
Certificate of Veterinary Nursing in Emergency & Critical Care

Course Information



Certificate of Veterinary Nursing
in Emergency & Critical Care

This qualification is intended for candidates who have an interest in furthering their knowledge and understanding of small animal emergency and critical care nursing.

The course is accredited by City & Guilds, so is an educational qualification at level 4

The qualification is designed to:

- Provide an industry recognised qualification for VN's at level 4
- Expand and develop an optional career path for Veterinary Nurses
- Develop the VN skill set to enhance patient care in Emergency & Critical Care cases
- To benefit the industry and pet owners in increasing levels of care for patients

Certificate Entry Requirements

Candidates should have:

- A VN qualification and be either RCVS listed or registered VN's.
- A minimum of one year's post qualification small animal work-based experience.
- Be currently working in a predominantly small animal practice/unit with a good varied case load.

Course Structure

The Cert VN ECC is a distance learning course delivered via our online learning portal, Moodle. Students will require internet access and will be provided with site login and course enrolment key details by the Student Liaison Officer.

- The course is divided into six core units (see fig 1), each containing three outcomes.

Unit title	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
Approach to the Emergency patient	Triage & CPR	Shock, vascular access & fluid therapy	Emergency Diagnostics
Supporting the Emergency Patient	Monitoring the critical patient	Critical care nursing	Anaesthesia and analgesia
Emergency medicine 1	Cardiovascular emergencies	Respiratory emergencies	Haematological & haemostatic emergencies
Emergency medicine 2	GIT emergencies	Endocrine emergencies	Urogenital emergencies
Emergency medicine 3	Neurological & ophthalmological emergencies	Small mammals, birds & reptile emergencies	Intoxications
Emergency surgical procedures	Orthopaedic and soft tissue injuries	ENT and thoracic surgical emergencies	Abdominal surgical emergencies

Fig 1.

- One unit set of course notes will be posted to the site every 9 weeks and students given access.
- Each set of notes will be issued with relevant references and reading list, as well as self assessment questions and the open learning assignment for that outcome.
 - The self assessment questions are purely for your own study and do not need to be submitted for marking.
- Core unit notes, assignments and useful resources will be stored on the e-learning portal for students to access whenever they like.
- Students will continue to have access to previous units for revision purposes, until they have completed the Certificate.

Assignments

The assignments will assess the practical activities and the underpinning knowledge of the units that are not assessed in the final assessment exams.

The assignments are formative assessments and so do not contribute towards your final mark. However, **students are required to complete all the Units and assignments to be eligible to sit the final examinations.** We also recommend that you complete the assignments in order to gain full benefit from undertaking the course and to receive appropriate guidance and feedback from your tutor.

- Each outcome includes an open learning assignment comprised of short answer questions, which should be completed & submitted within the given nine week period.
 - The assignments can be submitted one at a time or all together at any time during the nine weeks.
- The submitted assignments are then marked by your tutor and returned to you including their feedback and comments.

The course is theory based so all the information to complete the assignments is contained within the notes, however you will be expected to show evidence of further reading, research and your practical learning, and these aspects will be considered during marking.

- The assignment questions are purposely quite loosely worded to encourage you to “*think around the question*” and undertake further reading and study.
- Correct referencing in your assignments is required. The Harvard method is preferred and guidelines for this will be issued to you prior to starting your course work.

Recommended study time

- Suggested study time is 5.5 hours per week.¹ However, this is not a requirement; it can be more or less dependent on how you work best.
- Approximate length of completion for the course is 18 months (*including the final examinations*).

Completion of the award

To gain the award of **CertVNECC** you must be enrolled on the distance learning course; complete and submit all open learning assignments and successfully pass all final assessments set and verified by Vets Now Examination Board and The Awarding Body.

Final assessment

There will be 2 x 90 minute written papers (*comprised of short answer questions*) and 1 x 60 minute spot test station assessment.

Unit		Final Assessment component required
Unit 201	Written paper 1	Written paper covering units 001 - 003
Unit 202	Written paper 2	Written paper covering units 004 - 006
Unit 203	Station assessment (written) paper 3	Station assessment* covering units 001 -006

Paper 3 station assessment: This paper will cover aspects from all six units. It is a written assessment with questions relating to provided images of patient emergency diagnostics and care, equipment and materials. Images may include but are not limited to, x-ray images, ECG traces and blood results etc. On entry to the assessment you will be provided with a question paper, an answer sheet and a Paper 3 pack containing what the images and items you need to be able to answer each question. Each image/item will be numbered and relates to the corresponding question number in your Question Paper. You would be expected to answer the questions relating to the image presented.

Candidates must successfully complete all three final assessment units to gain the award of **CertVNECC**.

- The examinations will be held bi-annually in March and September
- All final examinations will be held at **Vets Now Ltd, Penguin House, Castle Riggs, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, KY11 8SG**
 - Please note this is the **ONLY** exam venue available. You will be required to travel to Dunfermline in order to sit the final examinations.
- To register for the final assessment an online enrolment form should be completed.

¹ Average no of hours per week, based on evaluation feedback received from students from Mar 10 – Apr 11 intakes

- Final assessment exam information will be issued to those eligible students no less than three months prior to the assessment date.
- Candidates must then complete an online enrolment prior to the given deadline date.
No late entries after this date can be accepted.
- If you wish to withdraw from the final assessment you should do so in writing to the Centre. Final assessment fees may be non-refundable if you withdraw from the final assessment after your entry has been submitted to the awarding body.
- Certification will be made by the Awarding body; City & Guilds

General Info

- Each student will be allocated a tutor who will mark your submissions and be available to answer any questions or queries regarding the course material or assignments.
- You can also contact the Student Liaison Officer should you have any other questions, queries or feedback regarding the course.

Course costs

Course fees for the Certificate of Veterinary Nursing in Emergency and Critical Care are: £600 + VAT

- Vets Now staff and Member Practices are entitled to a 10% discount on **online registrations only**.
 - (Please enter **vnstaff** or **VNM** in the discount code box when prompted to do so during the online application process)
- Examination costs – written short answer questions and station assessment – £160.00 + VAT (£192.00)²

Applying to join the course

- An online application and equal opportunities form should be completed fully by the student. This should be done online via the following link www.vets-now.com/certvnecc
- To reserve a place a fully completed application form must be received.
- Applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
- Confirmation will be sent to the student by return for online applications. This confirmation e-mail should be kept safe as it contains all the enrolment details for the student.
- All applications must be received **no later than one month prior to the course commencement date** (i.e. 1st March for April intake, 1st Sept for October intake)
 - However, if the number of applications received exceeds the number of places available, then it may be necessary to close the intake early.
 - Any applications received after this point will be added to a waiting list in case any places become available.
 - If they do not then the candidate will be offered first refusal for the next available intake date.

² Cost as at April 2014. Please note these may be subject to change.

For further information on the course please visit www.vets-now.com/certvnecc OR you can have a chat to some of the existing students on our forum at www.vetecc.com/forums

Alternatively you can email us on vnbertecc@vets-now.com

or by phone to **01383 628721**.