

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



**POSTGRADUATE and STATE-APPROVED
CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS – 2021 & 2022**

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Contents

LETTER TO ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS	4
MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER	5
ABOUT THE FACULTY	5
ABOUT THE CO-FOUNDERS & FACULTY MEMBERS	5
Faculty members for the VMRT Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program	6
Faculty members for the VSMT Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program	7
Some guest speakers for the postgraduate programs	8
ABOUT THE CENTER.....	8
NON-DISCRIMINATION	9
SCHOOL CREDENTIALS (ACCREDITATIONS and APPROVALS)	9
INFORMATION ABOUT THE VETERINARY MESSAGE AND REHABILITATION THERAPY (VMRT) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	10
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM	11
ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM.....	12
BENEFITS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VMRT PROGRAM	14
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM.....	14
INFORMATION ABOUT THE IDL-Hybrid VETERINARY SPINAL MANIPULATIVE THERAPY (VSMT) POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM	15
INFORMATION ABOUT INTERACTIVE DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATIONAL METHODOLOGY	16
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM	17
ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM.....	18
BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VSMT PROGRAM.....	20
FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM	21
SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS.....	21
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR ALL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS.....	21
Improvement on Student Performance - Special Homework Protocol.....	22
PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS.....	23
CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS FOR ALL STUDENTS	23
LICENSING OF VETERINARY INTEGRATIVE THERAPIES.....	24
CLASSROOM CONDUCT FOR ALL PROGRAMS AND SEMINARS	24
COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.....	25

APPEAL PROCESS FOR ALL DISMISSALS 25
ATTENDANCE FOR ALL PROGRAMS 25
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM & REFUND POLICY 26
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES: 27
LIBRARY 27
DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER FROM INTERSTATE 94 27

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 successfully completing this Postgraduate Education in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) or Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy (VMRT) is to gain the basic understanding of the what, how, when and where of these medical therapeutic modalities, and how they could be provided in a competent and safe way to improve patient outcomes. By successfully completing the program, licensed professionals can further expand their curriculum vitae and credentials. It is a well-accepted fact that the public's demand for competent practitioners of integrative veterinary medicine and therapies have been increasing in recent years. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is unique in providing such health care modalities by drawing from both western and eastern philosophies. Our co-founders (Dr. Pedro Luis Rivera and Michelle J. Rivera, MT, VDT) have over 40 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 technician 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 (un-licensed) people, trying to meet these demands. Even though this is commendable, we believe that the public would be better served (as well as protected) if knowledgeable licensed health care professionals that have successfully completed thorough and extensive training are the ones providing these services.

To our knowledge, the Healing Oasis Wellness Center is the only school worldwide combining the knowledge base (both basic and advanced educational information); providing a very low student to instructor ratio during hands labs; providing both basic and advanced techniques during each program and expanding on advanced practical and functional neurology as it applies to VSMT or VMRT. We know that our course curriculum will meet and exceed the demands for knowledge in these modalities. The small class sizes will give both students and teachers the very best educational experience in a caring and nurturing environment. As with any postgraduate professional school, you not only learn from the instructors, but the instructors and classmates will benefit from each other's experience and knowledge as well.

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

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 the advancement and teaching of the knowledge base (both theoretical and practical) in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy; Advanced Neurology in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy. 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 take advantage of an array of knowledge and clinical skills that is second to none.

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. He has been practicing integrative veterinary medicine and, in particular, Veterinary Rehabilitation & Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) for over 20 years. Dr. Rivera completed the certificate of attendance program from Options for Animals Center, their advanced program. He was also a fulltime instructor at that facility from early 1993 through November 1999. Dr. Rivera was an active participant in the Alternative / Complementary Therapy Modality Committee from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA 1996). He completed both 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, rehabilitation therapy, Chinese and western herbology, and glandular therapy modalities. He is a current faculty member at the Backbone Academy for Veterinary Chiropractic and Healing Arts in Sittensen, Germany; Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center in Brantford, ON; ForVet Veterinary Rehabilitation Program in Madrid, Spain and Academia Internacional de Quiropractica Animal in Málaga, Spain. Dr. Rivera is an international speaker and currently lectures on the topics of veterinary spinal manipulation, massage/rehabilitation therapy, western herbology, and glandular (organ therapy) modalities. His area of expertise is Functional Neurology as it applies to Veterinary Spinal Manipulation & Rehabilitation, with emphasis on hemisphericity. 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 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 course work from the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology and has added these modalities to the array of services that Michelle Rivera and Dr. Rivera offered to their patients from 1993 through 2014. She was an instructor at the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology Veterinary Herbal Course or CE programs. She is currently the chief instructor for the Veterinary Chinese Herbology and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy programs at the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Michelle has also been practicing Feng Shui for the last 17 years. She follows the Black Hat Buddhist Tantric Sect philosophy as 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. Ms. Rivera also a co-owner of the Healing Oasis Wellness Center, LLC, and an international speaker on the above health care modalities.

