

The WSU CVM Diagnostic Challenge

Frequently Asked Questions



What will our workload look like during the week?

You will be working hard with your classmates during the entirety of the DC!

You will **NOT** have classes during DC week. That being said, it is **highly recommended** that you do not expect to catch up in classes during the week. Expect to be busy with DC-related activities: Tuesday - Friday, from 8am to 6pm. You are *required* to attend **all** scheduled activities each day.

Your facilitator will assign which “high yield” clinical problems your team will be expected to SOAP each evening – remember, this is a team endeavor! **IMPORTANT:** Setting a consistent evening “cut-off” time for yourself is crucial so that you have time to reset in the evenings i.e. have dinner, relax and get good sleep!

Who are the main characters in the DCs?

There are several “characters” involved in the DC Experience!

Student: that would be you!

Facilitator: the facilitator is a veterinarian that has, in some way or another, become involved in the escapades of the DC i.e. WSU alumni or word-of-mouth. These people act as a “guide” for you and your student team. They answer all your questions, facilitate verbal physical exam descriptions of patients, disseminate important information and give you hints if your team needs a little help!

Client: the client is a member of the general public who has volunteered their time to act as instructed depending on the case scenario. More often than not, this person is a parent of previous WSU CVM students. They come from all various career backgrounds and from all over the world to participate!

Patient: your assigned patient will be a particular species assigned to your team based on your species preferences given earlier in the semester.

What resources can we use during the DCs?

During the DCs, you are welcome to use several different resources i.e. internet, facilitator, books, and class notes. You are not allowed to discuss the case with classmates outside of your clinical team since there will be multiple teams on the same case. We discourage using medical professionals (outside of your DC case scenario) as a resource since the whole point of this experience is to learn from the process and as a group!

What is the concept of time during a case?

Remember, the DCs are all about the **process** and learning along the way. Therefore, there are several mechanisms in place to help your team balance time since in reality, most cases could not be resolved in just two days' time.

Time Out: your team, facilitator or client can call a "time out" if anyone needs to ask a question or talk with colleagues.

Time Leap: a tool that can be used to instantly travel forward in time if you need a test result or want to see how your patient is responding to treatment. These can be declared by your team, built into your case or recommended by your facilitator.

Time Compression: this is the opposite of a "time leap" and slows down time. Some emergency cases have these built in so your team has time to think about what steps to take next. They can be declared at any time!

Will we be working with a real animal?

Not quite! While some of the clinical cases are **based** on real animals, your team's patient will be simulated i.e. a stuffed animal or model. Your physical exams will be on these fake animals and your findings will be verbally stated to you by your facilitator depending on what questions you ask!

Who can attend Grand Rounds and will it be shared virtually?

Everyone is invited to attend Grand Rounds, including 1st year students! The presentations are also shared virtually if friends and/or family would like to watch. Keep an eye out for an e-invite to these events during each fall semester.

What should I wear during the DCs?

That will depend on what your clinic team decides! The Pre-DC Exercises give your group time to write up a contract on team expectations. One of those expectations will be your dress code.

Depending on the species and type of clinic, etc. you will either dress in business casual, agricultural attire or full scrubs with or without your white doctor coat. **At the very least, students should expect to always look professional and well kempt with your CVM issued nametag.**

Am I expected to know everything?

Nope! This is a safe space for learning. Remember, DCs are all about the PROCESS.

Can we work during DC week?

As previously stated, you will not have classes during each DC week. That being said, you will be busy with DC related activities from at least 8am to 6pm each day of the week. We **highly** advise planning ahead to be absent from outside work-related endeavors and to plan accordingly for pet and/or child care.

Do we get a lunch break?

Yes, of course! After your first facilitator and client meeting of each day, you have several hours allotted for group discussion and deliberation before your afternoon meetings. Everyone in your clinic team is in charge of making sure they get a mental/lunch break during this time. That time can be utilized in various ways, such as: walking to a nearby café for lunch or listening to music and zoning out in the library – it is up to the individual!

How do Grand Rounds work?

Grand Rounds occur on the Friday of each DC week, starting mid-morning and continuing into the afternoon. **Your clinic student team will be assigned to a specific time slot and room through an email sent during the DC week.** Different Grand Round sessions occur at the same time or slightly staggered so you are welcome to attend your classmates' sessions if you would like! Your team will only present their case once during their assigned time.

You will have 15 minutes to present your case with 4-5 minutes for follow-up questions. Your final electronic case medical record, that you have been working on all week, will be turned into your DC facilitator at this time. You will also be required to supply your audience with a virtual case handout to accompany your verbal presentation.

How do we organize a consult with a specialist?

Each case has been designed with the elements intended for the student group – therefore, your case will either have a specialist consult built into it or it will not. Please organize any outreach or consult with outside entities including specialists with your facilitator.