Colorado State University
Veterinary Communication for Professional Excellence Clinical Communication Skills Coursework

Year 1
Freshman Foundations Communication Module  
**Description:** Students video-record themselves interviewing an animal caregiver; write a reflection paper on what they observed and learned about their communication skills and what clients are looking for in the veterinarian-client-patient relationship; and present their lessons in communication rounds.

Year 2
Sophomore Foundations Preventive Medicine Module – Fall  
**Description:** Combined communication-preventive medicine module, in which students interact with a simulated client (a professional actor-educator) in a clinical scenario that involves canine obesity in a small group setting and reflect on their communication skills development. This activity is to ready students for the challenging Ethical Dilemma interaction in sophomore spring semester.

Sophomore Foundations Ethics/Communication Module - Spring  
**Description:** Combined ethics-communication module, in which students interact with a simulated client (a professional actor-educator) in a clinical scenario that involves ethical, financial and communication dilemmas and write a reflection paper on their communication skills development, anger management and ethical lessons.

Year 3
Fall Junior Practicum I  
**Description:** The 20-hour fall course focuses on establishing rapport through a strong introduction, gathering the medical history and building a long-term client relationship.

Spring Junior Practicum II  
**Description:** The 20-hour spring course focuses on providing explanations in language that clients can understand, creating partnerships with clients to enhance compliance and follow through on recommendations, and closing the interview with a complete summary and check for remaining questions.

Years 1, 2, 3
Healer’s Art  
**Description:** This small group course provides an opportunity to incorporate healing, service, wholeness and relationship into veterinary education by partnering with mentoring veterinarians in a discovery model that encourages honest and mutually respectful sharing of experience, belief and personal truths.

Year 4
Senior Community Practice Rotation  
**Description:** All companion animal and general practice track veterinary students engage in a 2-4-week Community Practice rotation, in which they videotape 1-2 client interactions and write a reflection paper on their communication skill development and present their video and lessons in video review session.
Communication Curriculum: Path to Excellence
CSU CVMBS national leader in communication education

1st Year
Freshman Foundations:
Communication
2 hours lecture +
1 hour lab per student

2nd Year
Sophomore Foundations:
Ethics
2 hours lecture +
2 hours lab per student

Sophomore Foundations:
Preventive Medicine
2 hours lecture +
2 hours lab per student

3rd Year
JP I and II
Clinical Communication Skills
24 hour lecture +
18 hours lab per student

4th Year
Senior Community Practice Rotation
1.5 hours lab per student

Veterinary Communication for Professional Excellence
Curricular Goals:

• Evidence-based curriculum.
• Developmentally-constructed, integrated learning—communication is not learned in a day or week!
• Integrated with other service areas/content areas
• “Center of Excellence” model partnering with professional development

Additional Educational Offerings
Freshman Orientation
Intern Orientation
Resident Orientation
Healer’s Art
FRANK