

**MAIN CATALOG  
FOR THE  
VETERINARY MASSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY,  
VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY AND  
VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE**



**POSTGRADUATE and STATE-APPROVED  
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS 2025**

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## LETTER TO ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center and its faculty welcome your interest in expanding your knowledge of integrative therapies for animals. The goal of attending and completing this Postgraduate Education in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT), Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy (VMRT), and Veterinary Acupuncture Therapy (VAc) is to gain a basic understanding of what, how, when, and where of these medical therapeutic modalities and to competently and safely provide them to improve patient outcomes. Licensed professionals can expand their curriculum vitae and credentials by completing the program. It is well-accepted that the public's demand for competent practitioners of integrative veterinary medicine and therapies has been increasing in recent years. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center uniquely provides such healthcare modalities by drawing from Western and Eastern philosophies. Our co-founders (Dr. Pedro Luis Rivera and Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT) have over 50 years of combined experience in teaching and delivering these services and have been the driving force since the school's inception in 1998.

As of today, schools providing veterinary medicine and veterinary technology degrees have not met the need or demand for these modalities. However, there has been an increase in week-long or weekend-long courses given to lay (unlicensed) people trying to meet these demands. Even though this is commendable, we believe that the public would be better served and protected if knowledgeable, licensed healthcare professionals who completed thorough training provided these services.

To our knowledge, the Healing Oasis Wellness Center is the only school worldwide combining the knowledge base (basic and advanced). The school also provides a very low student-to-instructor ratio during clinical hands-on practicums, provides basic and advanced techniques, and expands on advanced practical and functional neurology as it applies to VSMT, VMRT, or VAc. Our course curriculum meets and exceeds the demands for knowledge in these modalities. The small class sizes will give students and teachers the best educational experience in a caring and nurturing environment. As with any postgraduate professional school, you learn from the faculty, and the faculty and classmates will benefit from each other's experience and knowledge.

We hope you are ready to expand your horizons and gain knowledge in any program(s) you are registered to attend. Although it will be a long and arduous journey, you will feel it was worthwhile once conquered.

Sincerely;

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC; President and Co-Owner**

Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology  
Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Fellow of the College of Animal Chiropractors, Mixed Animal

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT; Vice-President and Co-Owner**

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center (HOWC) is a nationally accredited educational institution dedicated to advancing and teaching the knowledge base (both theoretical and practical) in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy, Advanced Neurology in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation, Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy, and Veterinary Acupuncture. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is also committed to providing up-to-date continuing education on different aspects of the above-said programs.

### **ABOUT THE FACULTY**

The staff and co-founders' combined experience in their field of particular interest will allow the students to benefit from a second-to-none array of knowledge and clinical skills.

### **ABOUT THE CO-FOUNDERS & FACULTY MEMBERS**

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC** graduated from Nuestra Señora del Pilar High School in Puerto Rico (1979) and Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1986. Dr. Rivera has been practicing integrative veterinary medicine, particularly Veterinary Rehabilitation & Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT), for over 25 years. Dr. Rivera completed the certificate of attendance program from Options for Animals Center, for the basic, and advanced programs. He was a full-time faculty at that facility from early 1993 through November 1999. Dr. Rivera actively participated in the Alternative / Complementary Therapy Modality Committee from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA 1996). He completed Levels I and II from the New England School of Homeopathy and attended the Advance Neurology Program modules (32 modules) at the Carrick Institute. Dr. Rivera primarily teaches veterinary spinal manipulation, functional neurological examination, massage and sports medicine and rehabilitation therapy, Chinese and Western herbology, and glandular therapy modalities. He is an adjunct faculty member at the Backbone Academy for Veterinary Chiropractic and Healing Arts in Sittensen, Germany; Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center in Brantford, ON; and ForVet Veterinary Rehabilitation Program in Madrid, Spain.

Dr. Rivera is an international speaker and lecturer on veterinary spinal manipulation, massage/rehabilitation therapy, Western herbology, glandular (organ therapy) modalities, and sports medicine. His area of expertise is Functional Neurology, which applies to Veterinary Spinal Manipulation, Rehabilitation, and Acupuncture, emphasizing hemispheric. In 2009, he was the first licensed veterinarian to become a

Fellow of the American College of Functional Neurology. Dr. Rivera is also a proud Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation and a Fellow of the College of Animal Chiropractors – Mixed Animal.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT**, graduated from Brentwood High School and SUNY at Farmingdale. She received her massage therapy training from The Chi Energy Center in Madison, WI. Mrs. Rivera successfully finished the Chinese herbology coursework from the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology. She added these modalities to the services Michelle Rivera and Dr. Rivera offered their patients from 1993 through 2014. She was a faculty at the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology Veterinary Herbal Course or CE programs. Mrs. Rivera is a senior faculty and program director of the Healing Oasis Wellness Center's Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy, and Veterinary Acupuncture programs. Michelle has also been practicing Feng Shui for the last 25 years. She follows the Black Hat Buddhist Tantric Sect philosophy taught by Professor Lin Yun. In 1998, she traveled to Beijing, China, and completed a clinic and lecture certificate program in Chinese herbology at the China-Beijing International Acupuncture Training Center. Mrs. Rivera is also a co-owner of the Healing Oasis Wellness Center, LLC, and an international speaker on the above healthcare modalities.

### **Faculty members for the VMRT Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program**

**Teresa Calvert, DVM, CVSMT, CVMRT**; Private practitioner and owner of Westview Animal Clinic in Muncie, IN.

**Amber Ihrke, DVM, DACVSMR, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, CVPP, FCoAC**; Board-certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, private practitioner (and co-owner) at Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehab of Homer Glen; and national speaker.

**Rosemary LoGiudice, DVM, DACVSMR, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, FCoAC**; Board-certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, national speaker, and the most senior faculty at the HOWC since 2011 and private practitioner in the Chicago area.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT**; owner and program director of the school and owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital.

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC**; owner and program director of the school; owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital; and international speaker.

**Julia Tomlinson, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR, CVSMT;** Board certified in veterinary surgery and sports medicine and rehabilitation; international speaker and owner of the Twin Cities Animal Rehabilitation Clinic.

**Deanne Zenoni, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CVMRT, FCoAC;** Private practitioner and senior faculty for both postgraduate state-approved programs since 2010.

### **Adjunct faculty and guest speakers for the VMRT Postgraduate State-Approved Certification Program**

**Andris Kaneps, DVM, PhD., DACVS, DACVSMR;** international speaker and owner of Kaneps Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery in Beverly, MA. Faculty since 2015

**Gregory Cramer, DC, Ph.D.;** Professor of Basic Sciences (Anatomy), Professor and Dean of Research, National University of Health Sciences

**Sarah Love, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVSMR, CVSMT.** Sport Dog Specialty Medicine, Yampa, CO.

