

LITHUANIAN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
VETERINARY ACADEMY

THE DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND EVALUATION OF **OBJECTIVE
STRUCTURED PRECLINICAL EXAMINATION** OF THE VETERINARY MEDICINE
STUDY PROGRAMME

I. GENERAL PART

1. The Description outlines the established practice procedure. The Final Objective Structured Pre-Clinical Examination (OSICE) (hereinafter – the examination) organization and assessment description (hereinafter – the description) sets out the Veterinary Medicine (VM) study program examination procedure. Based on its results, third-year students are deemed prepared to undertake clinical studies.
2. The description was prepared with reference to the following documents:
 - 2.1. The Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania (30 April 2009, No. XI-242 (Official Gazette, 2009, No. 54-2140). Amendment act No. XII-2534 (01 January, 2017); Summary version as of 2024-01-01.
 - 2.2. The Law on Veterinary Medicine of the Republic of Lithuania (adopted on 17 December 1991; Document No.: I-2110); New version effective from 2023-09-01 (No. V-953).
 - 2.3. The Veterinary Studies Field Description (approved on 4 November 2020 by Order No. V-1687 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport);
 - 2.4. The Manual of Standard Operating Procedures (*ESEVT SOP*, 2023 Leipzig);
 - 2.5. The Study Regulations of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (approved by the LSMU Senate on 25 May 2025 by Resolution No. 190-03);
 - 2.6. Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (article 38 of section 5, paragraph 5.4.1 of annex 5). Amending the Directive 2013/55/ES.
3. The exam programme is provided in Annex 1 of this description.

II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE DESCRIPTION

4. This description is intended for third-year students of the Veterinary Medicine study program, lecturers, and members and participants of the examination commission.
5. The objectives of the description are:
 - 5.1. To establish the general principles according to which the exam is organized.
 - 5.2. To establish the general criteria for the evaluation of the examination;
 - 5.3. To assist students, lecturers, and commission members in aligning and optimizing the requirements for the preparation and assessment of the examination within the study program.

III. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED PRE-CLINICAL EXAMINATION

6. During the exam, the student demonstrates basic competencies of the veterinary profession: the ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, perform basic preclinical procedures, assess the animal's condition, and work independently in accordance with professional standards.
7. The objectives of the examination are:
 - 7.1. To assess the student's level of professional preparedness and ability to apply acquired theoretical knowledge in practice.
 - 7.2. To evaluate the mastery of essential preclinical skills required for the veterinary profession.
 - 7.3. To assess the student's independence in performing basic diagnostic procedures.
 - 7.4. To evaluate the student's ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical laboratory skills

Terminology Explanations:

OSIKE – Animal nursing practice assessment component

Exam program – prepared by subject coordinators, approved by Study programme committee (SPC), competences, knowledge and abilities that are expected to be tested during OSICE.

The permanent working group for the organization of the OSICE - persons appointed by the decree of the VF Dean to prepare and organize the OSICE.

The chairman of the permanent working group for the organization of the OSICE - by order of the VF Dean designated person.

Secretary of the permanent working group for the organization of the OSICE - by order of the VF Dean designated person.

The OSICE evaluation and results summation commission - is a commission approved by the VF Dean's Order.

OSIKE Appeals Evaluation Commission – Commission approved by the VF Dean's Order.

Examination chairperson - a person appointed by order of the Dean.

Examination secretary(s) - a person appointed by order of the Dean.

Examination Station Coordinator – Person appointed by the VF Dean's Order, responsible for the tasks and evaluation sheets at the station and ensuring smooth operation of the station team.

Station Team – Individuals responsible for evaluating the tasks at the station, preparing the station, and organizing it. Station teams are reviewed and updated annually as needed.

Station Evaluators – Individuals appointed by the VF Dean's Order, responsible for evaluating the tasks at the station.

Assistants at the Stations – Individuals appointed by the examination chair or department heads to assist the station team members during the examination preparation and execution phases.

Examination Scheme – A diagram indicating the number and layout of the stations.

IV. PREPARATION FOR THE OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED PRECLINICAL EXAMINATION

8. The examination procedure and appendices are published on the Moodle and on the website of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU).

