health and disease in a broad range of species;
- Fundamental clinical skills in a broad range of species;
- The principles of epidemiology, of diseases and zoonoses and their impacts on the environment;
- Public health and food safety;
- Economically and environmentally sustainable animal production systems;
- The veterinary legislative environment.

ATTRIBUTES RELATING TO SKILLS

Graduates will have developed the following skills:

- The ability to acquire information from and about clients and perform and record a clinical examination of their animals and to store and retrieve such information;
- To collect, organise and analyse information in relation to specific problems, assessing its validity and reaching probabilistic judgements;
- To perform basic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures;
- To work and communicate effectively and empathetically with colleagues and clients through a range of media with compassion, courtesy, respect, honesty and without discrimination;
- An ability to perform effectively in a workplace including an understanding of organisational systems, human and physical resource management, performance indicators, occupational health and safety, knowledge management and quality control;
- Self-management and group leadership.

ATTRIBUTES RELATING TO ATTITUDES AS THEY AFFECT PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR

During their veterinary education, students should acquire the professional standards which are outlined in professional codes of conduct and the following attitudes which are regarded as fundamental to veterinary practice:

- An appreciation of the complexity of ethical issues, the diversity of stakeholder perspectives and the range of cultural values;
- A desire to promote animal welfare;
- An awareness of the need to communicate with clients and to involve them fully in planning and management;
- An ability to recognise when a clinical problem exceeds their capacity to deal with it safely and efficiently and of the need to refer the case for help from others when this occurs;
- A willingness to work effectively in a team with other relevant professionals;
- A recognition that it is not always in the interests of clients to do everything that is technically possible to make a precise diagnosis or attempt to modify the course of a disease;
- Recognition of the critical role of veterinarians in biosecurity and in the management of veterinary issues that have

6. Day One Competences as stipulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeon

City University of Hong Kong aims to train veterinarians to fulfil the Day One Competences as stipulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and adopted by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, as well as those promulgated by the World Organisation for Animal Health. Graduates of the Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme are required to meet the following minimum essential competences stipulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

(The following paragraphs are reproduced from the website of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

6.1 This document sets out the minimum essential competences that the RCVS expects all veterinary students to have met when they graduate, to ensure that they are safe to practise on day one, in whichever area of the profession they start to work.

6.2 Competence is a concept that integrates knowledge, skills and attitudes, the application of which enables the professional to perform effectively, including being able to cope with contingencies, change, and the unexpected. The RCVS has adopted as a definition of competence in a job "the ability to perform the roles and tasks required by one's job to the expected standard"[2]. The standard of competence expected at any given time will "vary with experience and responsibility and take into account the need to keep up to date with changes in practice". Competence is therefore a relative term, and increasing levels of competence will be expected throughout the professional's career.

6.3 Defined in this way, there is an important difference between 'competence' and 'skills'. An example of a competence would be "perform aseptic surgery correctly". This may include a number of associated skills such as scrubbing up, excising small tumours and cysts, routine castration, suturing etc, which would be recorded in the student's experience log as evidence of developing competence. The more generic "competence" requires more than just acquisition of technical skills: it involves applying relevant knowledge, and having the confidence and ability to transfer what has been learnt to a variety of contexts and new unpredictable situations.

[2] "Developing the Attributes of Medical Professional Judgement and Competence", Michael Eraut & Benedict du Boulay, University of Sussex, 2000. www.sussex.ac.uk/Users/bend/doh/reporthtml.html;

6.4 'Day One Competence' is the minimum standard required for registration with the RCVS and is the starting point for a variety of roles in the veterinary profession. After graduation, ongoing professional development will be needed in whichever field the new graduate decides to enter, and some roles may require postgraduate training and further qualifications (eg. pathology, government regulatory work, specialist clinical practice).

6.5 All new graduates in clinical practice should continue their development throughout the Professional Development Phase (PDP) until they reach 'Year One Competence'. Beyond this, they may wish to take postgraduate certificates, and seek accreditation as an RCVS Advanced Practitioner to demonstrate mastery in their field of interest. Those who want to specialise later in their careers will need to aim for a European Diploma to be accredited as RCVS and European Specialists.