**Stephanie Thomovsky, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Neurology.** Clinical Associate Professor, Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine.

### **Faculty members for the IDL-Hybrid VSMT Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program**

**Gregory Cramer, DC, Ph.D.;** Dean of Anatomy, National University of Health Sciences professor and international speaker. Faculty since 2005.

**Lynne Dennis, DVM, CVA, FAAVA, CVSMT, CVMRT;** Co-owner of Harmony Vet Acupuncture and Spine Care, Madison, WI. A faculty member since 2020

**Rosemary LoGiudice, DVM, DACVSMR, CCRT, CVA, CVSMT, FCoAC;** Board certified specialist in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation; national speaker, and senior faculty at the HOWC since 2011.

**Coralie Morauw, DVM, CVSMT;** private practitioner and senior associate veterinarian at the Chicago Equine Medical Center. She has been a faculty at the HOWC since 2022.

**Kristina Mott, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CCRT;** owner of the Town & Country Veterinary Clinic, Wautoma, WI. A faculty member since 2024.

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT;** owner and program director of the school, and owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital.

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC;** owner and program director of the school; owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital, Board certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation; international speaker and program director.

**Marcus Wisniewski, DVM, CVSMT, FCoAC;** Private practitioner in Dodgeville, WI. He has been a faculty since 2020.

**Carly Yaeger-Koykkari, DC, CVSMT:** Private practitioner in Wisconsin and faculty since 2015.

### **Faculty members for the Veterinary Acupuncture Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program**

**Daniel Halden, DC, MAc, LAc, Dipl. Ac. (NCCAOM), PAK, CVMRT.** Program Director, Acupuncture Program..

**Lynne Dennis, DVM, CVA, FAAVA, CVSMT, CVMRT;** Co-owner of Harmony Vet Acupuncture and Spine Care, Madison, WI. A faculty member since 2020

**Victoria Gnadt, DVM, CVSMT, CVA;** owner of Epona Equine Veterinary Care, LLC., Pewaukee, WI

**Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT;** owner and program director of the school and owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital.

**Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, FACFN, DACVSMR, FCoAC;** owner and program director of the school; owner of the Healing Oasis Veterinary Hospital, Board certified in veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation; international speaker and program director.



## Some adjunct faculty speakers for several of the postgraduate programs

**Douglas Gould, Ph. D.**, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and professor, Texas A&M College of Dentistry, Dallas, TX.

**Andris Kaneps, DVM, Ph.D., DACVS, DACVSMR**; international speaker and owner of Kaneps Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery. He specializes in Veterinary Surgery, Veterinary Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation.

**Stephanie Thomovsky, DVM, MS, DACVIM-Neurology**; Clinical Associate Professor, Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine.

### ABOUT THE CENTER

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, is an Educational Institution offering Postgraduate Professional Certification Programs in veterinary integrative therapy modalities. To our knowledge, it is the first of its kind, providing such an in-depth education worldwide since 1998.

The center is located in a small town in the Southeastern part of Wisconsin. There is easy access to the interstate system and plenty of hotels, stores, and restaurants within a 3-mile radius. The center's physical location is 2555 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant, WI, 53177; Phone number: 262-898-1680; Fax number: 262-886-6460; email: [info@healingoasis.edu](mailto:info@healingoasis.edu). It consists of a 7000 sq ft building, with 3500 sq. Ft. of clinic space, 2000 sq. Ft. of the lecture facility and the rest is divided between the snack room, kitchen room, and restroom services.

The class sizes are kept to a maximum number of participants, allowing for small classes and a more personal and relaxed learning environment. Applicants must have a degree and a current license in good standing (see application form and the section discussing specific requirements). All patients evaluated and treated during hands-on practicums are private owners or rescue facilities.



School building →



One of the private facilities used by the school

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center complies with all requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The regulations issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual preference, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored at this institution.

## **SCHOOL CREDENTIALS (ACCREDITATIONS and APPROVALS)**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is Nationally Accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training ([www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)), an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. All postgraduate programs presented at the school have been approved by the Wisconsin Dept. of Safety & Professional Services-Educational Approval Program ([www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov); [dspseap@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspseap@wisconsin.gov)). The VMRT, and the VSMT postgraduate state-approved certification programs are approved for the **GI Bill**® by the WI State Approving Agency [SAA] for Veteran's Education Benefits, Dpt. of Veterans Affairs [DVA]). To our knowledge, we are the only program with such approval. The "GI Bill®" is the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 's registered trademark. The VMRT certification program is also listed as a resource by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV, [www.rehabvets.com](http://www.rehabvets.com)) and the Academy of Physical Rehabilitation – Veterinary Technicians (APRVT, [www.aprvt.com](http://www.aprvt.com)). The **VSMT** program is also approved by the College of Animal Chiropractors (CoAC, [www.collegeofanimalchiropractors.org](http://www.collegeofanimalchiropractors.org)) and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association ([www.animalchiropractic.org](http://www.animalchiropractic.org)). The school is a recognized accredited educational institution under the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training, American Association of Veterinary State Boards – RACE program (for continuing education), American Holistic Veterinary Medical

Association (AHVMA, an AVMA-HOD recognized organization), and the Minnesota Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY MASSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY (VMRT) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The curriculum consists of a minimum of **142 hours** of supervised instruction. A maximum of 12 students per class allows us to keep a maximum ratio of 2-3 students to 1 faculty during hands-on clinical practicums. Once the course has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals. Each student must present a total of two (2) cases. A "case" constitutes either a patient examined by you or sent to you for evaluation. Proper SOAP record protocol must be followed, documenting their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan must be documented.

A total of **4 (four)** Modules will encompass an entire "class" or "complete curriculum." Each Module consists of 4 (four) days, beginning Thursdays / Fridays and Saturdays (8:00am - 12PM, 1PM – 6PM), and Sunday (8:00am-12:30PM). Depending on the Module, longer hours may be required.

### **Dates for the VMRT 2025 calendar are:**

#### **Class A – Spring:**

- Module I: Mar 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module II: April 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module III: May 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module IV: June 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### **Class B - Fall: TBD**

- Module I:
- Module II:
- Module III:
- Module IV:

For more information or to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please visit our website ([www.healingoasis.edu](http://www.healingoasis.edu)) under "CE Seminars" or "Postgraduate Programs," respectively.

Please note that classes will not be held on the following recognized holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

The following requirements are the minimum necessary that the staff feels would allow students to pursue a successful path in this field.

