

The University of Findlay

College of Sciences

Summer 2026

The mission of The University of Findlay is to equip our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

Course Number: ASLA 440-02 Companion Animal Veterinary Medicine: Costa Rica

Credit Hours: 1 credit hour

Class Time/Place: Loop Abroad Costa Rica Dogs and Dolphins Session 1: May 31st-June 15th, 2026; Session 2: June 14th-June 27th, 2026; Session 3: July 12th-July 25th, 2026

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Course Description:

This course will prepare students to manage companion animals in a veterinary setting throughout their academic and professional career. Students will learn about safety in the veterinary workplace, proper handling, physical exams, eye and ear care, skin diseases, common diseases and conditions and their treatments, diagnostics and therapeutic techniques, spay/neuter techniques, and anesthetic monitoring. The course is repeatable with a maximum of 9 total credits provided the topics are unique.

Instructor: Erica Ward, DVM

Instructor Contact Information: erica@loopabroad.com

Office Hours: upon request

Course Objectives:

The following Learning Objectives will be addressed or assessed as part of the course:

- **Remember** basic veterinary terminology including anatomy and directional terminology
- **Understand** basic care, treatment, and management of companion animals
- **Understand** adequate husbandry, handling, and restraint of companion animals
- **Understand** and **Apply** knowledge gained to demonstrate proficiency in physical examinations, injections, venipuncture, and medical specimen collection procedures
- **Analyze** US standards of care and adjustments made in resource restricted settings.
- **Analyze** many of the commonly encountered medical conditions in companion animals
- **Evaluate** the health of companion animal patients through interpreting diagnostic results such as physical exam findings, blood work, and fecal examination.
- **Create** treatment plans and calculate drug doses for patients

Required Textbooks and Other Materials: All textbooks and readings will be provided during the course. On the first day of the course, students will be provided with a specialized coursepack.

- Loop Abroad’s Companion Animal Course Pack
- Optional: Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians, 8th ed. McCurmin, Saunders, 2013.
- Optional: Saunders Comprehensive Veterinary Dictionary, 4th ed. Blood and Studdert, Saunders, 2012.
- Each day, students will bring the following materials with them in a day pack, backpack, or tote bag: class session materials (textbook(s) if required, notes, notebook, writing utensils, etc.), refillable water bottle, snacks, wrist watch, scrubs (if necessary), insect repellent, sunscreen, hiking boots and/or closed toed shoes. Clothing may get dirty or ripped.

Instructional Strategies:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Case Analysis | x | Library and Internet Research | |
| Debate | | Practice/drill | x |
| Discovery/Independent Research | | Problem-solving | x |
| Discussion/Questioning/Interviewing | x | Reading assignments | x |
| Experiential Learning | x | Role-playing/simulation games | x |
| Field Experience | x | Service Learning | x |
| Group Presentation | | Video/Audio Review and Critique | |
| Laboratory Experiences | x | Other | |
| Lecture | x | | |

Methods of Assessment: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Abstracts | | Participation | x |
| Attendance | x | Peer Evaluation | |
| Capstone Project | | Portfolio | |
| Case Study | | Portfolio Lab Performance | |
| Exams | x | Presentations | |
| Group Projects | | Professional Evaluation | x |

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|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|--|
| Homework Assignments | x | Quizzes | |
| Internet Research | | Research project | |
| Journaling | x | Other | |
| Lab Performance | x | | |
| Oral/written review of literature | | | |

Grading: Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam(s): 30%

Homework Assignment(s): 50%

Class Attendance, Participation, and Lab Performance: 20%

Assignments will be completed while the student is participating in the Loop Abroad program. The exam will be proctored on the last day of the program and will be a closed book exam. Completed writing assignments should be submitted to your assigned veterinarian instructor in a word document or google document by the designated time and due date. Details on the assignments and assessments will be distributed on the first day of the program.

Throughout this course, instructors will assess students on their participation in labs and activities both in and out of the classroom. To do well on this assessment:

- Be sure to do your best in all labs and activities and complete corresponding handouts and pages in workbook
- Be an active and engaged participant (pay attention during class, volunteer answers, ask questions, etc)
- Be a team player and be helpful to your peers and instructors both in and outside the classroom
- Be prepared and on time for all activities

Please note: this is not an exclusive list. A student's behavior, attitude, and actions throughout their Loop Abroad program may have an impact on their Participation and Performance Score.