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

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 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, FAFN, 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 the VMRT and VSMT Post-Graduate Certification Programs since 2010.

Faculty members for the VSMT Postgraduate & State-Approved Certification Program

Gregory Cramer, DC, Ph.D.; Dean of Anatomy, Professor at the National University of Health Sciences and international speaker.

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

Tom Gustafson, DVM, CVSMT, FCoAC; Co-owner of the Thompson Veterinary Clinic & faculty member since 2007. President of College of Animal Chiropractors.

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

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 speakers, 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.

Deanne Zenoni, DVM, CVA, CVSMT, CVMRT; Private practitioner in the Chicago area and senior faculty for the VMRT and VSMT Post-Graduate Certification Programs since 2010.

Some guest speakers for the postgraduate programs

Belinda Comito, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology). Board-certified in veterinary internal medicine (neurology) and private practitioner in Buffalo Grove, IL.

Douglas Gould, Ph. D., professor, and director of the Neurology Department, Oakland Medical College, Michigan.

Andris Kaneps, DVM, Ph.D., DACVS, DACVSMR; international speakers and owner of Kaneps Equine Sports Medicine and Surgery.

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. It is the first of its kind to the best of our knowledge, 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 there are plenty of hotels, stores, and restaurants within a 3mile radius. The physical location of the center is 2555 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant, WI, 53177; Phone number: 262-898-1680 Fax number: 262-886-6460; email: contact@healingoasis.edu. It consists of a 7000sq ft building, with 3500 sq. Ft. of clinic space, 2000 sq. Ft. of lecture facility, and the rest divided between the snack room, kitchen room, and restroom services.

The class sizes are kept to a maximum number of participants, which allows for the small class size 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 from either 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 imposed by or under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and 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), 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; dspseap@wisconsin.gov). Both postgraduate state-approved certification programs (VMRT and VSMT) 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 a registered trademark of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VMRT certification program is also listed by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians (AARV, www.rehabvets.com) and the Academy of Physical Rehabilitation – Veterinary Technicians (APRVT, www.aprvt.com). The **VSMT** program is approved by the College of Animal Chiropractors (CoAC, www.collegeofanimalchiropractors.org) and the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (www.animalchiropractic.org). The school is a recognized 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), 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. There is a maximum of 12 students per class, allowing us to keep a maximum ratio of 2-3 students to 1 faculty during hands-on clinical practicums. Once the class has started, no other student will be allowed to join, even if there have been dropouts or dismissals. Students will have a reading assignment during each Module, which might take up to 4-5hrs to complete outside of class hours. Each student must present a total of 2 cases. A "case" constitutes either a patient that has been brought or sent to you for a consultation for VMRT care, their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan.

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 - 7pm), and Sunday (8:00am-1:30pm). Depending on the Module, longer hours might be required.

Dates for the VMRT 2021 Fall calendar are:

Class B:

- Module I: Sept 9th – 12th, 2021
- Module II: Oct 14th – 17th, 2021
- Module III: Nov 18th – 21st, 2021
- Module IV: Dec 16th – 19th, 2021

Dates for the VMRT 2022 calendar are:

Class A:

- Module I: Mar 24th – 27th, 2022
- Module II: Apr 21st – 24th, 2022
- Module III: May 19th – 22nd, 2022
- Module IV: June 16th – 19th, 2022

Class B:

- Module I: Sept 22nd – 25th, 2022
- Module II: Oct 20th – 23rd, 2022
- Module III: Nov 17th – 20th, 2022
- Module IV: Dec 8th – 11th, 2022

For more information or if you would like to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please check our website (www.healingoasis.edu) under "CE Seminars" or "Programs," respectively.