6.6 A new graduate who has achieved day one competence should be capable and confident enough to practise veterinary medicine at a primary care level on their own, while knowing when it is appropriate to seek direction from more experienced colleagues. New graduates are likely to need more time to perform some procedures. Support and direction from more senior colleagues should be available. The amount of support and assistance needed by a new graduate should tail off over time, as they continue their development throughout the Professional Development Phase and work towards their 'year one competence'. The measure for achievement of 'year one competence' is that they are "able to perform a range of common clinical procedures, or manage them without close supervision, in a reasonable period of time and with a high probability of a successful outcome[3]".

6.7 Achievement of day one competence is necessary but not sufficient for a graduate to qualify for registration to practise in the UK. In addition to day one competence, all new graduates will have acquired a range of graduate-level attributes during their university degree course. These attributes include academic and professional capabilities as befits the award of a professional qualification at Masters[4]level of the national qualifications framework. Benchmarks for this are set in the UK by the Quality Assurance Agency which oversees standards in UK universities.

[3] "Guidance on the Professional Development Phase", RCVS, August 2012

[4] The Quality Assurance Agency sets the level descriptors and benchmarks for higher education qualifications in the UK. Masters degrees are placed at level 7 in the framework for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and at level 11 in the framework for Scotland. This equates to the European 'Bologna' framework for higher education, where Masters degrees are placed within the 'second cycle' of higher education. Details of the framework of levels can be found on the QAA website, www.qaa.ac.uk and at www.qaa.ac.uk/assuringstandardsandquality/qualifications/Pages/default.aspx

6.8 The new veterinary graduate must be fully conversant with and abide by the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and its associated guidance, covering:

- professional competence
- honesty and integrity
- independence and impartiality
- client confidentiality and trust
- professional accountability.

These principles, and compliance with the professional responsibilities set out in the Code, must underpin all their work as veterinary surgeons. The latest version of the Code and supporting guidance can be found on the RCVS website www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/.

6.9 The day one competences below are set out under the broad headings of:

- General professional skills and attributes expected of newly-qualified veterinary surgeons
- Practical and clinical competences expected of new veterinary surgeons
- Underpinning knowledge and understanding

This last section is an indicator of the extent of knowledge, but of course can never be a fully comprehensive list.

6.10 There are many ways in which these competences can be learnt and assessed, but the RCVS leaves the decisions on the details to universities, subject to periodic accreditation visits. Universities are responsible for developing the day one competence of their students and ensuring that they have met the competences by the time they graduate. They are greatly assisted in this by the practising arm of the veterinary profession, which provides extra-mural work placements so that students can practise applying these competences in the workplace.

6.11 The RCVS has developed an online Student Experience Log (SEL), which includes a list of procedures and skills that students may cover during their degree course, both in intra-mural rotations in university clinics, and also in extra-mural placements[5]. The skills in the SEL are not all day one skills – some may go beyond what might be expected at day one – but the SEL can be used by the student to keep a record of the practical and clinical skills they have covered in order to guide their learning. The SEL can be used by UK universities to judge whether a student has gained a good balance of experience before they graduate.

[5] The SEL is one component of the RCVS Professional Development Record (PDR). After registering with the RCVS, new graduates progress to the PDP component of the PDR to record their year one competence. The CPD component of the PDR can be used by all members of RCVS to record their ongoing professional development plans and achievements.