9. The examination is conducted after completing all subjects specified in the 3rd-year VM study program and passing all exams, as well as completing and reporting on the Animal Nursing practice.
10. A student with academic debts is not allowed to take the examination.
 11. The VF vice-dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine or the Animal Nursing Practice Coordinator organizes meetings with students to present and discuss the procedure of the upcoming examination.
 12. The examination is organized by a permanent working group appointed by the Dean of the VF.
 13. The working group's activities are coordinated by its chairperson. The group works throughout the academic year, updating information and procedures related to the examination, preparing examination schemes, implementing changes, and addressing other examination-related issues as needed.
 14. The examination is conducted by a commission approved by an order of the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
 15. At the instruction of the Chair of the Examination, subject/module coordinators and/or other authorized lecturers (Station Coordinators) prepare the exam tasks and evaluation sheets in advance.
 16. The exam tasks are prepared based on the content of the first-, second-, and third-year study programs, the achievement assessment criteria, and the student's ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practical situations while performing basic veterinary procedures and adhering to the principles of professional ethics.
 17. The Station Coordinator tests the prepared tasks, and evaluation sheets and discusses them with the station team.
 18. The tasks and evaluation sheets, selected from the lists provided in the appendices and agreed upon with the station team, are submitted by the station coordinator to the exam chairperson upon request, but no later than four months before the exam date.
 19. The exam tasks correspond to the competencies and assignments outlined in the appendices of this procedure description, which students can prepare for in advance by attending the VA SIM center or independently developing practical skills in clinical settings (farms, companies, small animal clinics, etc.).
 20. The Station Coordinators organize a meeting with the station team to discuss the station work process no later than 5 days before the examination.
 21. Subject coordinators for the submitted tasks are responsible for securing the selected exam tasks and organizing the preparation of the examination stations.
 22. The station team and appointed assistants are responsible for the preparation, supervision, timely updates during the examination, and the organization of the stations after the examination.
 23. The final list of individuals responsible for the stations is presented by the Secretary of the Examination Organizing Permanent Working Group for review no later than 10 working days before the examination.
 24. Permission to take the examination is formalized by the VF Dean's order.
 25. The OSICE date and time are announced on the study network and MOODLE.
 26. The OSICE examination takes place at the VM Simulation Center, 2nd floor, Building 5, Tilžės St. 18, Kaunas.

V. THE WORK, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OBJECTIVE STRUCTURED PRECLINICAL EXAMINATION COMMISSION

27. A commission is formed to implement OSICE exam and evaluation the results:
 - 27.1. The Examination evaluation and Results summation commission (hereinafter – examination commission), consisting of the Chairman, the Secretary (s) and the evaluators.

28. The Evaluation and Results summation Commission is approved by an order of the Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (VF).
29. Evaluators of the Evaluation Commission may be appointed from lecturers of the Veterinary Medicine study field at LSMU.
30. Functions and responsibilities of the Evaluation and Results Summation Commission:
- 30.1. The exam is conducted by the Evaluation Commission, whose work is organized by the Chair of the Commission;
- 30.2. The Evaluation Commission is responsible for the objectivity of the exam's evaluation and the evaluation of completed tasks;
- 30.3. Members of the Evaluation Commission are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of information;
- 30.4. Members of the Results Summation Commission review students' task evaluations and compile the results.
31. Functions of the Chair of the Commission:
- 31.1. Organizes a meeting of evaluators and other responsible persons before the exam to discuss the exam process;
- 31.2. Controls the evaluation of the exam and resolves any arising issues during the exam;
- 31.3. Monitors the progress of the exam;
- 31.4. May observe the performance and evaluation of the exam tasks;
- 31.5. Approves the minutes of the examination commission meetings;
- 31.6. Organizes a commission meeting after the exam to review the results.
32. Functions of the Evaluation Commission evaluators:
- 32.1. Evaluate students' performance of exam tasks at the stations;
- 32.2. Are responsible for the objectivity of the evaluations of completed tasks;
- 32.3. Sign the evaluation sheet confirming the student's assessment.
33. Functions of the Secretary(ies) of the Evaluation Commission:
- 33.1. Prepare the necessary documents for the exam;
- 33.2. Prepare lists and schedules of the examinees;
- 33.3. Verify students' identity before the exam;
- 33.4. Inform students about the LSMU Study Regulations regarding academic honesty and the consequences of violations;
- 33.5. Summarizes the exam evaluation results;
- 33.6. Ensure the delivery of documents after the exam to the Results Summation Commission meeting;
- 33.7. Prepare a report for the Study Program Committee (SPK) and the Faculty Council after the exam;
- 33.8. Enter the final, commission-approved evaluations into the LSMU database gradebook within 5 working days after the exam.