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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

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

- Must be a licensed/registered or certified (as it applies to their listed profession) health care provider. (i.e., Veterinarian, Chiropractor, Veterinary Technician, Massage Therapist, Nurse or Physical Therapist, others. If in doubt, please contact the office) in good standing with their respective state/provincial/governmental licensing board (**must sign application form attesting to said good standing).
- Professionals registering from outside the North American continent, please provide a copy of the pertinent Visa, Diploma, and proper governmental licensure of the country 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, one from a licensed veterinary professional and one from an employer. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a note with a brief description of your practice.
- Two passport photos.
- **All licensed professionals:** must include a letter stating that you understand your state's rules and regulations as they apply to integrative/complementary veterinary modalities.
- Include a 200.00 dollar deposit with the application form. The remaining of tuition (\$4,925.00) to be paid during the interview (total tuition of \$5,125.00). 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 (\$4,925.00) due on the first day of school (for a total tuition cost of \$5,125.00). The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV), the remnant of tuition is due the first day of class. The application deadline is two (2) weeks before the beginning of the scheduled

classes. 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 is started. The interview will be held 1- 1 1/2hrs before classes are scheduled to start during the first day of class. All interviews are to be held on a "first-come, first-serve basis."

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants that have attended any weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or any type of seminars. If the applicant has successfully completed (providing documentation) a basic program that is recognized by the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians, then 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. For more information, please contact the school directly for auditing information and prices.

ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

Anatomy: Review the names, location and function of each bone and muscle in the non-human animal body TOTAL: 31HRS

Neurology: An essential part of massage is to understand and maintain a functional nervous system. This class will emphasize FUNCTIONAL NEUROLOGY as it applies to VMRT (which will include 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 dependant 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 plays an essential part in not only the healing but the functional mechanisms of the body. 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 and 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 not only normal functions, but while 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 that are faced in conventional or integrative/complementary practice and record maintenance. TOTAL: 3HRS

Tui Na: This ancient Chinese form of massage which utilizes not only hands-on but 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 the 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 Management: Ideas and standard operating procedures (through case presentations) will be given so that that case intake will become second nature and proper therapeutic protocols and a realistic prognosis can be achieved and communicated to the owners of our patients. TOTAL: 10HRS

BENEFITS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VMRT PROGRAM

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

- Ability to define and describe what is rehabilitation, what are the main components, and how to apply these components in a knowledgeable, competent, and safe way to the patients that are being treated.
- Ability to locate and name pertinent and clinically relevant anatomy (muscular and osseous) as it applies to rehabilitation and animal patients.
- Ability to evaluate (during class, under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess the progress of the patients.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocol(s) that are tailored to the individual patient being treated for (soft tissue injury, orthopedic condition or to maintain conditioning of an athlete). The ultimate goal for the treatment is to improve on quality of life and the return to normal function and performance as safely as possible.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal cord segmental level influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation of rehabilitation (massage therapy included). This localization of the level of origin of an influence allow the graduate to treat a resulting clinical condition more accurately.
- Ability to provide sound recommendations for therapeutic modalities that might be beneficial to the patient being evaluated and treated.
- Ability to describe the biomechanical changes that are being observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how they could be treated to improve patient outcome.
- Ability to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion, which, as stated, previously allows the graduate to more accurately treat a clinical condition.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VMRT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is **\$4,985.00** (four thousand, nine hundred eighty-five dollars). 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 material will be utilized throughout the program) and two required textbooks (approximate cost of about \$110.00USD) that can be purchased through amazon.com or any bookstore. 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 to offer any federal financial aid or assistance under Title IV.

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

The entire VSMT curriculum consists of a blended (hybrid) program utilizing *Interactive Distance Learning (IDL)*, and face-to-face didactic educational lectures, with extensive supervised hands-on clinical practicum training. The blended program is divided into three sections that must be completed.

- Approximately 37hrs of asynchronous educational videos (AEV's) required to be viewed in specific sequence. These AEVs are comparable in replacing 57hrs of face-to-face onsite with student to student, and student to faculty interaction.
- Approximately 35hrs of synchronous scheduled educational Webinars to present new material, and to help with student and faculty interaction, and integration of the AEVs and previously attended face-to-face and interaction.
- Face-to-face supervised education (approximately 182hrs).