- Must be a licensed/registered or certified (as applies to their listed profession) healthcare provider. (i.e., Veterinarian, Chiropractor, Veterinary Technician, Massage Therapist, Nurse or Physical Therapist, others. If in doubt, don't hesitate to contact the office.) in good standing with their respective state/provincial/governmental licensing board (\*\*must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- For professionals registering from outside the North American continent, please provide a copy of the country's pertinent Visa, Diploma, and proper governmental licensure in that you are licensed and currently practicing. **All applicants must include a copy of their diploma and current (not expired) state or provincial/governmental license or certification.**
- Two-character reference letters. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a note briefly describing your practice.
- Licensed non-veterinary professionals must also include the signed, initialed, and filled waiver titled "Waiver/Disclaimer for Non-Veterinary Licensed Professionals."
- Two passport-size photos or appropriate photos.
- **All licensed professionals** must include a letter stating that they understand your state's rules and regulations as they apply to integrative/complementary veterinary modalities.
- **For the 2025 programs**, include a 200.00 dollar deposit with the application form. The remaining tuition of \$5,989.00 is to be paid during the first day of class for a total of \$6,189.00. All currencies are in US dollars. Please, no foreign checks.

A deposit of \$200.00 (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee) must be included with the application form, with the remaining tuition (\$5,989.00) **due on the first day of class (for a total tuition cost of \$6,189.00).** The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV). The application deadline is two (2) weeks before the scheduled classes begin. However, registration could be closed earlier if the maximum number of registrants is achieved.

The student will receive a letter (via USPS or email) confirming their reservation for the specific dates of postgraduate training. Please remember that all students must provide all applicable admissions requirements to be considered for the program. A brief interview is required for all participants before the program begins. The informal interview will be held on the first day of class, 1- 1 1/2 hours before classes are scheduled to start. All interviews will be held on a "first-come, first-serve basis."

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants who have attended weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or any seminar work-shops. Suppose the applicant has successfully completed (providing documentation) a basic program that the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians recognizes. In that case, the applicant can attend to audit any of the first three (3) modules that are offered at the Healing Oasis School. As an auditor, you will only receive a certificate of attendance validating the continuing education that you have attended. Please contact the school directly for auditing information and prices for more details.

### **ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

Anatomy: Review the names, locations, and functions of each bone and muscle in the non-human animal body

TOTAL: 31HRS

Neurology: An essential part of massage is understanding and maintaining a functional nervous system. This class will emphasize FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY as it applies to VMRT (including the central and peripheral nervous system).

TOTAL: 12HRS

Physiology of Inflammation: This class will help the students understand the importance of the inflammatory process and how, even though it is a natural reaction of the body, it can cause damage to the affected areas.

TOTAL: 5 HRS

Rehabilitation Therapy and Massage Hands-On: This class will be the core of the massage and rehabilitation training program. Students will learn the movements, techniques, and treatment protocols for relaxation, therapeutic massage, and therapeutic rehabilitation techniques (including exercise, electrical stimulation, and ultrasound, among others) species, depending on the class preference of small or equine species.

TOTAL: 60 HRS

TCM basics: The basis of traditional Chinese medicine, Tao, Taoism, Yin and Yang, triple warmer, and some herbs will be discussed.

TOTAL: 2HRS

Nutrition: Nutrition is essential to the body's healing and functional mechanisms. Various nutritional supplements and diets, their pros, and cons and how they work will be addressed throughout the program.

TOTAL: 2HRS

Myology: This class will address all the changes that occur not only at the cellular level during normal function but addressing pathological changes that the practitioner must always keep in mind. TOTAL: 3HRS

Biomechanics: This class will explain all the biomechanical changes that occur when the body performs normal functions under stress or as compensatory changes after a massage. TOTAL: 5HRS

Ethics and Legalities: This class will prepare the students to deal with the everyday legal issues faced in conventional or integrative/complementary practice and record maintenance. TOTAL: 3HRS

Tui Na: This ancient Chinese form of massage that utilizes hands-on and energy work will be studied as it applies to animals. TOTAL: 2HRS

Integrative Veterinary Therapy Modalities: Basic introductory lectures will be given, so that the practitioner will have a basic understanding of what, when, where, and how of some of these health care modalities. Some of the modalities to be discussed include (but not limited to) Reiki, Shiatsu, Acupuncture, and Spinal Manipulation. TOTAL: 4HRS

Animal Handling: Basic animal handling (restraint) techniques will be reviewed to maximize the safety of both patient and practitioner so that effective massage techniques can be performed TOTAL: 3HRS

Case Presentation & Management: Students will present four (4) cases that they have examined and provided treatment. Ideas and standard operating procedures (through case presentations) will be given so that case intake will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols, and a realistic prognosis can be achieved and communicated to our patients' owners. TOTAL: 10HRS

### **BENEFITS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VMRT PROGRAM**

Some of the benefits that students will gain include (but are not limited to):

- The ability to define and describe what rehabilitation is, the main components, and how to apply these components in a knowledgeable, competent, and safe way to provide the therapies.
- As it applies to functional rehabilitation, the ability to locate and describe pertinent and clinically relevant muscular and osseous anatomy.

- Ability to evaluate (under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess patients' progress.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocol(s) tailored to the individual patient. Protocols may address soft tissue injury, orthopedic conditions, or maintaining athletic conditioning. The ultimate goal of the treatment is to improve the quality of life and return to normal function and performance as safely as possible.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal segmental influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation of rehabilitation (massage therapy included). This localization of the level of origin allows the graduate to treat a resulting clinical condition more accurately.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for therapeutic modalities that might benefit the patient.
- Ability to describe the biomechanical changes observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how they could be addressed to improve patient outcomes.
- The ability to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion, which allows the graduate to address the clinical condition more accurately.
- Ability to display the credentials of CVMRT (Certified in Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy).

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

THE TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is **\$6,189.00** (six thousand, one hundred eighty-nine dollars), which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable. Payment is expected in full during the first day of the first Module, after the interview. Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (from which reading material will be utilized throughout the program) and two required textbooks (approximate cost of about \$ 110.00 USD) that can be purchased through several online bookstores. The price of the other books will vary depending on where and how the books are purchased.

For other expenses, please see the section under "Performance Evaluation." The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is not approved for federal financial aid or assistance under Title IV.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDL-Hybrid VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY (VSMT) POSTGRADUATE STATE-APPROVED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The entire VSMT curriculum consists of a blended (hybrid) program utilizing *Interactive Distance Learning (IDL)*, face-to-face didactic educational lectures, and



extensive supervised hands-on clinical practicum training. This IDL-Hybrid program is divided into three required sections.

