



Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Analgesia and Pain Management)

Duration 1 year (part time)

Start date September 2027

Accredited by [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#) (RCVS)

Location Online/blended learning and [Harper Adams University campus](#)

This certificate will allow nurses to develop their knowledge of anatomy and physiology of acute, chronic and neuropathic pain development, as well as exploring the consequences of untreated pain.

It will build on knowledge of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical options for treating and managing pain. Whilst developing a student's ability to assess pain and synthesise appropriate multimodal pain management plans for veterinary patients.

The development of the new RCVS post-registration framework has allowed for the creation of accessible, flexible and focused areas of study, allowing veterinary nurses to further their academic skills alongside their professional skills.

This course is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons ([RCVS](#))

A-level entry requirements

- **Entry requirements for 2027 entry are not currently available. Please contact Admissions for advice**

Accreditation



This course is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

How will I be taught?

Delivery will be by a combination of distance learning and optional study days where guest speakers, seminars and practical classes support the modules. A range of distance learning methods will be used, including study notes, email and Harper Adams' interactive virtual learning environment 'The Learning Hub'. Access to a computer and broadband internet is essential.

Modules will be assessed by a range of methods, including assignments end of module examination, and practical exams. Support in assessment skills is available for those who have not sat an examination recently.

What will I study?

Graduate Certificate

Year 1	
Evidence-based Nursing (A5003HF)	20
Graduate Physiology and Pharmacology for Pain (A6003HF)	20
Graduate Applied Pain Management (A6002HF)	20

Evidence-based Nursing

Year of study 1
Code A5003HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

This module encourages students to develop transferable research skills, including analysis, problem-solving, and communication. These skills will help the student gain an appreciation of research and the ability to access information from a variety of sources. Students will acquire the skills to be able to evaluate literature and to apply relevant and valid research to their current practice.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Create a literature review using a variety of sources to produce a research-based report that demonstrates accepted conventions of academic writing.
- Evaluate the validity and relevance of literature in relation to veterinary nursing practice.
- Evaluate and challenge current practice in the light of relevant research evidence.

Graduate Physiology and Pharmacology for Pain

Year of study 1
Code A6003HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

A sound knowledge of the process of pain development and perception is critical to a nurse's ability to assess the needs of their veterinary patients. This module aims to provide students with underpinning knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of acute, chronic and neuropathic pain development, as well as exploring the biological consequences of untreated pain. Pharmacokinetics and dynamics of drugs used for analgesia are explored, with the practical application being covered in the following module.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system in relation to the creation of pain experiences in animals.
- Explain the physiology of acute and chronic pain, including the neuropathic changes that can occur.
- Analyse the consequences of untreated pain in the context of veterinary nursing.
- Analyse the principles of pharmacokinetics and dynamics in relation to analgesic medicines and veterinary pain management.

Graduate Applied Pain Management

Year of study 1

Code A6002HF

Credits 20

Core/option Core

Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

An important role of the veterinary nurse is to act as a patient advocate. This module aims to further develop, consolidate and apply the student's underpinning knowledge and give them the tools to evaluate and synthesise appropriate multimodal pain management plans for veterinary patients. Working alongside other veterinary professionals' veterinary nurses can assess pain and implement the delivery of analgesia to improve the quality of life for patients in their care.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Appraise the use of pain assessment in veterinary practice.
- Evaluate the use of a range of analgesic drugs in acute and chronic veterinary pain conditions.
- Evaluate a range of analgesic therapies that can be applied in veterinary patients to complement pharmacological treatments.
- Devise and reflect on veterinary analgesic plans and communicate these effectively to colleagues and owners.
- Assess the legislative requirements and explore the professional roles and boundaries of pain management in animal patients.