VBMS 7010 – Introduction to graduate programs and responsible research
SUMMER SEMESTER

Credit Hours: 1 credit (3 contact hours per week)

Justification: To provide an introduction to topics pertinent to performance of a successful graduate program and in the conduction of responsible research.

Course coordinators: Anne Wooldridge, aaw0002@vetmed.auburn.edu, 844-4490 and Carl A. Pinkert, cap@vetmed.auburn.edu, 844-3700.

Lectures:
Module 1: Orientation to the graduate program and information gathering. Topics to include:
   - Tours and meetings with faculty from all departments within the veterinary school (Clinical Sciences, Anatomy/Physiology/Pharmacology, Pathobiology) and the Scott-Ritchey Research Center.
   - Library resources and online resources

MODULE 2 Teaching and communication Topics to include:
   - Development of rapport with students
   - Achieving your teaching objectives
   - How students learn in a veterinary school setting
   - Communication skills: making good oral presentations

MODULE 3 Putting together a research proposal. Topics to include:
   - Critique of the literature
   - Introduction to statistics
   - The IACUC
   - Client consent/clinical trials
   - Grant writing skills
      - Basic tools for putting together a successful grant
      - Grant perspectives from large animal clinical research
      - Grant perspectives from small animal clinical research
   - How to do the budget page

MODULE 4: Scientific presentations
   - Scientific abstracts presented by CVM faculty and other graduate students
   - 8 minute presentations by each member of the class

Course policy statements
a. Attendance is mandatory but excused absences will be accepted with prior notification.
b. Preparation and active class participation is expected of all students.

Oral presentations: Students will present an eight minute presentation of a recent scientific article for the class. The article should be chosen using online resources and critique of the literature that was discussed in class. The presentation will be critiqued
orally by attending faculty and other members of the class at the end to help the presenter improve their oral speaking skills.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on attendance and participation. Students will also be required to give an oral presentation(s) (25% of grade).

- A = 100% - 90%
- B = 89% - 80%
- C = 79% - 70%
- D = 69% - 60%
- F = <60%