

## Assessment & Award Regulations

1.	<b>Course</b> Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine
2.	<b>Year</b> 1
3.	<b>Applicable to Academic Year</b> 2026/27
4.	<p><b>Aspects of Course Covered by Examination</b></p> <p>All subjects taught in Year 1.</p>
5.	<p><b>Form of Examination</b></p> <p>5.1 <b>Written Papers</b>            Paper 1: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ); up to 1½ hours            Paper 2: Problem Solving / Integrated Reasoning Questions (integrated PSQ format); up to 3 hours            Paper 3: Problem Solving / Integrated Reasoning Questions relating to Scholarship and Evidence-based Medicine (research paper); up to 1½ hours</p> <p>5.2 <b>Structured Orals</b>            Integrated Structure and Function (ISF) oral exam related to subjects taught in Year 1.</p> <p>5.3 <b>In-Course Assessments</b>            Two summative in-course assessments (MCQ &amp; PSQ) related to subjects taught in Year 1.</p> <p>5.4 <b>Student Record of Achievement (SRA):</b> In-course record of learning activities.</p> <p>5.5 <b>Practical tests:</b>            Animal Handling - Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) in the following animal groups: Small artiodactyls (e.g. sheep), large artiodactyls (e.g. cattle), horse, dog, poultry.</p> <p>5.6 <b>Additional requirements:</b>            Submission of PVP Reflective Asset.            Submission of Extended Essay.</p>
6.	<p><b>Marking Criteria</b></p> <p>6.1 <b>Essay Questions</b>            The Common Grading Scheme (LAQ &amp; CPRQ) will be used as appropriate for extended pieces of writing.</p> <p>6.2 <b>Multiple Choice Questions</b>            The number of marks available for each type of question will be clearly stated on the examination paper. A question left unanswered or deleted by the candidate will score 0 (zero). The pass mark for MCQ examinations as a whole will be set according to approved and accepted standard setting protocols, normalised and then scaled.</p> <p>6.3 <b>Problem Solving Questions</b>            The number of marks allocated to each section of the question will be clearly stated, totaling 10 marks for the whole question. The model answer will state how marks are to be allocated for specific factual answers, or the description or completion of a defined process. Where an answer must be judged more subjectively, the model answer must describe the quality of content, understanding, integration or expression required to attain the marks allocated for that answer. Fractional scores are permitted for each section. Where the mean for Paper 2 or 3 is below 60%, a recognised standard setting method will be applied and the marks normalised, if the standard set pass mark falls below 50%.</p>

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6.4	<p><b>Integrated Structure and Function (ISF) Orals</b>            Each structured oral examination topic will be marked out of a maximum of ten marks with students accumulating marks by answering questions of increasing complexity. Highest marks will be obtained by students demonstrating integration of their knowledge.</p>		
6.5	<p><b>Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS)</b>            Students' performance in each animal group will be graded to assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Animal Welfare</li> <li>• Technical Ability</li> <li>• Professionalism</li> </ul> <p>Health &amp; Safety and Animal Welfare are graded as a pass or fail. The grades for Technical Ability and Professionalism are: Exceeds Expectations, Meets Expectations, Borderline, Below Expectations.</p> <p>To be graded as "Safe" for the station overall, students are required to achieve a grade of "Pass" for both Health &amp; Safety and Animal Welfare, as well as no grade of Below Expectation or no more than 1 Borderline grade for Technical Ability and Professionalism.</p>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Allocation of Marks and any Additional Requirements</b>		
7.1		<b>First Sit</b>	<b>Resit</b>
	i. Written Paper 1	30	30**
	ii. Written Paper 2	25	25**
	iii. Written Paper 3	10	10**
	iv. ISF Oral	15	15**
	v. In-Course Assessment 1 – Term 1	10	10*
	vi. In-Course Assessment 2 – Term 2	10	10*
	vii. Students are required to submit an Extended Essay and a PVP Reflective Asset	N/A	N/A
	viii. Completion of at least 80% of the SRA	N/A	N/A
	ix. A result of "Safe" for each DOPS station	N/A	N/A
	<p>*In-course assessment marks will be carried forward from the First Sit, if &gt;50%.            **Final marks will be scaled if the ICA marks are ineligible for inclusion.</p>		
7.2	<p>For the purposes of section 8 and section 10 below:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Component i. is an Essential Knowledge Element</p> <p>AND</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Components ii, iii and iv are grouped together as a Problem Solving and Interpretation Element.</p>		
<b>8.</b>	<b>Requirements to Pass Overall and Progress to the Next Stage</b>		
8.1	<p><b>First Sit</b>            Following scaling of the marks, students must:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Gain an average mark of 50% or more aggregated from the marks listed under "First Sit", components i to vi in 7.1 above</p> <p>AND</p>		