General professional skills and attributes expected of newly qualified veterinary surgeons		
	Competence	Guidance
1	**Be fully conversant with, and follow the CODE OF PRACTICE for the guidance of registered veterinary surgeons**	See https://www.vsbhk.org.hk/doc/code_of_practice.pdf
2	**Understand the ethical and legal responsibilities of the veterinary surgeon in relation to patients, clients, society and the environment.**	*To abide by the principles in the* Code of Professional Conduct, *veterinary surgeons need to be able to make professional judgements based on sound principles. They must be able to think through the dilemmas they face when presented with conflicting priorities and be prepared to justify the decisions they make.* *As well as decisions relating to individual patients, animal groups, populations of animals and clients, veterinary surgeons must take account of the possible impact of their actions beyond the immediate workplace, eg, on public health, the environment and society more generally.*
3	**Demonstrate knowledge of the organisation, management and legislation related to a veterinary business.**	*This includes:* • *knowing one's own and the employer's responsibilities in relation to employment, financial and health and safety legislation, the position relating to non-veterinary staff, and professional and public liability* • *awareness of how fees are calculated, of income, overheads and other expenditure involved in running a veterinary business* • *ability to work with various information systems to effectively communicate, share, collect, manipulate and analyse information* • *importance of complying with professional standards, protocols & policies of the business* • *knowledge of legislation affecting veterinary businesses, such as the disposal of clinical waste and safety of medicines.*

4	**Promote, monitor and maintain health and safety in the veterinary setting; demonstrate knowledge of systems of quality assurance; apply principles of risk management to their practice.**	*This includes knowledge and explanation of the procedure for reporting adverse incidents and the procedures for avoiding them. It also includes following safe practices relating to the dangers in the workplace.*
5	**Communicate effectively with clients, the public, professional colleagues and responsible authorities, using language appropriate to the audience concerned.**	*Effective communication includes effective listening and responding appropriately, both verbally and non-verbally, depending on the context.*
6	**Prepare accurate clinical and client records, and case reports when necessary, in a form satisfactory to colleagues and understandable by the public.**	*Patient records should be clear enough that they can be referred to by others and (if written by hand) legible, avoiding idiosyncratic abbreviations or jargon, so the case can be taken over by another professional for ongoing treatment if necessary.*
7	**Work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team in the delivery of services.**	*The team may include veterinary nurses, practice managers, technicians, farriers, nutritionists, physiotherapists, veterinary specialists, meat hygiene inspectors, animal handlers and others. The veterinary surgeon should be familiar with and respect the roles played by others in the team and be prepared to provide effective leadership when appropriate.*
8	**Understand the economic and emotional context in which the veterinary surgeon operates.**	*Veterinary surgeons need to be resilient and confident in their own professional judgements to withstand the stresses and conflicting demands they may face in the workplace. They should know how to recognise the signs of stress and how to seek support to mitigate the psychological stress on themselves and others.*
9	**Be able to review and evaluate literature and presentations critically.**	*New graduates must be able to appreciate the difference in value to be attached to different sorts of literature and evidence, for example, recognising commercial and other forms of bias.*

10	**Understand and apply principles of clinical governance, and practise evidence-based veterinary medicine.**	*More guidance on clinical governance is included in the supporting guidance to the Code of Professional Conduct.* *It includes critically analysing the best available evidence for procedures used, reflecting on performance and critical events and learning from the outcome to make changes to one's practice.*
11	**Use their professional capabilities to contribute to the advancement of veterinary knowledge, in order to improve the quality of animal care and public health.**	*The veterinary surgeon must think beyond the immediate case in hand, and take up opportunities to contribute to the processes of continuous improvement. This may include clinical audit, case discussions, research and adding to the evidence base for others to draw on in the future.*
12	**Demonstrate ability to cope with incomplete information, deal with contingencies, and adapt to change.**	*Veterinary surgeons must be able to manage cases and make decisions where there is incomplete or unclear data. It is not always possible to run a full set of tests or range of diagnostic procedures which may preclude the investigation of the 'perfect' case. They need to be able to adapt their approach to fit changing circumstances, know how to cope appropriately with contingencies and the unexpected, and identify appropriate options for further diagnosis, treatment and/or referral, should a case require it.*
13	**Demonstrate that they recognise personal and professional limits, and know how to seek professional advice, assistance and support when necessary.**	*Veterinary surgeons undertaking procedures on patients must at all stages in their careers be competent in their performance, or be under the close supervision of those so competent until such time as they can act alone.*

