

Preclinical sciences

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Preclinical sciences are the natural bridge in the veterinary curriculum, since they link basic morphophysiological sciences and agents of disease, with the clinical sciences, where the final integration of theoretical knowledge and development of skills takes place. Names of courses or modules of preclinical sciences, their depth, number of hours devoted to them, and balance between theory and practice may vary throughout the world. However an attempt is made to summarise the essential courses required by the students to have solid bases for the clinical area and for a successful professional beginning. These include: general and systemic pathology, clinical pathology, imaging courses (radiology, ultrasound and others), pharmacology, surgery, a review of the most important domestic and foreign bacterial, mycotic, viral, parasitic and toxic diseases, epidemiology and theriogenology. With different names, veterinary colleges offer a course in diagnostic methodology, where the student develops and integrates diagnostic skills with the use of live animals and other learning methodologies. In the complete paper, the minimum knowledge and skills required by the students from these preclinical courses will be described and discussed.