The first Module will be completely OFF-Campus. Before you attend the scheduled synchronous Webinars, you will need to view several asynchronous pre-recorded educational videos to get you ready for the Webinar presentations, interactions, and breakout sessions. For specifics, please REFER TO THE EXTENDED 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 four (4) cases. A "case" constitutes either a patient that has been brought or sent to you for a consultation for VSMT care, their primary complaint, objective findings, physical findings, and treatment/progress plan.

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 (1:00pm – 8:00pm), Thursday / Friday and Saturday (8:00am - 12pm, 1pm - 8pm), and Sunday (8:00am-1:30pm). Depending on the Module, longer hours might be required.

Dates for the VSMT Fall 2021 calendar are:

- Aug 4th – 8th, 2021
- Sept 1st – 5th, 2021
- Oct 6th – 10th, 2021

- Nov 10th – 14th, 2021
- Dec 8th – 12th, 2021

Dates for the VSMT 2022 calendar are:

Class A:

- Module I: Jan 12th – 16th, 2022 (OFF-CAMPUS)
- Module II: Feb 9th – 13th, 2022
- Module III: Mar 16th – 20th, 2022
- Module IV: Apr 13th – 17th, 2022
- Module V: May 11th – 15th, 2022

Class B:

- Module I: Aug 3rd – 7th, 2022
- Module II: Aug 24th – 28th, 2022
- Module III: Sept 28th – Oct 2nd, 2022
- Module IV: Oct 26th – 30th, 2022
- Module V: Nov 30th – Dec 4th, 2022

For more information or if you would like to check the availability of Continuing Education seminars or other postgraduate programs, please check our website (www.healingoasis.edu) under "CE Seminars" or "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 either synchronously or asynchronously delivered through the internet, Webinars, audio-conferencing, or any other wireless method.

IDL programs help registered attendees in many ways:

- Minimizes exposure to COVID19, Influenza, among other pathogens.
- Minimizes traveling with secondary expenses.
- Minimizes time away from family, and of course, business.

- Allows the registered attendee to view provided pre-recorded lectures at their own time.

However, you MUST set time aside to view the required asynchronous educational recordings and attend scheduled synchronous educational Webinars. Waiting until the last minute is NOT recommended.

There will be pre-scheduled synchronous educational Webinars presenting specific lectures, dividing the registered attendees into breakout rooms to discuss homework, and clinical examples provide time for questions and answering and a 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 as it pertains to scheduled Webinars, please check the program syllabus provided to you.

For specific information regarding scheduled Webinars, etc., please check the programs' syllabus provided to you.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE 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 licensure from the country in which they are currently practicing.
- Two - character reference letters, one from a licensed veterinary professional and one from an employer. Both references should be from a non-family member. If self-employed, please include a note with a brief description of your practice.
- Include a copy of your current state license (current residence) and a copy of your diploma.
- Two passport-size photos.
- **All licensed professionals** – must include a signed letter stating that you 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 (\$6,950.00) to be paid during the interview (total of \$7,150.00). 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, camera, microphone, and a speaker.

Applicants will continue to be accepted until the maximum number of attendees of twenty (20) students is reached. The application deadline is 2 (two) weeks before the beginning of the scheduled classes. Registration may be closed early if the maximum number of attendees is reached.

A deposit of \$200.00 (which includes a \$100.00 non-refundable fee) must be included with the application form. The remaining tuition of \$6,925.00 (for a total of **\$7,125.00**) is due two weeks before the first day of school. The school is not approved to provide financial aid (Federal Title IV).

The student will receive a letter (via USPS) or an email confirming their reservation for this postgraduate training. All students must complete all applicable admissions requirements. A brief interview is required for all participants before the program begins. The interviews will be conducted via Webinar, about two to three weeks before the scheduled starting date for the program. 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 that have attended any weekend seminars, videotaped seminars, correspondence seminars, "gained" experience, or any type of workshops. If the applicant has successfully completed (must include documentation) a basic program that has been approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association, College of Animal Chiropractors, or the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association, then they can attend and audit any of the first four (4) modules offered at the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Please understand that you will **only** be receiving a certificate of attendance for continuing education as an auditor. For more information, please contact the school directly for auditing information and prices.