14	**Demonstrate a commitment to learning and professional development, both personal and as a member of a profession actively engaged in work-based learning. This includes recording and reflecting on professional experience and taking measures to improve performance and competence.**	*It is a requirement of the* RCVS Code of Professional Conduct *that veterinary surgeons must maintain and develop their knowledge and skills relevant to their professional practice and competence. New graduates must be prepared to take part in the RCVS Professional Development Phase (PDP*) *and be ready on graduation to make the transition to being an independent learner responsible for their own professional improvement and development. This includes being able to reflect, learn, and share information gained with others.*
15	**Take part in self-audit and peer-group review processes in order to improve performance.**	*Veterinary surgeons must regularly review how they are performing in their day to day professional work, and play an active part in performance appraisal. New graduates in clinical practice must take part in the RCVS Professional Development Phase and keep a record of their continuing progress until they have met the year one competence level.*

Practical and clinical competences expected of new veterinary surgeons		
	Competence	Guidance
16	**Obtain an accurate and relevant history of the individual animal or animal group, and its/their environment**	
17	**Handle and restrain animal patients safely and humanely, and instruct others in helping the veterinary surgeon perform these techniques.**	*Safety applies not only to the animal, but also to others nearby. The new veterinary surgeon should be able to make a rapid risk assessment of all procedures as duties are performed, as dangers may appear in situations that initially appear to be safe. They should be prepared to take a range of measures including adaptation, seeking assistance or retreating from the task until safety measures can be put in place.*

18	**Perform a complete clinical examination**	*A complete clinical examination is not always required or appropriate in practice. Whilst the new veterinary surgeon should be able to perform a complete examination, they should know when it is appropriate to adapt their examination to the circumstances.*
19	**Develop appropriate treatment plans and administer treatment in the interests of the patients and with regard to the resources available.**	*This includes being able to tailor a treatment plan when there may be financial or other constraints, whilst prioritising the welfare of the patient(s), whether for an individual animal or the group.*
20	**Attend all species in an emergency and perform first aid.**	*The new graduate must be able to perform basic first aid, and know when and how to call for assistance from others if called to deal with an animal outside their immediate area of competence or where there are potential risks to health and safety. This involves being able to make a rapid risk assessment of the situation and taking appropriate action to protect the health and safety of themselves and those around them.*
21	**Assess the physical condition, welfare and nutritional status of an animal or group of animals and advise the client on principles of husbandry and feeding.**	*This applies to commonly presented cases and would not be expected to include advanced advice for complex cases.*
22	**Collect, preserve and transport samples, select appropriate diagnostic tests, interpret and understand the limitations of the test results.**	*New graduates are expected to have a working knowledge of relevant tests for the condition under investigation. They should seek assistance to interpret results when appropriate.*
23	**Communicate clearly and collaborate with referral and diagnostic services, including providing an appropriate history.**	
24	**Understand the contribution that imaging and other diagnostic techniques can make in achieving a diagnosis. Use basic imaging**	*This competence includes taking images of diagnostically-useful quality, as well as the safe use of the equipment (eg ionising radiation regulations) in accordance with best practice ('ALARA' principle –*

	equipment and carry out an examination effectively as appropriate to the case, in accordance with good health and safety practice and current regulations.	*as low as reasonably achievable). 'Basic' equipment includes, for example, x-ray, ultrasound and endoscopes, but a new graduate would not be expected to perform an MRI or CT scan. New graduates should be able to interpret common findings and know when to refer or seek more experienced interpretation if appropriate.*
25	**Recognise suspicious signs of possible notifiable, reportable and zoonotic diseases and take appropriate action, including notifying the relevant authorities.**	*This involves identifying the clinical signs, clinical course, transmission potential (including vectors) of pathogens associated with common zoonotic and food-borne diseases and transboundary animal diseases.*
26	**Apply the RCVS Twelve Principles of Certification.**	*The Principles of Certification are described in the supporting guidance to the* Code of Professional Conduct*, available on the RCVS website. New graduates must be familiar with the Principles and follow the RCVS supporting guidance.*
27	**Access the appropriate sources of data on licensed medicines.**	
28	**Prescribe and dispense medicines correctly and responsibly in accordance with legislation and latest guidance.**	*New graduates must understand the requirements of the Cascade in prescribing. In particular, when prescribing or using antimicrobial agents, care must be taken to minimise the risk of antimicrobial resistance.*
29	**Report suspected adverse reactions.**	*The veterinary surgeon should follow the Veterinary Medicines Directorate procedures for reporting.*
30	**Apply principles of bio-security correctly, including sterilisation of equipment and disinfection of clothing.**	*This applies to all areas of veterinary practice. All veterinary surgeons must maintain high standards of biosecurity at all times in order to minimise the risk of contamination, cross-infection and accumulation of pathogens in the veterinary premises and in the field.*
31	**Perform aseptic surgery correctly.**	*The new graduate must appreciate the requirement for asepsis during procedures, and be able to perform simple, elective surgeries within the limitations of their experience, in an aseptic fashion.*