- Approximately 37 hours of asynchronous educational videos (AEVs) must be viewed in a specific sequence. These AEVs are comparable in replacing 57 hours of face-to-face onsite with student-to-student and student-to-faculty interaction. See program curriculum and provided syllabus for specifics.
- Approximately 35 hours of scheduled synchronous educational Webinars (SSEWs) to present new material and help with student and faculty interaction and integration as it pertains to the AEVs, didactic, and clinical hands-on practicums.
- As an IDL-Hybrid, all AEVs are components of the program.
- Face-to-face supervised education (approximately 182hrs).

The first Module for the IDL-Hybrid program **begins** once the student, with the provided username and password, enters and opens the Moodle section. The SSEWs will be listed as the OFF-Campus dates. Remember that before you attend the SSEWs, you must view several pre-recorded asynchronous educational videos that make up a crucial part of the program. For specifics, please REFER TO THE PROGRAM SYLLABUS provided to you.

There is a maximum of twenty (20) students per class, allowing us to keep a maximum ratio of three or four (3 or 4) students to one (1) faculty for practical hands-on practicum clinical labs. Once the class has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals.

Each student must present a total of two (2) cases. A "case" constitutes either a patient examined by you or sent to you for evaluation. Proper SOAP records must be followed, with their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan actively documented.

A total of **five (5) Modules** (one Module will be off-campus, and four (4) Modules face-to-face) will encompass an entire class or complete curriculum. Each face-to-face Module consists of 5 days, beginning Wednesday (1:00 PM – 7:00 PM), Thursday / Friday, and Saturday (8:00 am – 12 PM, 1 PM – 7 PM), and Sunday (8:00 am-12:00 PM). Depending on the Module, longer hours might be required.

#### **Dates for the VSMT 2025 calendar are:**

##### **Spring class:**

- Module I: (Off-Campus) Jan 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Scheduled webinars)
- Module II: (On-Campus) Feb 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module III: (On-Campus) Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module IV: (On-Campus) Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025



- Module V: (On-Campus) Apr 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### Fall class:

- Module I: (Off-Campus) July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 (Scheduled webinars)
- Module II: (On-Campus) Aug 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Module III: (On-Campus) Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module IV: (On-Campus) Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module V: (On-Campus) Nov 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

For more information or to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please visit our website ([www.healingoasis.edu](http://www.healingoasis.edu)) under "CE Seminars" or " Postgraduate Programs." Please note that no classes will be held during the following recognized holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; or Christmas Day.

## INFORMATION ABOUT INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY

Interactive Distance Learning (IDL) is a means of providing educational delivery through an electronically facilitated environment. IDL supports and encourages substantial interactions between students and students to faculty. Interactions can be provided synchronously or asynchronously delivered through the internet, Webinars, audio-conferencing, or any other wireless method.

IDL-Hybrid programs help registered attendees in many ways:

- Minimizes traveling with secondary expenses.
- Minimizes time away from family and, of course, business.
- Allow the registered attendees to view provided pre-recorded lectures at their own time.
- All AEVs and SSEWs are components of the postgraduate program

**\*\*However, you must set aside time to view the required asynchronous educational recordings of the program, practice the techniques presented, and attend scheduled synchronous educational Webinars—waiting until the last minute is discouraged.**

There will be pre-scheduled synchronous educational Webinars presenting specific lectures. The registered attendees will sometimes be divided into breakout rooms to discuss homework and clinical cases and provide time for questions and answers. Interactions can also provide student-to-student and student-to-faculty interaction. The program director (Dr. Pedro Luis Rivera) is the principal faculty in charge of all Webinars and individual communication with students. For specifics about scheduled SSEWs, please refer to the program syllabus.

Please refer to the program syllabus for specific information regarding scheduled Webinars.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VSMT IDL-Hybrid PROGRAM**

The following requirements are the minimum necessary that the staff feels would allow a student to pursue success in this program.

- Licensed chiropractor (DC) or veterinarian (DVM, VMD) in good standing with their particular state/provincial/governmental licensing board (\*\*must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- Professionals registering from outside the North American Continent: Completed and graduated from a Veterinary Medical Program or Chiropractic Medical School (as viewed by the AVMA / ACA respective council on education). Must have a pertinent Visa, diploma, and proper governmental active licensure from the country they are currently practicing.
- Two-character reference letters. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a note with a brief description of your practice and the second letter from a veterinarian.
- Licensed non-veterinary professionals must also include the signed, initialed, and filled waiver titled "Waiver/Disclaimer for Non-Veterinary Licensed Professionals."
- Include a copy of your current and valid state license (current residence).
- Include a copy of your chiropractic or veterinary diploma.
- Two passport-size photos.
- **All licensed professionals** – must include a signed letter stating that they understand your state / provincial rules and regulations as they apply to "animal chiropractic" or veterinary spinal manipulative therapy as set forth by their respective licensing boards.
- Include a \$200.00 deposit with the application form. The remaining tuition of \$8,189.00 must be paid before Module I starts, for a total cost of \$8,389.00. Please refer to your syllabus for specific due dates. All currencies are in US dollars. Please, no foreign checks.
- As an IDL-Hybrid program, you will also need access to high-speed internet, a computer, a camera, a microphone, and a speaker.

Applicants will continue to be accepted until the maximum number of twenty (20) students is reached. The application deadline is two (two) weeks before the scheduled classes begin. Registration may be closed early if the maximum number of attendees is reached.

**The application form must include a deposit of \$200.00 (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee). The remaining tuition of \$8,189.00 (for a total cost of \$8,389.00) is due two weeks before the first day of school. The school is not approved to provide financial aid as it is not a Federal Title IV institution.**

The student will receive a letter or an email confirming their reservation for this postgraduate training. All students must complete all applicable admissions requirements. Before the program begins, all participants must complete a brief interview. The interviews will be conducted via Webinar about two to three weeks before the scheduled starting date. Check the syllabus for the program that was provided for more specific information regarding scheduled webinar-based interviews.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants who have attended weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or workshops. If the applicant has successfully completed (must include documentation) a basic program approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA), College of Animal Chiropractors (CoAC), or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA), then they can attend and audit any of the first four (4) modules offered at the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Please understand that the described auditors will **only** receive a certificate of attendance for continuing education. Don't hesitate to contact the school directly for auditing and price information.

### **ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VSMT IDL-Hybrid PROGRAM**

Anatomy: Review the pertinent anatomy in veterinary spinal manipulative therapy. Students will also view dissection as part of the educational process.

TOTAL: 18HRS

Neurology (Basic & Advanced): An essential part of veterinary spinal manipulation is to understand and thus maintain a functional nervous system. This class will emphasize Functional Neurology as it applies to spinal manipulation. The neurologic mechanism by which VSMT causes changes will also be discussed locally and supra-segmentally.

TOTAL: 30HRS

VSC & Its Scientific validity: This class will present up-to-date available research that validates the spinal manipulation health care modality and further expand knowledge of functional neurology & the vertebral hypomobility/subluxation complex.

