

Module specification

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Module Code	VEN501
Module Title	Anaesthesia and Surgical Nursing Practice
Level	5
Credit value	20
Faculty	FSLS
HECoS Code	100532
Cost Code	GAAN
Pre-requisite module	N/A

Programmes in which module to be offered

Programme title	Core/Optional/Standalone
FdSc Veterinary Nursing	Core

Breakdown of module hours

Learning and teaching hours	30 hrs
Placement tutor support hours	0 hrs
Supervised learning hours e.g. practical classes, workshops	0 hrs
Project supervision hours	0 hrs
Active learning and teaching hours total	30 hrs
Placement hours	0 hrs
Guided independent study hours	170 hrs
Module duration (Total hours)	200 hrs

Module aims

Anaesthesia and surgical nursing are central to safe and effective perioperative patient care within modern veterinary practice. This module develops students' knowledge and applied understanding of anaesthetic and surgical nursing principles, including patient preparation, monitoring, recovery and perioperative support, under the direction of the veterinary surgeon. Students will develop the ability to apply theoretical knowledge, interpret monitoring data, and use informed clinical judgement to support risk-based decision-making, patient safety, welfare, and optimal surgical outcomes within veterinary nursing practice.

** Range of species in addition to cats and dogs holders of veterinary nursing degrees should be competent in providing nursing care to animals that are commonly kept as pets in the UK. This will include rabbits, small mammals and appropriate species of reptiles and birds. In addition to the above animals, a level of basic knowledge and competence in the husbandry and nursing care of horses, endemic UK wildlife and exotic species not commonly seen in the UK*
<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-veterinary-nursing>

Module Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module, students will be able to:

1	Assess the use of anaesthetic and analgesic agents commonly used in veterinary practice.
2	Evaluate anaesthetic equipment function and patient monitoring data to support the delivery and ongoing evaluation of balanced anaesthesia.
3	Examine the professional role and responsibilities of the veterinary nurse within the surgical setting
4	Review the principles of perioperative patient care to optimise patient welfare and surgical outcomes.

RCVS Standards	Day One Competences (DOC)	Day One Skills (DOS)
Learning outcomes for this module are mapped to the following RCVS day one competences (DOC) and day one skills (DOS)	3, 4, 30, 31, 32, 33, 3	1.1, 1.2, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 9.10, 9.11, 9.12. 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6.

Assessment

This module uses a combination of formative and summative assessment to support the development of applied knowledge, clinical reasoning and professional judgement in anaesthesia and surgical nursing practice. Further assessment detail will be provided in the module handbook for the relevant academic year.

Summative assessment

Assessment 1:

This assessment is a case history report that requires students to apply anaesthesia and perioperative nursing principles to a clinical scenario. The assessment focuses on patient assessment, perioperative planning, and recovery and evaluation of patient care, supporting the development of applied clinical reasoning and professional judgement.

Assessment 2:

An unseen, time-constrained in-class test designed to assess students' understanding of anaesthetic and surgical equipment, and the monitoring of anaesthetised patients, alongside the professional roles of the veterinary nurse within the surgical environment.

The assessment includes multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions and applied problem-solving scenarios to evaluate knowledge, interpretation and decision-making within the surgical setting.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Duration/Word Count	Weighting (%)	Alternative assessment, if applicable
1	1, 4	Written Assignment	2000	50	N/A
2	2, 3	In-class test	120 minutes	50	N/A

Derogations

Students are required to pass all assessment elements with a minimum mark of 40% for all modules.

Learning and Teaching Strategies

Learning and teaching on this module will be underpinned by the University's Active Learning Framework (ALF) and will adopt a student-centred, practice-focused approach that supports the development of placement readiness, professional judgement and evidence-based veterinary nursing practice.

A range of learning and teaching methods will be utilised, including:

- Interactive lectures
- Seminars and workshops
- Scenario-based learning activities
- Guided communication activities and role-play,
- Directed academic skills sessions

Opportunities for formative learning and feedback will be embedded throughout the module to support skill development and prepare students for summative assessment and placement expectations, including communication role play / risk assessment activity / study skill activities (literature searches, peer review writing tasks). A range of modalities will be used by the tutor to provide feedback to students.

Learning and teaching will take place in classroom and simulated clinical environments where appropriate, enabling students to make clear connections between theory, professional behaviour and practice.

Welsh Elements

Students can present their work, access forms, resources, email correspondence, work placements and personal tutorials in Welsh.

Indicative Syllabus Outline

Learning Outcome 1

- Aims of anaesthesia and analgesia
- Legal, ethical and environmental considerations
- Pre-anaesthetic medication, sedation and commonly used protocols
- Anaesthetic calculations and patient assessment (including ASA scale)
- Injectable, inhalant and balanced anaesthesia techniques (including TIVA, PIVA, neuroleptanalgesia)
- Use of neuromuscular blocking agents and local anaesthetics
- Physiological and breed-specific considerations
- Veterinary medicines, including controlled drugs
- Anaesthetic safety checklists

Learning Outcome 2

- Principles of anaesthetic machines and vaporizers
- Gas supply systems (cylinders, valves, pin index system, flowmeters)
- Breathing systems, scavenging systems and ventilators (including IPPV)
- Airway management (endotracheal tubes and alternative devices)
- Monitoring techniques (clinical and equipment-based)
- Flow rate calculations and anaesthetic documentation
- Equipment care, maintenance and AVA daily checks
- Recognition and management of anaesthetic emergencies

Learning Outcome 3

- The surgical environment (prep room, theatre, scrub room, recovery)
- Theatre protocols, including cleaning, operating lists and surgical attire
- Roles of the scrubbed and circulating nurse
- Health and safety considerations
- Surgical instrumentation (general, specialised and dental) and maintenance
- Principles of asepsis, sterilisation, draping and theatre materials (swabs, drains, suction)
- Patient preparation and intubation
- Nursing surgical procedures and Schedule 3 considerations
- Surgical safety checklists

Learning Outcome 4

- Principles and phases of perioperative care
- Care pathways and management of surgical conditions
- Monitoring and documentation across perioperative stages
- Multidisciplinary team approach
- Equipment required for perioperative care
- Quality improvement and human factors
- RECOVER guidelines



Indicative Bibliography

Please note the essential reads and other indicative reading are subject to annual review and update.

Essential reading:

Clancy, N. (2023) *The veterinary nurse's practical guide to small animal anaesthesia*. UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

Cooper, B., Turner, L. and Mullineaux, E. (2020) *BSAVA textbook of veterinary nursing*. 6th edn. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Other indicative reading:

Aspinall, V. (2019) *Clinical procedures in veterinary nursing*. 4th edn. Edinburgh: Elsevier.

Baines, S., Lipscomb, V. and Hutchinson, T. (eds.) (2010) *BSAVA manual of canine and feline surgical principles: a foundation manual*. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Dugdale, A.A., Beaumont, G. and Bradbrook, C. (2020) *Veterinary anaesthesia: principles to practice*. 2nd edn. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.

Duke-Novakowski, T., de Vries, M. and Seymour, C. (eds.) (2016) *BSAVA manual of canine and feline anaesthesia and analgesia*. 3rd edn. Gloucester: British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

Holzman, G. and Kleist, T.R. (2024) *Surgical patient care for veterinary technicians and nurses*. 2nd edn. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.

Lake, T. and Green, N. (2022) *Essential calculations for veterinary nurses and technicians*. 4th edn. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Administrative Information

For office use only	
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With effect from date	28/29/2020
Date and details of revision	12/25 – Updated mapping to RCVS DOC and DOS
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