32	**Safely perform sedation, and general and regional anaesthesia; implement chemical methods of restraint.**	
33	**Assess and manage pain.**	*The new graduate should be able to score and evaluate pain.*
34	**Recognise when euthanasia is appropriate and perform it humanely, using an appropriate method, whilst showing sensitivity to the feelings of owners and others, with due regard to the safety of those present; advise on disposal of the carcase.**	
35	**Perform a systematic gross post-mortem examination, record observations, sample tissues, store and transport them.**	*The new graduate should be aware of the limitations of such investigations, and the potential for conflict of interest where the veterinary surgeon has previously been involved with the case. It is important that they are able to differentiate between normal and abnormal, and that good quality records and samples are taken for further investigation by a pathologist if necessary.*
36	**Perform ante-mortem inspection of animals destined for the food-chain, including paying attention to welfare aspects; correctly identify conditions affecting the quality and safety of products of animal origin, to exclude those animals whose condition means their products are unsuitable for the food-chain.**	*Not all graduates will work in food-animal practice, but the ability to undertake a health and welfare assessment is an important competence, and is required of all new graduates to comply with European and OIE international recognition requirements. Further postgraduate training will be needed before the new graduate can take up official veterinarian duties.*

37	**Advise on, and implement, preventative programmes appropriate to the species and in line with accepted animal health, welfare and public health standards.**	*New graduates will need to be able to assess health and welfare records (and production records where appropriate) and implement health plans. This does not only apply to production animals but is important for any kept animals, particularly those kept in groups.*

Underpinning knowledge and understanding
In order to be able to undertake their professional duties effectively, new veterinary graduates will need a breadth of underpinning knowledge and understanding of the biological, animal and social sciences and laws related to the animal industries. This will include, but is not restricted to, the following:
• Understanding of, and competence in, the logical approaches to both scientific and clinical reasoning, the distinction between the two, and the strengths and limitations of each. • Research methods and the contribution of basic and applied research to veterinary science. • The structure, function and behaviour of animals and their physiological and welfare needs, including healthy domestic animals, captive wildlife and laboratory-housed animals. • A knowledge of the businesses related to animal breeding, production and keeping. • The aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical signs, diagnosis and treatment of the common diseases and disorders that occur in the common domestic species in the UK. • Awareness of other diseases of international importance that pose a risk to national and international biosecurity. • Legislation relating to animal care and welfare, animal movement, and notifiable and reportable diseases. • Medicines legislation and guidelines on responsible use of medicines, including responsible use of antimicrobials and anthelmintics. • The principles of disease prevention and the promotion of health and welfare. • Veterinary public health issues, including epidemiology, transboundary epizootic diseases, zoonotic and food-borne diseases, emerging and re-emerging diseases, food hygiene and technology. • Principles of effective interpersonal interaction, including communication, leadership, management and team working. • The ethical framework within which veterinary surgeons should work, including important ethical theories that inform decision-making in professional and animal welfare-related ethics.

7. Mentorship

Veterinary studies are challenging, however, a characteristic of veterinary programmes, particularly those with small enrolments, is the mutual support amongst the students that arises in such a close-knit group of academically-able people who are all striving towards the same goal and facing the same challenges. Students can feel free to approach any staff member with whom you feel comfortable about any matter, academic or personal, that is of concern to you.