TOTAL: 12HRS

Biomechanics: This class will explain all the biomechanical changes that occur when the body performs normal functions and the pathophysiologic changes under stress. Saddle fitting is included under this section TOTAL: 3HRS

Ethics and Legalities: This class will prepare the students to deal with the everyday legal issues faced in conventional and integrative practices. TOTAL: 4HRS

Rehabilitation Therapy: This class will give introductory information and techniques that can be used as adjunct modalities to speed up the healing process of the body TOTAL: 2HRS

Integrative Veterinary Therapy Modalities: Introductory lectures to provide practitioners with a basic understanding of some of the modalities (rehabilitation and laser therapies as examples) as they apply to VSMT. TOTAL: 3HRS

Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Techniques Lecture: This class will show basic techniques that can be used to adjust specific segments of the spine at the cervical, thoracic, lumbar, extremities, sacropelvic, sternum, Logan & cranial (sutures) techniques, among others. TOTAL: 19HRS

Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Techniques Laboratory (Hands-on): This lab will be utilized to practice and master the techniques taught in the introductory VSMT class. Both small and large animals will be available for application. In Module II, the students will also start taking cases, adjusting, re-assessing, and developing protocols to care for animals in a clinical setting. TOTAL: 107HRS

Case Presentations: Each student will present two (2) cases in which they utilize VSMT and explain the reasoning behind the diagnosis and treatment of each case. TOTAL: 5HRS

Philosophy: A synopsis of Spinal Manipulation philosophy will include the many differing views from the late 1800s to the 21st Century. TOTAL: 3HRS

Adjunct Veterinary Diagnosis: This class will emphasize the "diagnosis" aspect of case management based on the case approach. Ideas and standard operating procedures will be given so that case intake and progress plan will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols and a realistic prognosis can be achieved and communicated to the owners of our patients TOTAL: 8HRS

Pathology: This class will review common veterinary medical pathologies encountered daily that can benefit from VSMT. There will be an emphasis on when and when not to adjust.

TOTAL: 5HRS

Radiology: This class will review normal vs. abnormal radiological findings in the cervical, thoracolumbar, Sacro-pelvic, and extremity regions. Emphasis will be given to presenting clinical findings that will be encountered in everyday practice/examination.

TOTAL: 5HRS

General & Infectious Diseases: This class will present general information that must be considered when assessing a patient. It will discuss basic pharmacology, types of surgeries, diseases (infectious and zoonotic), and basic physiology.

TOTAL: 2HRS

## **BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VSMT IDL-HYBRID PROGRAM**

Some of the benefits that students will gain include (but are not limited to):

- Ability to define and describe what veterinary spinal manipulative therapy is, how it affects the body, the main components (vertebral subluxation complex), and how to apply this health care modality in a knowledgeable, competent, and safe way to the patients being treated.
- Ability to locate and describe pertinent and clinically relevant anatomy to VSMT and animal patients.
- Ability to locate, name, and describe the afferent influences the adjustment provides to the patient and how this divergent information helps improve cortical development with its segmental efferent modulation.
- Ability to evaluate (under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess the patient's progress.
- An ability to design and plan treatment protocols tailored to the individual patient, aiming to improve their quality of life and return to optimal normal function and performance.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal cord segmental level influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation pertaining to VSMT.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for adjunct therapeutic modalities that might benefit the patient.
- Able to describe and explain the biomechanical changes (from a functional neuro-anatomical point of view) observed, find functional etiologies for those changes, and discuss how VSMT could be used to treat and improve patient outcomes.

- Able to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion is critical in determining the effect that is being clinically displayed by the patient and, therefore, correctly treating the cause of the symptom(s).
- Ability to display the credentials of CVSMT (Certified in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy).

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VSMT IDL-HYBRID PROGRAM**

THE TOTAL COST FOR THE ENTIRE IDL-Hybrid VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is **\$8,389.00**.

Payment is expected in full before the pre-scheduled informal interview. Please refer to the syllabus provided to you. Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (including reading material throughout the program) and three required textbooks (approximate total cost of \$225.00 USD) that can be purchased through several online bookstores. The cost of the other books varies depending on where and in what form they are acquired.

For other expenses, please see the section under "Performance Evaluation." The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is not approved for federal financial aid or assistance under Title IV.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE (VAc) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

The curriculum consists of a minimum of **180 hours** of supervised instruction. The class sizes are kept to a maximum number of participants, allowing for small classes and a more personal and relaxed learning environment, as well as providing a ratio of 3 – 4 students to 1 faculty during hands-on clinical practicums. Once the course has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals.

Each student must present a total of two (2) cases. A "case" constitutes either a patient examined by you or sent to you for evaluation. Proper SOAP record protocol must be followed, documenting their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan must be documented.

A total of **5 (five)** Modules will encompass an entire "class" or "complete curriculum." Each Module consists of 5 (five) days, beginning Wednesday (1:00PM - 7PM), Thursdays / Fridays and Saturdays (8:00AM – 12PM, 1PM – 6PM), and Sunday (8:00am-12:00PM). Depending on the Module, longer hours may be required.

**Dates for the VAc 2025 calendar are:**

Class A – Spring: None scheduled.

- Module I:
- Module II:
- Module III:
- Module IV:

Class B - Fall:

- Module I: August 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module II: September 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Module III: November 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module IV: Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Module V: Jan 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

For more information send us an email ([info@healingoasis.edu](mailto:info@healingoasis.edu)) or check our website ([www.healingoasis.edu](http://www.healingoasis.edu)) under the "Postgraduate Programs" tab.

Please note that classes will not be held on the following recognized holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, or Christmas Day.

### **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VAc POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

The following requirements are the minimum necessary that the staff feel would allow students to pursue a successful path in this field.

- Must be a licensed veterinarian or acupuncturist. They must be in good standing with their respective state/provincial/governmental licensing board (\*\*must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- For professionals registering from outside the North American continent, please provide a copy of the country's pertinent Visa, Diploma, and proper governmental active licensure in that you are licensed and currently practicing. **All applicants must include a copy of their diploma and current (not expired) state or provincial/governmental license or certification.**
- Two-character reference letters. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a note briefly describing your practice.
- Licensed non-veterinary professionals must also include the signed, initialed, and filled waiver titled "Waiver/Disclaimer for Non-Veterinary Licensed Professionals."
- Two passport-size photos or appropriate selfies.
- **All licensed professionals** must include a letter stating that they understand their state's rules and regulations as they apply to integrative veterinary modalities, specifically Veterinary Acupuncture.