ACADEMIC CORE CURRICULUM FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

Anatomy: Review the pertinent anatomy as it applies to the application of 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 at a local and supra-segmental level. TOTAL: 30HRS

VSC & Its Scientific validity: This class will present up to date available research that not only validates the spinal manipulation health care modality but will 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 not only normal functions but the pathophysiologic changes that occur 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 that will be faced in both conventional or alternative/complementary 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 at the basic 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 taking care of animals in a clinical setting. TOTAL: 107HRS

Case Presentations: Each student will present four (4) 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 offered 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 that are encountered on a day to day basis, and that can benefit from VSMT. There will be an emphasis on when and when not to adjust. TOTAL: 5HRS

Radiology: This class will review the normal vs. abnormal radiological findings at the cervical, thoracolumbar, Sacro-pelvic, & extremity regions. Emphasis will be given to present clinical findings that will be encountered on an everyday practice/examination. TOTAL: 5HRS

General & Infectious Diseases: This class will present general information that must be kept in mind when assessing a patient. Pharmacology, types of surgery, diseases (infectious and zoonotic) & basic physiology will be discussed. TOTAL: 2HRS

BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE VSMT PROGRAM

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

- Ability to define and describe what veterinary spinal manipulative therapy is, how it affects the body, what are the main components (vertebral subluxation complex), and how to apply this health care modality in a knowledgeable, competent and safe way to the patients that are being treated.
- Ability to locate and name pertinent and clinically relevant anatomy (muscular and osseous) as it applies to VSMT and animal patients.
- Ability to locate, name, and describe the afferent influences that the adjustment provides to the patient and how this divergent information helps to improve on cortical development with its segmental efferent modulation.
- Ability to evaluate (during class hours, under direct supervision by the faculty) and assess the progress of the patients.
- Ability to design and plan treatment protocols that are tailored to the individual patient, with the ultimate goal of improving its quality of life and the return to optimal normal function and performance.
- Ability to list and describe the local, spinal cord segmental level influence, suprasegmental stimulation, influences, and modulation as it pertains to VSMT.

- Ability to provide sound recommendations for adjunct therapeutic modalities that might be beneficial to the patient.
- Able to describe and explain the biomechanical changes (from a functional neuro-anatomical point of view) that are being observed, find etiologies for those changes, and how VSMT could be used to treat and improve patient outcome.
- Able to determine the longitudinal level of the lesion, which is critical in determining the effect that is being clinically displayed by the patient, and therefore correctly treat the cause of the symptom(s).

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE VSMT POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM is \$7,150.00.

Payment is expected in full before the pre-scheduled informal interview. Please refer to the program syllabus that provided to you. Students will have a list of suggested textbooks (from which material will be utilized throughout the program) and three required textbooks (approximate total cost of \$225.00USD) that can be purchased through amazon.com (see link on the official admission letter), or any online bookstore. The cost of the other books varies depending on where and in what form the books are acquired.

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

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS

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

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR ALL POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Students are evaluated by a variety of methods that include written tests, practical tests (small and large animals), anatomy, and oral integration. Each student's performance will be discussed & evaluated between the faculty (that is present on the given Module) and the individual student (one at a time) starting during Module II (two). If necessary, during said individual review, students will be given ideas on how to improve on their performance. On the unlikely event that students might be falling below passing grade, said student might be given a special assignment with the sole purpose of improving individual scores. If special homework is assigned to a student, there will be a letter describing the time table and subject(s) that must be addressed

and in what format to be presented. Please see section titled *Improvement on Student Performance – Special Homework Protocol*. A panel of instructors (minimum of two [2]) will provide some ideas on how the student can improve on their performance.

To successfully finish the program, a **78.00%** minimal grade must be attained on **EACH** of the following individual sections: Written Test; Canine Practical; Equine Practical; Oral Evaluation and Anatomy. Grades are provided and documented 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 (3rd) Module of the VMRT program or the fourth (4th) Module of the VSMT program. If the student has not achieved a passing grade by the end of the third Module, instructors will emphasize once again the information that has been presented to the student during the previous individual reviews and the approximate grade performance that must be attained during the final module testing procedures to achieve the minimum passing grade of 78.00%. As described above, special homework(s) may be provided for the students to complete to help them achieve a passing grade. If it is suggested for the student to repeat any of the modules and finish the program with the following class, the student must understand that all expenses are their responsibility (see below). The estimated expenses to repeat any module would be \$850.00 (cost of auditing a module) plus their traveling expenses. Under no circumstances will a student that cannot achieve passing grade be allowed to receive a certification diploma as attested by the school faculty.

