



Pet Fish Medicine

CVM 5311

Fall 2026

Instructors

Stephen Reichley, DVM, PhD, CertAqV – Course Leader

CVM Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine

Office: Wise Center - R2000

Office Phone: 662-325-1137

Email: stephen.reichley@msstate.edu

Email is preferred method of contact. You can expect responses within 1-2 days.

Jessie Sanders, DVM, DABVP (Fish Practice)

Email: jms2250@msstate.edu

Email is preferred method of contact. You can expect responses within 2-3 days.

Course Description

This is an asynchronous course. One hour online lectures. Fundamentals of pet fish medicine including anatomy, physiology, water quality, life support systems, biosecurity, physical exam, diagnostics, common diseases and disorders, therapeutics, sedation/anesthesia, and surgical approaches.

Class Schedule

Students can complete the course online at any time within the term of enrollment. **All quizzes must be completed by the end of the semester.** No late submissions will be accepted.

Learning Outcomes

- Explain standard husbandry practices for pet fish.
- Describe the basic anatomy and physiology of commonly kept pet fish.
- Identify clinical signs of disease in pet fish.
- Formulate a diagnostic approach incorporating advanced diagnostic tools.
- Explain the use of common therapeutics in pet fish medicine, including veterinary feed directives.
- Describe surgical concepts and techniques used for commonly kept pet fish.

Prerequisites

Current enrollment in a professional DVM, or equivalent, curriculum. Or with permission from course leader.

Required Textbooks

There are no textbooks required for this course.

Technical Requirements

This course will be delivered asynchronously using Canvas. A reliable connection to the internet is required.

Methods of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated by four online exams that will be administered using a lockdown browser. Each exam will have approximately 50 questions and students will have 50 minutes to complete the exam. Each exam will account for 25% of the final grade.

The final grade will be based on the percentage of total points, rounded to the nearest whole number, accumulated according to the following distribution.

% of Total Points	Final Grade
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

Course Outline

This course covers a wide range of topics related to pet fish medicine. Below is a course outline and approximate time for each topic. Exact dates of exams will be determined by the pace of student completion of each module.

Module	Topic	Approximate Time (hours)
1	Anatomy	1
	Physiology	1
	Water Quality	1
	Life Support Systems	1
EXAM 1 (25%) – administered upon completion of Module 1		
2	Basic Triage	1
	Sedation and Anesthesia	1
	Fish Physical Exam	1
	Diagnostic Techniques	1
EXAM 2 (25%) – administered upon completion of Module 2		
3	Bacterial Diseases	1
	Parasitic Diseases	1
	Fungal and Viral Diseases	1
	Non-Infectious Diseases	1
EXAM 3 (25%) – administered upon completion of Module 3		
4	Biosecurity and Quarantine	1
	Therapeutics	1
	Buoyancy Disorders	1
	Surgical Approaches and Techniques	1
EXAM 4 (25%) – administered upon completion of Module 4		

Mississippi State University Syllabus

The Mississippi State University Syllabus contains all policies and procedures that are applicable to every course on campus and online. The policies in the University Syllabus describe the official policies of the University and will take precedence over those found elsewhere. It is the student's responsibility to read and be familiar with every policy. The University Syllabus may be accessed at any time on the provost website under Faculty and Student Resources and at <https://www.provost.msstate.edu/faculty-student-resources/university-syllabus>