In addition to such casual support, a formal mentorship scheme is in place with the mentors being veterinary-qualified academic staff who were themselves faced with those same challenges in the past. Students will be divided into different groups and each group will be assigned one mentor. The group will normally meet once or twice each semester and can act as a conduit for concerns to be passed on to the management team. Individual meetings may also be arranged as the need arises.

Other channels of communication are also in existence to help the students:

1. **Programme Leader**
   academic matters connected with the programme as a whole
2. **Course Leader**
   academic matters connected with a particular course in the programme
3. **Programme Committee**
   responsible for the quality of the programme to ensure the attainment of its aims and objectives
4. **Joint-Staff-Student Consultative Committee**
   a formal part of the consultative process between students and academic staff members
5. **Counsellor at the Student Development Services**
   non-academic matters of financial, personal, social, study and career nature

8. Vaccination Requirements

8.1 Influenza

Annual influenza vaccination for personal protection is **compulsory** for all veterinary students as it is a condition of access to farms in Hong Kong. The condition has been imposed because of the history of avian influenza outbreaks in Hong Kong, the potential for humans to transmit the virus between farms, and the risk of human infection by avian influenza virus. All veterinary students are eligible for annual influenza vaccination free-of-charge at the Young Chung Yee Health Centre.

8.2 Tetanus

Current tetanus vaccination (*i.e.* a booster within the past 10 years) for personal protection is **compulsory** for all veterinary students because it is a condition of access to farms in Hong Kong. Veterinary students in the course of their clinical training are at increased risk of exposure to bacteria (*Clostridium tetani*) that enter the body through cuts and wounds. Tetanus is an acute, often-fatal disease caused by a toxin produced by the bacterium growing anaerobically at an injury site. Penetrating wounds containing foreign bodies, wounds associated with soil, dirt or manure, and burns are the greatest risk, but tetanus can follow trivial, even unnoticed wounds. Tetanus vaccination was usually received during childhood (e.g. via the Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme), and must be followed by booster doses every 10 years. All veterinary students are eligible for Tetanus vaccinations (including booster dose) free-of-charge at the Young Chung Yee Health Centre.

8.3 Rabies

Prophylactic (pre-exposure) immunization against rabies is **strongly recommended** for all veterinary students. Although there is no known risk of exposure to rabies in Hong Kong at present, rabies is endemic in parts of southern China. It is also a prerequisite for any veterinary experience at Cornell. City University of Hong Kong strongly recommends that students be vaccinated either prior to enrollment or through the Young Chung Yee Health Centre. The cost of vaccination at the Young Chung Yee Health Centre will be fully subsidized by the University. On the other hand, if you have prior rabies vaccinations, you shall bring documentation with you to determine your status and current needs. The on-going efficacy of prior rabies vaccination should be checked on a routine and continuous basis with a doctor. Vaccination following exposure to rabies-positive animals ('post-exposure vaccination') or booster dose will also be provided free-of-charge to veterinary students if medically deemed necessary.

9. Academic Regulations and Guidelines

Students should observe the regulations and guidelines as stipulated by the University at all times. It is in the students' own interests to familiarize themselves with the Academic Regulations. More information is available by referring to the following website maintained by the Academic Regulations and Records Office (ARRO).

ARRO Homepage: www.cityu.edu.hk/arro

9.1 Academic Regulations

The Academic Regulations are made by the University Senate to govern student progress leadi ng to undergraduate degree awards approved by the University Senate. Regulations concernin g courses and related arrangements also apply to exchange and visiting students.