If a student is unable to achieve a passing grade to successfully complete the program, then a panel of faculty members will review each test (of said student) for accuracy. Attending faculty will provide the program director with a letter which will include their findings and suggestions for the student to successfully complete the program. The student will have maximum of 6months to complete said task.

Improvement on Student Performance - Special Homework Protocol

The school's passing grade for any postgraduate state-approved certification programs 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 answer averaged together)
- Practical Integration Evaluation (Hands-on practicum & clinical integration averaged together)
- Anatomy Integration Evaluation
- Oral Integration Evaluation

The Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy (VSMT) program has five (5) sections:

- Moodle (with multiple choice and short answer averaged together)

- Canine Technique Practical Integration Evaluation
- Equine Technique Practical Integration Evaluation
- Anatomy Integration Evaluation
- Oral Integration Evaluation

All students will have ONE opportunity to improve on their performance for each individual 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 panel of instructors (minimum of two [2]) will provide some ideas on the unique homework for the student to improve on their performance. The grade of the special homework does not and will not replace a failing grade but instead will be averaged in with the lowest one of the sections. Said average is to improve the overall section.

Students must understand that there is NO special homework provided on or after Module IV of the VMRT or Module V of the VSMT postgraduate programs. Suppose the student is found to be deficient in any specific section on 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 be required to re-take specific tests to show proficiency on the subject matter. Our goal is to help the student achieve the successful completion of the program.

PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATION FOR ALL PROGRAMS

Students will be notified within a maximum of three (3) weeks if they have successfully 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 the successful completion of the chosen program.

If the student fails to complete all requirements, said student would receive (included in the notification letter) a special homework, and requirements as described and recommended by the faculty that must be completed within a specific time frame. Said special homework & requirements would be graded and averaged together on the deficient section. 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 records, both personal and academic; therefore, the school exercises extreme care and concern in recording and maintaining information. Such information will not be provided to an unauthorized person(s) or agencies without written consent from the student.

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. Said the information would be scanned and kept on digital form as soon as the student record is completed. 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, there is no recognized governmental (national, state, or provincial) body that oversees any of the integrative/complementary therapies offered to non-human animals.

It is up to the ethical values of the individual to pursue the best postgraduate program available.

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. This 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 while involved in school-related activities will not be tolerated and is ground for dismissal.
11. If a student appears impaired or is putting 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 successfully complete the program.

Non-compliance with the above simple rules by a student 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 make themselves available to discuss any complaints and will 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 DSPE- Educational Approval Program at WEAB / DSPE 4822 Madison Yards Way, PO Box 8366, Madison, WI 53705, Tel: 608-266-1996 (www.dsps.wi.gov; 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).

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 will be 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 a student knows they will be absent or tardy before class, they must call or inform the center for an excused absence. However, a student is considered to have provided constructive notice of withdrawal if he/she misses two (2) consecutive days of class.

In the unlikely event that the student receives an absence, then a panel of instructors (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, there are 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. Individual extra tutorial time, if required, is available at \$150.00 per hour; and 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.

If the chosen program is an IDL or hybrid program, the last date of attendance (LDA) will be last day of the scheduled face-to-face Module, or the last IDL synchronous or asynchronous participation. For specific dates for Modules, please check the individual program that you are interested in, or review the program syllabus that was provided to you.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM & 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).
- 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 class, but before completing 60% of the program in the current enrollment period, is entitled to a pro-rata refund as follows:

<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

As part of this refund policy, the school may retain a one-time application fee of no more than \$100.00. The school will make every effort to refund prepaid amounts for books, supplies, and other charges sold by the school. Refunds other 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 completing 60% of the instruction, and withdrawal is due to mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control, the school may refund a pro-rata amount. A written notice of withdrawal is not required.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Upon completion and graduation from any of the postgraduate school programs, students will be exceptionally qualified to offer a variety of professional services that can be used to enhance conventional veterinary medicine. All graduates are encouraged to comply 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 how to use and how to market the newly acquired knowledge.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center does not provide or offer any employment/placement services, nor guarantee employment to any of the participants during or after the program. However, any job opening that is provided or sent to the school office would 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.



Dr. Gary Goodell teaching

LIBRARY

The school will have a separate office, which will serve as a library. All required books and suggested reading materials will be available to the students while instructors/faculty are on-premises. Textbooks from the library 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 at the lights turn right on to Wisconsin Street. 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 from 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, and you will find the Healing Oasis Main Campus on your right (corner of Charles St. and Wisconsin).