Grading Scale/Distribution:

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Points</u> | <u>Grading Scale</u> |
|--------------|---------------|----------------------|
| A | 4.00 | 93-100 |
| A- | 3.67 | 90-92 |
| B+ | 3.33 | 87-89 |
| B | 3.00 | 83-86 |
| B- | 2.67 | 80-82 |

| | | |
|----|------|----------|
| C+ | 2.33 | 77-79 |
| C | 2.00 | 73-76 |
| C- | 1.67 | 70-72 |
| D+ | 1.33 | 67-69 |
| D | 1.00 | 63-66 |
| D- | 0.67 | 62-60 |
| F | 0.00 | below 60 |
| U | 0.00 | |

University Honor Code:

Each and every student of the University will adhere to the following Honor Code:

“I will not knowingly engage in any dishonorable behavior, cheat, steal, lie, or commit any act of plagiarism during any academic work, course, or endeavor. If I observe an act which I believe violates the University’s Honor Code, I may, at my discretion, report it to the appropriate personnel.”

Student Acknowledgement of University Honor Code:

“I acknowledge that I have fully complied or will comply with all aspects of the University’s Honor Code in submitting this work.”

Student Rights and Responsibilities Statement, Article VIII-Academic Integrity:

<http://catalog.findlay.edu/en/current/Undergraduate-Catalog/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Statement/VIII-Academic-Integrity>

University Diversity Statement:

As part of our commitment to achieve excellence, the University of Findlay values and actively promotes a welcoming and supportive environment that honors the many aspects of diversity. We aspire to foster acceptance of, respect for, and appreciation of all persons in our campus community. We celebrate our commonalities and unique differences, and we acknowledge that diversity broadens learning, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and prepares our students for meaningful lives and productive careers.

Course Policies and Practices:

Attendance and Participation Policy

Students are expected to attend all class meetings for which they are registered. This is regarded as a matter of individual student responsibility. The only excused reasons for

absences will be illness that impairs the ability to attend and function within the classroom setting or an unavoidable personal emergency.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions on all days of class. It will be the responsibility of the student to contact the course instructor or site director, preferably before the absence, to provide the appropriate documentation and verification for the reason for the absence, and to make arrangements with the course instructor for missed work. Students are responsible for all missed class material. Students may be subject to limited participation in hands-on practice at the instructor's discretion if they have missed the underlying material needed to safely perform the task at hand.

Final Exam Date: TBD, Please see Loop Abroad Schedule

Special Services: If you are a student with a disability, it is your responsibility to inform your instructor and register with the Office of Disability Services (ods@findlay.edu) at least one week prior to a needed service so reasonable accommodations can be made.

Course and Instructor Evaluation: Each student is expected to complete the course and instructor evaluation which is sent electronically to the student by the Office of the Registrar. The electronic notification comes in the form of an e-mail from the UF Registrar's Office with the following subject line: Online survey for the designated course (e.g., BIOL 102).

Last Date of Attendance Policy: Instructors are required to indicate the last known date of attendance when a final grade of "F" or "U" is assigned to a student.

Tentative Course Outline:

Based on the program location, these are possible lecture and lab topics.

Possible Lectures

- Safety, small animal behavior and body language, and restraint
- Anatomy and Directional Terminology
- History taking/Example History and Discussion
- Physical Exams: Lecture/Demo
- Background of Land of the Strays
- Eye, Ear, and Skin Diseases
- Diagnostic Techniques (injection sites, diagnostic tests)
- Heath physiology, Heartworm Disease, Vector Borne Diseases
- Suture Techniques and Suture Types (1-2)
- Preventative health care
- Internal Parasites and prevention

Possible Labs

- Veterinary Handling Lab
- Directional terminology Exercise
- Tour of Land of the Strays

- Hiking with dogs for their daily exercise
- Ear and Skin Cytologies with Microscope
- Injection and Catheter Placement
- Blood Draws
- Hematology Lab, heartworm test
- Fecal Exams
- Suture Practice
- Physical Exams and Treatments