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8.2	<p>Achieve a result of “Safe” for each DOPS station</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Have submitted the Extended Essay and the PVP Reflective Asset.</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Have completed at least 80% of the Student Record of Achievement.</p> <p><b>Resit</b></p> <p>Following scaling of the marks, students must:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Gain an average mark of 50% or more aggregated from the marks listed under “Resit”, components i to vi in 7.1 above (scaled if ICA marks are ineligible for inclusion).</p> <p>AND</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Achieve a result of “Safe” for each DOPS station</p> <p>AND</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Have submitted the Extended Essay and the PVP Reflective Asset.</p> <p>AND</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Have completed at least 80% of the Student Record of Achievement</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Consequences of Failure</b>
9.1	Those students who fail the year at the first attempt will be required to resit the Element failed (i.e. Essential Knowledge and/or Problem-Solving and Interpretation and/or DOPS) or withdraw from the course.
9.2	In-course assessment marks (Term 1 and/or Term 2) will be carried forward from the First Sit to the Resit attempt, if they are 50% or more. If any of the in-course assessment marks are below 50%, the marks for the other components of the resit examination will be scaled accordingly.
9.3	Those students who fail to achieve 50% overall and obtained less than 50% in the Essential Knowledge Element AND less than 50% in the Problem-Solving and Interpretation Element must retake BOTH areas.
9.4	Those students who fail to achieve 50% overall, but obtained 50% or more in ONE of the Essential Knowledge Element or Problem-Solving and Interpretation Element will ONLY be required to retake the Element in which they obtained less than 50%.
9.5	Those students graded as “Not yet safe” in any animal handling group in the DOPS will be given a second opportunity to take those stations again, in time to be considered at the main BVetMed Year 1 Exam Board. Both of these opportunities will be classed as the first attempt.
9.6	Those students who remain “Not yet safe” in any DOPS station following the second opportunity must resit the specific DOPS station(s) that they failed.
9.7	The overall mark obtained at the resit attempt will be capped at 50%, except when only resitting a pass/ fail assessment activity, where marks from the first attempt will remain uncapped.
9.8	Those students who fail to meet the requirement of 80% completion of the Student Record of Achievement by the deadline stated for ratification at the first sit Exam Board, will be given a new deadline in time for ratification at the resit Exam Board and the year mark will be capped at 50%. Students who have an authorised deferral of an assessment during the course of the year will be required to meet this second deadline, but their year mark will not

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	be capped. Students who fail to meet this second deadline will be considered to have failed overall.
9.9	Those students who are studying full time and have failed either the first or second year of their degree course at the second attempt and <b>have not previously</b> repeated a year of undergraduate study at the College (on any programme) will be entitled to repeat the year.
9.10	Repeat year students will be required to complete assessments relating to Components i -vi and Component viii in the repeat year, regardless of previous attempts. Components vii and ix do not need to be repeated, if a satisfactory standard has already been met. The number of attempts at assessments will be the same as for those students not repeating the year. The final mark under the 'repeat year' rule will be capped at 50% and that mark will be carried forward for degree classification/honours points.
9.11	Those students who are studying full time and have failed the year at the second attempt, having taken all resit and repeat opportunities available and <b>have previously</b> repeated a year of undergraduate study at the College (on any programme) will be required to withdraw from the course. They will have a right of appeal as described in College Regulations.
9.12	Those students who have achieved an overall mark of 40% or more in Year 1, but who have not met the requirements to proceed with study on the BVetMed course, will be eligible to apply for transfer to BSc Bioveterinary Sciences Year 2.
<b>10.</b>	<b>Classification</b>
10.1	Those students who have obtained a grade of "Safe" for each DOPS station, completed at first sit at least 80% of the SRA and at the first attempt, obtained an overall mark of 70% or more, with a mark of at least 65% gained in each of the Essential Knowledge AND Problem Solving and Interpretation Elements will be awarded a pass with Distinction.
10.2	Those students who have obtained a grade of "Safe" for each DOPS station, completed at first sit at least 80% of the SRA and at the first attempt, obtained an average mark of 65% or more, but who do not meet the criteria for the award of a pass with Distinction, will be awarded a pass with Merit, provided a mark of at least 50% has been achieved for each of the Essential Knowledge AND Problem Solving and Interpretation Elements.
10.3	Those students who have achieved an overall mark of 40% or more in Year 1, but who do not proceed with a programme of study at the RVC will be eligible for the exit award of Certificate of Higher Education.
10.4	The award of Certificate of Higher Education will be classified by the overall mark as follows:  40-59%          Pass 60-69%          Merit 70% or more    Distinction
<b>11.</b>	<b>Disclosure of Marks</b>  Results will be published by candidate number.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Absence From In-Course Assessment</b>
12.1	An allowable absence is one that is for a significant unforeseeable event that means the student is not 'fit to sit' the assessment. The RVC must be notified in a timely manner, evidence to support the absence provided and approval granted. Any other absence will only be considered allowable if agreed by the Student Performance and Development

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12.2	<p>System and this will only apply in exceptional circumstances. A student absent for any other reason will be awarded 0 (zero) for that particular assessment.</p> <p>Where a student has an allowable absence for in-course assessment (ICA), they will be marked absent (A). ICAs cannot be deferred, as there will not be any opportunity for an alternative ICA to be attempted within the same academic year. The marks for the remaining components of the assessment will be scaled accordingly. Any student who applies for more than one allowable absence will be referred to the Student Performance and Development System for consideration of interruption or deferral of future assessments.</p>
13.	<p><b>Late Submission of Work</b></p> <p>Reports, Projects and Assignments submitted after the due deadline will be subject to the late submission policy set out in the College's General Assessment Regulations.</p>