Only the University Senate can amend the Regulations, or permit exceptions, exemptions, or variations from them. Any variation from the Regulations approved by Senate for a particular degree is set out in the requirements for the degree on the University website. The following highlighted the major variations from the Regulations in respect of the BVM specific degree requirements:

a) Degree Requirements (paragraph 4.1 of the Regulations refer)

The minimum graduation requirement for the normative 6-year BVM degree is 252 credit units. Students may take additional courses exceeding the minimum graduation requirement, but the maximum number of credit units completed should not exceed 273.

b) Maximum and Minimum Study Load (Paragraph 10 of the Regulations refer)

Under normal circumstance, full-time BVM students must register for courses summing to a total of at least 21 credit units in each semester.

c) Assessment (Paragraph 14.2 of the Regulations refer)

To progress and graduate, BVM students are required to obtain at least a grade of C in all courses required for graduation, and will be required to retake a course if the grade attained is F for courses offered by the College. For course offered by other servicing units to fulfill Gateway Education requirement, students are required to repeat a course if the grade attained is either C-, D or F. The following table summarizes the grading of courses offered by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences:

<table>
<tr><th>Grade</th><th>Grade Point</th><th colspan="2">Grade definition</th></tr>
<tr><td>A+
A
A-</td><td>4.3
4.0
3.7</td><td>Excellent</td><td rowspan="5">The qualifiers, such as “Excellent”, “Good”, “Fair” etc., define student performance with respect to the achievement of course intended learning outcomes (CILOs).</td></tr>
<tr><td>B+
B
B-</td><td>3.3
3.0
2.7</td><td>Good</td></tr>
<tr><td>C+
C</td><td>2.3
2.0</td><td>Fair</td></tr>
<tr><td>F</td><td>0.0</td><td>Failure</td></tr>
<tr><td>P</td><td colspan="2">Pass</td></tr>
</table>

9.2 Academic Honesty

Students must pursue their studies with academic honesty. Academic honesty is central to the conduct of academic work. Students are expected to present their own work, give proper acknowledgement of other’s work, and honestly report findings obtained. As part of the University’s efforts to educate students about academic honesty, all students are required to complete an online tutorial on academic honesty and make a declaration in their first semester of enrollment on their understanding of academic honesty.

Please refer to the University announcements and the Office of the Provost website for details: www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/university_requirment_on_academic_honesty.htm

Plagiarism is a serious offence involving "the use of somebody else's ideas, words, etc. as one's own". Examples of such acts are copying other students' work in examinations, in tests, or in tasks for coursework assignments, repetition of part or whole sentences/paragraphs/any materials from hard-copy publications or online sites for one's own use without acknowledgement of the source in one's work. Students who commit an act of academic dishonesty which jeopardizes the integrity of the learning and assessment process may be charged with a major offence and be liable to disciplinary action.

Students are advised to refer to the section on "Rules on Academic Honesty" under "Academic Regulations & Policies (For Undergraduate Students in Colleges and Schools)" of the "CityU e-Portal" for details.

For more information, please visit:
www.cityu.edu.hk/provost/academic_honesty/rules_on_academic_honesty.htm

9.3 Students' Academic Progress and Academic Standing

Academic standing provides an indicator of students in academic difficulty who need academic advising and extra help. Whilst academic standing is captured in the student's record, it is however not shown in official transcripts.

The levels of academic standing are:

Standing	Definitions
Academic Warning	Students' academic performance has been unsatisfactory, or their overall academic average is below minimum requirements. Students on warning should seek advice from their academic advisor.
Academic Probation	Students' academic performance has been extremely unsatisfactory, or their overall academic average has continued to be below the minimum requirements for graduation. Students on Academic Probation may be required to take a reduced study load and/or to fulfill specific conditions such as GPA attainments in the following semester.
Academic Suspension	Students who cannot benefit from course registration in the next semester/term may be suspended for an approved period of not less than one semester. Academic Suspension is designed to provide students with an opportunity to resolve the problems that are preventing them from making academic progress.
Operational Standing	
Review	A temporary status indicating that a student's performance is unsatisfactory and has been referred to the student's home academic unit for determining if a decision on the academic standing needs to be made.

In making decisions on students' academic standing, the Examination Board has the right, upon the recommendation of the students' home academic unit, to make exceptions from the above rules.

If so required by the Examination Board, an academic standing decision may also be specially determined for a particular student at the end of the Summer Term.

9.4 Repeating Courses to Improve Grades

Unless otherwise specified, students may repeat a course, or an equivalent course, to recover a failure grade, subject to the concerned academic unit's course offering schedule and availability. Only two repeat attempts may be permitted. Course grades for all attempts will appear on the student's academic transcript, but only the final grade earned will be included in the calculation of the student's CGPA.