- **For the 2025 programs**, include a 200.00 dollar deposit with the application form. **The remaining tuition of \$7,900.00 is to be paid TWO WEEKS before the first day of class for \$8,100.00.** All currencies are in US dollars. Please, no foreign checks.

The application form must include a deposit of \$200.00 (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee). The remaining tuition (\$7,900.00) is due TWO WEEKS before the first day of class (for a total tuition cost of \$8,100.00). The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV). The application deadline is two (2) weeks before the scheduled classes begin. However, registration could be closed earlier if the maximum number of registrants is achieved.

The student will receive a letter (via USPS or email) confirming their reservation for the specific dates of postgraduate training. Please remember that all students must provide all applicable admissions requirements to be considered for the program. A brief interview is required for all participants before the program begins. Please refer to the provided syllabus.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants who have attended weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or any seminars. If the applicant has successfully completed (must provide documentation) a basic recognized Veterinary Acupuncture program, they could audit any of the first three (3) modules offered at the Healing Oasis main campus. As an auditor, you will only receive a certificate of attendance validating the continuing education that you have attended. Please contact the school for more details.

## **ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VAc POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

**Foundations of Oriental Medicine.** Provides concepts of yin/yang, qi/blood/Shen, five elements, transformations/functions of qi, functions of yin organs and yang organs, the 6 extraordinary fu, causes of disease, and diagnostic skills (observation, including tongue; case intake, palpation, including pulse, front mu and back shu; hearing/smelling). Lab hands-on practicums will also be provided.

**TOTAL: 50 hours**

**Acupuncture.** Includes channels, channel theory, points, point function, diagnostic systems (8 principles, TCM, 5 Elements), qi/blood/body fluids, organs, pathogenic factors, treatment strategies, and treatment designs.

**TOTAL: 50 hours**



**Hand on Lab.** Includes a 4-hour clinic in each of the 5 modules. An additional 30 hours (MINIMUM) of supervised, hands-on practice and learning is included.

**TOTAL: 50 hours**

**Neurology.** Introduction to the understanding of nociception and neurology of pain. Muscle spindle cells, trigger points, ah shi points. Ideas on medical acupuncture and neurologic ideas on acupuncture.

**TOTAL: 10 hours**

**Anatomy.** Familiarization with basic musculoskeletal anatomy to facilitate a better understanding of point location.

**TOTAL: 10 hours**

**Other modalities.** Introductory ideas in Chinese Medicine Herbology, food as medicine, Gua Sha, TuiNa, electro-acupuncture, laser, and moxa.

**TOTAL: 10 hours**

### **BENEFITS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VAc PROGRAM**

Some of the benefits that students will gain include (but are not limited to):

- The ability to define and describe what veterinary acupuncture is, the main components, and how to apply these components in a knowledgeable, competent, and safe way to provide therapies.
- As it applies to functional veterinary acupuncture, the ability to locate acupuncture points and describe pertinent and clinically relevant neuromuscular and osseous anatomy.
- Ability to evaluate (under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess patients' progress.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocol(s) tailored to the individual patient based on its functional evaluation. The ultimate goal of the treatment is to improve quality of life and return to normal function and performance as safely as possible.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal segmental influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation of veterinary acupuncture.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for therapeutic modalities that may benefit the patient.
- Ability to describe the biomechanical changes observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how they could be addressed to improve patient outcomes.
- Ability to display the credentials of CVAc (Certified in Veterinary Acupuncture).

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VAc POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM**

THE TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VAc POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is **\$8,100.00** (eight thousand, one hundred dollars), which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable. Payment of the remaining tuition is expected in full TWO WEEKS before the first day of class. Students will have a list of required and suggested textbooks with an approximate cost of \$385.00 that can be purchased through several online bookstores. The price of the other books will vary depending on where and how the books are purchased.

For other expenses, please see the section under "Performance Evaluation." The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is not approved for federal financial aid or assistance under Title IV.

## **SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS**

The faculty will provide curriculum reviews to ensure current, accurate, and relevant clinical information is presented. Lecture and PowerPoint reviews will be conducted on a module-to-module basis. When new ideas are brought forth by faculty during staff meetings, hands-on clinical practicum (technique) reviews will be conducted. Entire curriculum reviews will be evaluated every two to three years.

## **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR ALL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Students are evaluated by various methods that include but are not limited to written, practical (small and large animals), anatomy, and oral integration evaluations. Each student's performance will be discussed & evaluated between the faculty (that is present in the given Module) and the individual student (one at a time) starting during Module II (two). Students will be given ideas on improving their performance during the said individual review. In the unlikely event that students might be falling below passing grades, said student might be given a special assignment to improve individual scores. If a special homework is assigned to a student, there will be a letter describing the timetable and subject(s) that must be addressed and in what format to be presented. Please see the section titled *Improvement on Student Performance – Special Homework Protocol*. A faculty panel (minimum of two [2]) will provide ideas on how students can improve their performance.

To successfully finish, a **78.00%** minimal grade must be attained in **all of the sections for the registered postgraduate program (see section on Improvement on Student Performance)**. All grades are calculated using up to 2 decimal points. No "rounding up" is performed. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 93 - 100%; B = 85 - 92%; C = 78 - 84%; Fail = less than 78%

Please be advised that a student **must** maintain a passing grade (78.00% or higher) when going into the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Module of the VMRT program or the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Module of the VSMT or VAc programs. If any of the sections fall below passing grade,

the student will be given a choice of accepting **ONE (1)** special homework **per section** to help them improve their performance. The special homework grade will be **AVERAGED** with the lowest grade of the specific section. It is the student's responsibility to either accept or decline the said special homework. Faculty will emphasize the information presented to the student during student performance reviews and the approximate grade performance that must be attained to successfully achieve the minimum passing grade of 78.00%. As described above, special homework(s) are being provided to help students complete and achieve a passing grade. **NO** special homework will be provided during the last Module of any approved programs. If a passing grade is not achieved, the faculty present will list the Module that the student would be required to audit, among other requirements. The student must understand that all additional expenses are their responsibility (see below). The estimated cost to repeat any module would be **\$1,250.00** plus their traveling expenses. Under no circumstances will a student who cannot achieve a passing grade receive a certification diploma as attested by the school faculty.

If a student cannot achieve a passing grade to complete the program successfully, a panel of faculty members will review the case and provide the program director with a letter including their findings and suggestions for completing the program successfully. The student will have a maximum of six months to complete the task.

## **Improvement on Student Performance - Special Homework Protocol ALL Programs**

The school's passing grade for any postgraduate state-approved certification program is 78.00% (carried to two decimal points) for each integration evaluation segment (section). Therefore, all numerical grades within the same section will be averaged together.

