



# Shelter Medicine Program

## Online Graduate Shelter Medicine Course Planner

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
<b>UFID</b>	<b>First Enrollment Term &amp; Year</b>	<b>Expected Graduation Term &amp; Year</b>

Review the [schedule of courses](#) for each term prior to updating this form. Course offerings may change based on minimum enrollment requirements and instructor availability.

### Program Enrollment(s)

Date Form Submitted

Shelter Medicine Master's	Shelter Medicine Certificate	Animal Shelter Leadership Certificate	Non-Degree	Other
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### Master's Core Courses & Certificate in Shelter Medicine

	Credits	Year	Term	Grade
VME6810 Integrating Veterinary Medicine with Shelter Systems	3			
VME6811 Shelter Animal Physical Health	3			
VME6813 Behavioral Health for Shelter Dogs and Cats	3			
VME6815 Animal Shelter Population Management by the Metrics	3			
VME6816 The Role of the Animal Shelter in Protecting Community & Public Health	3			

### Master's Capstone Course Series

VME6910 Supervised Research in Shelter Medicine	3			
VME6951 Communicating Research About Shelter Medicine	1			
VME6950 Capstone Project Presentation	3			

### Shelter Medicine Electives [also Count for Animal Shelter Leadership Certificate]

VME6819 Principles of Leadership in Animal Shelters	3			
VME6801 Principles of Management in Animal Shelters	3			
VME6841 Communications and Marketing for Animal Welfare Organizations	3			
VME6842 Fundraising and Development for Animal Welfare Organizations	3			
VME6840 Life Enhancing Strategies of Animal Welfare Organizations	3			

### More Shelter Medicine Electives


**Total Credits**

### Additional Comments

You have been admitted to the Online Graduate Shelter Medicine Program -- a big step in reaching the next level in your career. To make the most of your experience, be mindful of the time commitment for graduate level courses each semester. Completing your degree with excellent academics is the main goal, not how fast you can finish.

This guide can help you determine your pace. Use it to complete the table above as an academic "flight plan."

**IMPORTANT:** This Course Planner must be submitted and approved by your advisor before the end of your first term. You will update this form with your course completions at the end of each term. Changes to the plan require advisor approval prior to course registration.

Note that the frequency and terms of course offerings may change over time, and courses may be cancelled for low enrollment. Schedules and prerequisites can be found on the program website. Course schedule changes may be shared via announcements in the Online Shelter Medicine Graduate Students Canvas site. Complete UF policies and Shelter Medicine Program requirements are found in the UF Graduate Catalog and the program website.

## TIME COMMITMENT GUIDE

1 CREDIT = 3 COURSE ACTIVITY HOURS PER WEEK

Credit Hour Load	Estimated Study Hours Per Week	
	Fall/Spring	Summer A/C
3	9	11
6	18	21
9	27	32
12	36	42

Manageable course load for employed students

Heavy course load for employed students

Heavy course load for all students

## Graduate Certificates

- **The Graduate Certificate in Shelter Medicine** is a series of 5 courses for 15 credits. These are also core in the master's degree. All Shelter Medicine students must take VME6810 Integrating Veterinary Medicine with Shelter Systems in the first term because it covers foundations of Shelter Medicine and an introduction to online learning technology.
- **The Graduate Certificate in Animal Shelter Leadership** is a series of 5 courses worth 15 credits. These can also count as electives in the master's degree. Although not required, beginning this Certificate track with VME6819 Principles of Leadership in Animal Shelters in the fall term is a helpful sequence.

## Master's with Concentration in Shelter Medicine

1. **The master's with a Concentration in Shelter Medicine** is earned with 34 credits in the program
  - 5 core courses beginning with VME6810 (15 credits)
  - 3 Capstone series courses (7 credits)
  - 4 additional electives (12 credits)
  - Up to 15 credits previously earned at UF with a B or higher can be transferred by petition toward the master's degree
  - Core courses should be completed prior to electives to the degree course schedules allow
  - The degree must be completed within 7 years from the first course with a minimum GPA of 3
2. The Capstone completion pathway:
  - **At least 2 terms before you plan to graduate:** Complete VME6910 Supervised Research to work with a mentor on the Capstone Project proposal, critically read scientific papers, understand the hierarchy of evidence, use a citation manager, complete a literature review, begin your e-portfolio, and make significant progress on the Capstone Project research.
  - **At least 1 term before you plan to graduate:** Complete VME6951 Communicating Research About Shelter Medicine to develop a slide presentation, handouts, a scientific poster, participate in journal club, and practice giving an oral presentation of your Capstone Project.
  - **In the final semester:** Complete VME6950 Capstone Project Presentation to refine and present a 25-minute Capstone Project Presentation to a live audience of your peers. This serves as the exit exam to qualify for graduation.