9.5 Illness or Other Circumstances Related to Assessment

A student who reasonably believes that his/her ability to attend an examination, or in-course assessment with a weighting of 20% or above, has been adversely affected by circumstances beyond his/her control must submit the case, with documentary evidence, to his/her home academic unit following the procedures stated on the University website, as soon as possible but no later than 5 working days of the scheduled date for completing the affected examination or assessment.

The home academic unit of the student will investigate the case, in consultation with the course-offering academic unit. Only compelling reasons such as illness, hospitalization, accident, family bereavement or other unforeseeable serious personal or emotional circumstances will be considered. The decision of the home academic unit is final and will be conveyed to the student in writing as soon as possible and no later than 10 working days following receipt of the case.

If the case is justified and substantiated, the decision will be conveyed to the Assessment Panel which will determine whether to offer the student a make-up examination or coursework or other alternative assessment. Where assessments for more than one course are affected, it is the responsibility of the home academic unit to inform all relevant Assessment Panels. The Assessment Panel may also adjust the grade of the student if deemed appropriate. The course-offering academic unit will convey the Assessment Panel's decision on the make-up arrangements to the student in writing as soon as possible.

9.6 Dean's List

At the end of Semester A and Semester B, students' GPAs are calculated. Where a student over that period has (i) earned 12 credit units or more from courses taken at the University, (ii) achieved a GPA of 3.70 or above, (iii) not failed any course, and (iv) subject to the Dean's endorsement, the student is placed on the Dean's List.

10. Academic Calendar 2019/20

Semester A 2019/20

September 2019

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
WK 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WK 2	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WK 3	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
WK 4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
WK 5	29	30					

Events / Public Holidays

2 Sep - 30 Nov Semester A 2019/20

14 Day following Mid-Autumn Festival

October 2019

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
WK 6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WK 7	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
WK 8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
WK 9	27	28	29	30	31		

Events / Public Holidays

1 National Day

2 Graduation Date

7 Chung Yeung Festival

November 2019

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
WK 10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
WK 11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
WK 12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
WK 13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Events / Public Holidays

30 Last Day of Teaching

December 2019

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

Events / Public Holidays

2 - 7 Student Revision Period

9 - 21 Examination Period

23 Dec 2019 - 11 Jan 2020 Semester Break

25 Christmas Day

26 Day following Christmas Day

Semester B 2019/20

January 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
WK 1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
WK 2	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Events / Public Holidays

23 Dec 2019 - 11 Jan 2020 Semester Break

1 First Day of January

13 Jan - 25 Apr Semester B 2019/20

24 - 30 Lunar New Year Break

25 - 28 Lunar New Year Holidays

February 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
WK 3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
WK 4	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
WK 5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
WK 6	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Events / Public Holidays

14 Graduation Date

March 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
WK 7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
WK 8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
WK 9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
WK 10	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
WK 11	29	30	31				

April 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
WK 12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
WK 13	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30		

Events / Public Holidays

4 Ching Ming Festival
10 - 16 Easter Break
10 Good Friday
11 Day following Good Friday
13 Easter Monday
25 Last Day of Teaching
27 Apr - 2 May Student Revision Period
30 Buddha's Birthday

May 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31						

Events / Public Holidays

1 Labour Day
4 - 16 Examination Period
18 May - 6 Jun Semester Break

Summer Term 2020

June 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
WK 1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
WK 2	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
WK 3	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
WK 4	28	29	30				

Events / Public Holidays

18 May - 6 Jun Semester Break

8 Jun - 25 Jul Summer Term 2020

25 Tuen Ng Festival

July 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4
WK 5	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
WK 6	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
WK 7	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Events / Public Holidays

1 HK SAR Establishment Day

15 Graduation Date

25 Last Day of Teaching

27 Jul - 1 Aug Student Revision Period

August 2020

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

Events / Public Holidays

3 - 8 Examination Period

10 - 29 Term Break