The **Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy (VMRT) program** has four (4) sections:

- Moodle (with multiple choice and short answers averaged together)
- Practical Integration Evaluation (Hands-on practicum & clinical integration averaged together)
- Anatomy Integration Evaluation
- Oral Integration Evaluation
- Upon successful completion of the requirements, you will be awarded the credentials of **CVMRT** (Certified in Veterinary Massage & Rehabilitation Therapy)

The **IDL-Hybrid Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) program** has five (5) sections:

- Moodle (with multiple choice and short answers averaged together)
- Canine Technique Practical Integration Evaluation
- Equine Technique Practical Integration Evaluation
- Anatomy Integration Evaluation

- Oral Integration Evaluation
- Upon successful completion of the requirements, you will be awarded the credentials of **CVSMT** (Certified in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy)

**The Veterinary Acupuncture (VAc) program has five (5) sections:**

- Moodle (with multiple choice and short answers averaged together to assess knowledge of the foundations of Oriental Medicine)
- Practical Integration Evaluation (Point location, Hands-on practicum & and clinical performance averaged together)
- Anatomy Integration Evaluation
- Case presentations
- Oral Integration Evaluation
- Upon successful completion of the requirements, you will be awarded the credentials of **CVAc** (Certified in Veterinary Acupuncture)

All students will have **ONE** opportunity to improve their performance for each section. The grade to trigger said particular homework would be 70.00%. The student will have to decide whether to accept or decline said homework. A faculty panel (minimum of two [2]) will provide ideas on the unique homework for students to improve their performance. The homework grade does not and will not replace a failing grade but instead will be averaged with the lowest grade of the sections. Said average is to improve the overall section.

Students must understand that no special homework is provided on or after Module IV of the VMRT or Module V of the IDL-Hybrid VSMT and the VAc postgraduate programs. Suppose the student is deficient in any specific section or during the last Module of the attending program. In that case, they will be required to audit a specific Module as agreed by the attending faculty. The student may also be required to retake specific tests to show proficiency in the subject matter. Our goal is to help the students successfully complete the program.

## **PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATIONS FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

Students will be notified within a maximum of three (3) weeks if they have completed the program or not. Certification in Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy OR Certification in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy, as attested by the school faculty, will be awarded upon completing the chosen program and its requirements.

If the student fails to meet all requirements, the student will receive (included in the notification letter) special homework and requirements described and recommended by the faculty that must be completed within a specific time frame. See the section titled **"Improvement on Student Performance - Special Homework Protocol."** The ultimate goal is to help the student achieve successful completion.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS FOR ALL STUDENTS**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is aware of the confidential nature of student's personal and academic records; therefore, the school exercises extreme care and concern in recording and maintaining said information. Such information will not be provided to an unauthorized person(s) or agencies without written consent from the student. Ultimately, the contract for program attendance is between the student and the school or school representative.

The school faculty recognizes the student's right to access their records. Students will be instructed during their first Module on the procedures to follow to review their testing (grade) records under the supervision of a designated faculty member. The school maintains signed application forms, application requirements, signed attendance sheets, grades, signed student progress reports/evaluations, official school communications with the student (including beginning and completion or termination date), copy of diploma, and certificate of attendance/continuing education, student grievances, and subsequent resolutions, and copies of special assignments (if needed), on all records of registered students. The information would be scanned and kept digital after completing the record. Paper records will be held for **three years**. After the three (3) year period, digital records and transcripts will be maintained.

## **LICENSING OF VETERINARY INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES**

To this day, no recognized governmental (national, state, or provincial) body oversees any integrative/complementary therapies offered to non-human animals.

Pursuing the best postgraduate program is up to the individual's ethical values.

## **CLASSROOM CONDUCT FOR ALL PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS**

As in any other professional school, professional standards are upheld:

1. No smoking on premises
2. Respect each speaker; do not talk out of turn.
3. Keep personal communication devices silent or turned off during class
4. Respect each other's right to have an education
5. Respect each other's beliefs and knowledge
6. Under no circumstances will any abuse or rough handling of animals be tolerated, and hence would constitute grounds for immediate dismissal.
7. Dishonesty is not tolerated (includes vandalism of school property)
8. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any part of the classroom or premises will not be tolerated or allowed and would constitute grounds for immediate dismissal.
9. Disrespectful use of language will not be tolerated.
10. Inappropriate physical contact with individuals during school-related activities will not be tolerated and is grounds for dismissal.
11. If a student appears impaired or puts themselves or any classmate, staff, participant, or animal in jeopardy, they will be dismissed immediately.

12. Students must maintain an average of 78.00% or higher for EACH independent section to complete the program.

13. If the student, while attending the Modules or after dropping out of the program, engages in dishonest advertisement/representation, it will constitute grounds for immediate dismissal and will not be allowed for readmission.

Non-compliance with the above simple rules would constitute grounds for dismissal. If a dismissal is due to any of the above "rules of conduct," readmission will **not** be allowed, and reimbursement will be based on the established "pro-rata" refund (see the section under "Withdrawal from the Program")

## **COMPLAINT PROCEDURE**

All complaints regarding conduct, grading, or any concerns shall be given in writing to either Dr. Pedro L. Rivera, Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT, any faculty member, or the class president. The program director and faculty will be available to discuss complaints and provide several options to remedy the situation. If the attendee does not feel that the complaint has been handled correctly, then the next step would be to contact the School Administration Consultant for the Wisconsin DSPS-Educational Approval Program at WEAB / DSPS 4822 Madison Yards Way, PO Box 8366, Madison, WI 53705, Tel: 608-266-1996 ([www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov); [dspseap@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dspseap@wisconsin.gov)). The final step would be to contact the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education 1722 N Street NW; Washington, DC 20036, Tel: 202-955-1113 ([www.accet.org](http://www.accet.org)).

## **APPEAL PROCESS FOR ALL DISMISSALS**

If a student is dismissed from the program, an appeal may be made in writing to the program directors (Dr. Pedro Rivera or Michelle J. Rivera). When reviewing the appeal, the program directors will consider all factors, including attendance, class participation, grades, and consultations with faculty that have had contact with said student. The student will be notified within 15 business days if the appeal is approved or denied. If approved, the student will be readmitted to the respective program.

## **ATTENDANCE FOR ALL PROGRAMS**

100% attendance is required for the entire program (didactic & practicums). Attendance will be taken at the beginning and end of each day (signed attendance general spreadsheets) and kept in a binder in the program director's office. A student will be considered tardy for class if more than 20 minutes late or departing 20 minutes earlier. If a student is tardy or leaves early three consecutive times (60 minutes in sequence within one Module or one day of a module), it will count as an absence. If students know they will be absent or tardy before class, they must call or inform the center of an excused absence. However, a student is considered to have provided constructive notice of withdrawal if they miss two (2) consecutive days of class.