VI. DOCUMENTS OF THE OSICE

34. Exam task – a document that presents the Examination tasks and the description of the stations for the student.
35. Evaluation sheets – a document, where the evaluator evaluates the tasks done by the student, enters their results and signs.
36. Examination register (formed in the LSMUSIS database) – a document, where results of the Examination of all students are recorded.

VII. EXECUTION OF THE OSICE

37. According to a pre-prepared alphabetical list, students arrive at the examination site on the specified date and time.
38. The examination is conducted at the Veterinary Medicine Simulation Center, 2nd floor, Building 5, Tilžės St. 18, Kaunas.
39. Immediately before the exam, students are registered and assigned codes.
40. Students are briefed on the examination procedure.
41. Students are provided with a layout of the examination, indicating the station arrangement.
42. The examination layout also includes the designated rest station.
43. During registration, each student draws the number of the first station at which they will begin the exam.
44. After drawing their number, students proceed to the station corresponding to the number drawn.
45. At each station, the student has 10 minutes to complete the task.
46. Tasks at each station are performed individually. When time is up, the student leaves the station and moves to the next one indicated in the sequence on the layout.
47. The examination is conducted in both oral and written formats.
48. Evaluators assess each student's task performance individually, record the evaluations in the evaluation sheets, and sign them.
49. At the end of each station task, the student returns the completed task sheets and written responses to the evaluators.
50. The signed evaluation sheets and students' written work are submitted to the Chair of the Commission or the Secretary.
51. Statistical data from the evaluation sheets are provided by the exam secretary to the Chair and the Results Compilation Commission.
52. The examination process may be observed by the Rector, Vice-Rectors, Chancellors, the Faculty Dean and administration, members of the Veterinary Medicine Study Program Committee, delegates of the Student Representation Council, and guests with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty.

VIII. BEHAVIOUR OF THE OSCE COMMISSION AND STUDENTS DURING THE EXAMINATION

53. Students arriving to take the OSICE examination must present a student ID or an identity document to the commission.
54. During the exam, both commission members and students are required to wear a white lab coat, behave politely, respectfully, and honestly toward both the commission members and fellow students, and must not disturb others while they are completing their tasks.
55. Any action taken before, during, or after the OSICE examination that provides an unfair advantage (benefit) to oneself or another person in relation to other examinees is strictly prohibited.
56. Students who violated academic honesty lose the right to continue the assessment, and their assessment tasks are not evaluated. Other actions are taken regarding the procedure established by the LSMU Study Regulation.

IX. EVALUATION OF THE OSICE

57. During OSICE student performance is assessed in accordance with the LSMU Study Regulations.
58. At each station, the student's task is assessed by an evaluator.
59. Each station is graded on a ten-point scale (from 1 to 10).
60. The assessment for each station must be positive, i.e., no less than 5 points.

61. The exam is considered failed if the student fails more than three stations (i.e., receives fewer than 5 points). The mathematical rounding rule does not apply in cases of borderline scores (e.g., 4.99 points).
62. A student may retake the exam during the spring semester's academic debt clearance week. If the exam is not passed during that period, the debt may be cleared during the academic year's general debt clearance week.
63. The result of the OSICE is the average of all station scores (from 1 to 10). This final grade constitutes 70% of the cumulative grade for Animal Nursing Practice and is included in the cumulative assessment formula. The minimum passing grade is no less than 5 (five).
64. Students' exam tasks are evaluated and recorded on the evaluation sheets on the same day as the exam.
65. The final exam results are compiled, documentation is completed, and results are published within 5 working days.

X. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

66. Students have the right to submit appeals and complaints:
- 66.1. Regarding assessment and assessment procedures, students have the right to appeal in accordance with the provisions of the LSMU Study Regulations.
- 66.2. In cases of harassment, sexual harassment, stalking, or violence, students may contact the University administration directly or complete the reporting form available in Lithuanian or English in the *Academic Ethics* section on the University website, as specified in the *Rules for the Prevention of Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Stalking, and Violence at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences*. Free psychological support is provided to University staff and students who experience discrimination, harassment, or other dignity-violating incidents.
- 66.3. Regarding disputes with the administration or other staff members, students have the right to submit complaints in accordance with the *Procedure for Examining Student Disputes with the Administration and Other Staff Members at the University*.

XI. FINAL PROVISIONS

67. This Procedure shall enter into force on 01. 09. 2025. Protocol No. Nr. VAF10-13.
68. The Procedure may be amended or supplemented by a decision of the Council of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.