In the unlikely event that the student receives an absence, then a faculty panel (minimum of two [2]) will provide a special homework (in an official communication) that the student must research and present to a faculty panel during the next scheduled Module.

Although leave of absence is not encouraged, certain extraordinary cases, such as activation to military duty (through the Department of Defense of the United States), death in the family, or severe illnesses that will cause the student to miss classes. If a leave of absence is for more than six months, then the student must re-apply to enter (or continue) the program. If required, extra tutorial time is available at \$150.00 per hour; make-up reading assignments and quizzes will be assigned to complete the missing work.

There are NO probational periods; students must complete all the required work and maintain minimum grade standards (of 78.00% for EACH individual section) to successfully complete the chosen program for which the student is registered.

**The last date of attendance (LDA) will be considered as the scheduled face-to-face Module that was attended, the last IDL-Hybrid SSEW that was viewed or attended, or based on the Moodle AEV logged participation either in or out of sequence. For specific dates for Modules, please check the individual program you are interested in or review the program syllabus provided to you.**

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM AND REFUND POLICY**

If, for any reason, the student withdraws or is dismissed by the school before attending classes, there will be no charge to the student. All money except the non-refundable application fee of \$100.00 will be reimbursed to the student.

The student will receive a full refund (within ten business days) of all money paid if the student:

- Cancels within the three-business-day cancellation period under SPS 406.03 ([https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/sps/zeducational\\_approval/406](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/zeducational_approval/406)).
- Accepted was unqualified, and the school did not secure a disclaimer under SPS 409.04 (<https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/EA409.pdf>).
- Enrollment was procured as the result of any misrepresentation in the written materials used by the school or in oral representations made by or on behalf of the school.

A student who withdraws or is dismissed after attending at least one unit (see below for definitions), but before attending 60% of the program in the current enrollment period is entitled to a pro-rata refund as follows based on the LDA:

<u>AT LEAST</u>	<u>BUT LESS THAN</u>	<u>REFUND OF TUITION</u>
1 UNIT	10%	90%
10%	20%	80%
20%	30%	70%
30%	40%	60%
40%	50%	50%
50%	60%	40%



60%

NO REFUND

NO REFUND

Definitions for the **VMRT Program (four Module program):**

- Definition of One UNIT: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section.
- Definition of 10%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded any file(s) or link(s) for the said Module.
- Definition of 20%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded class note packets, and/or opened/viewed any available link(s) for the said Module.
- Definition of 25%: Once the student attends Module I (face-to-face or virtual attendance).
- Definition of 30%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module II, open/view/download any available links.
- Definition of 40%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module II, open/view/download the note packets and/or open any available links.
- Definition of 50%: Once the student attends the program's Module II (face-to-face or virtual attendance).
- Definition of 60%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module III, open/view/download the note packets and/or open any available links, or attend the Module (face-to-face or virtual).

Definitions for the **IDL-Hybrid VSMT Program (five Module program):**

- Definition of One UNIT: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section.
- Definition of 10%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded any available AEV link(s).
- Definition of 20%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded class note packets, opened/viewed any available link, or attends Module I (face-to-face or virtual attendance).
- Definition of 30%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module II, student section and opened/viewed/downloaded any link.
- Definition of 40%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module II, open/view/download any note packets and/or open/download any available file(s) or link(s) or attends Module II.
- Definition of 50%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module III student section and opened/viewed/downloaded any available AEV link(s).
- Definition of 60%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module III, open/view/download the note packets and/or open any available file or links or has attended Module III.

Definitions for the **VAc Program (five Module program):**

- Definition of One UNIT: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section.
- Definition of 10%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded any file(s) or link(s) for the said Module.



- *Definition of 20%: Once the student has entered Moodle, Module I student section and opened/viewed/downloaded class note packets, and/or opened/viewed any available link(s) for the said Module, or have attended face-to-face Module I.*
- *Definition of 25%: Once the student opens any files or links for Module II.*
- *Definition of 30%: Once the student opens, views, or downloads any Class Notes for Module II.*
- *Definition of 40%: Once the student has joined/attended face-to-face Module II.*
- *Definition of 50%: Once the student has opened any files for Module III.*
- *Definition of 60%: Once the student has opened/downloaded Class Notes for Module III or has attended face-to-face Module III.*

The school may retain a one-time application fee of no more than \$100.00 as part of this refund policy. The school will make every effort to refund prepaid amounts for books, supplies, and other charges sold by the school. Refunds additional than those under the "three-business-day" cancellation period will receive their pro-rata refund within 40 days of the termination date. If a student withdraws after attending 60% of the instruction and withdrawal is due to mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control, the school may refund a pro-rata amount. If a student drops out of any programs due to mitigating circumstances, and after attending 60% of the program, they may transfer to the following scheduled Modules within the following six months. Readmission will not be allowed if the applicant has engaged in unethical practice/representation, has not followed the school rules of conduct, is under any licensing board's investigation, or has lost their license to practice. A written notice of withdrawal is not required. All attendees who drop out must re-apply to attend the following program.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Upon completion and graduation from any of the postgraduate school programs, students will be exceptionally qualified to offer various professional services that can be used to enhance conventional veterinary medicine. All graduates are encouraged to comply with and follow the bylaws and regulations of the AVMA and the individual state practice acts relating to Alternative/Integrative/Complementary Therapy Modalities. The school will offer ethical and business lectures on using and marketing the newly acquired knowledge.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center does not offer employment/placement services or guarantee employment to participants during or after the program. However, any job opening provided or sent to the school office will be displayed on the bulletin board for all students to see and read. Student referrals to prospective employers are not based on direct contact with employers regarding current job openings. It would be up to the student to contact the prospective employer for job particulars.



## **LIBRARY**

The school will have a separate office serving as a library. All required books and suggested reading materials will be available to the students while the faculty is on-premises. Library textbooks may not be taken off-premises.

## **DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER FROM INTERSTATE 94**

From Interstate 94 going south: Go east on Highway 20 / Exit #333 (Washington Avenue) for about 2.5 miles. You will cross under a railroad bridge and turn on Wisconsin Street at the lights. You will head south for about 0.8 miles, passing the Army Reserve facility and the Correctional Center. You will see the Healing Oasis Main Campus on your left. The town of Sturtevant is just another block south of there. Note the speed limit drops to 30 mph before getting to the school building.

From Interstate 94 going north: Go east on Hwy 11 / Exit #335 (Durand Ave.) for about 2.5 miles. Once you pass the first traffic light (Will's RV Center), take the left lane as you will be making a left turn (going north) right after the railroad tracks (US Bank on the corner) on Wisconsin St. Go about .8 miles. The Healing Oasis Main Campus is on your right (corner of Charles St. and Wisconsin St.).