

TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Technical standards are non-academic criteria for admissions, continuing enrollment, and graduation that are essential for participation in a program of study. Primary purposes for technical standards are:

- To provide a baseline for all students to know and understand the skills, knowledge, and abilities necessary for full participation in the program
- To provide students with disabilities an awareness of the technical standards that must be met with or without reasonable accommodations*
- To provide a consistent framework for remediation for students enrolled in the program who are struggling with non-academic issues

The South Dakota State University Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine (SDSU PPVM) is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education in conjunction with the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Accreditation verifies that graduates of the program have all necessary day-one competencies for veterinary practice and work in a variety of related fields including industry, government, and academia. The mission and values of the SDSU PPVM are:

Mission

Improving the health of animals and people through:

- Education of current and future veterinarians and biomedical scientists
- Discovery and dissemination of new knowledge and skills
- Provision of innovative veterinary services

Values

- Innovation. We will enhance animal and human health through novel approaches to discovery and dissemination of knowledge and skills.
- Learning. We will be a community of learners offering exceptional lifelong educational opportunities.
- Professionalism. We will maintain the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and mutual respect.
- Service. We will provide innovative and compassionate service that exceeds our customers' expectations.
- Communication. We will facilitate open communication with all constituents to earn and sustain trust and understanding.
- Collaboration. We will develop and promote collaborative mission-related efforts.
- Diversity. We will have a diverse student body, faculty, and staff and will create a hospitable environment for all.

Candidates for the DVM degree at the SDSU PPVM must independently demonstrate abilities and skills in the areas listed below. Reasonable accommodations, as agreed upon using an interactive process by the South Dakota State University Disability Resource Center, the student, and the SDSU PPVM, may be used to meet the technical standards.

Animals of the common domestic species include cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, camelids, chickens, dogs, cats, caged birds, mice, rats, and small amphibians and reptiles.

- I. **Observation:** The candidate must be able to accurately observe and acquire and assimilate large volumes of technically detailed and complex information from educational offerings, including live and captured lectures, laboratory demonstrations, small group sessions, individual learning activities, clinical activities, computer programs, videos, and microscopic images. The candidate must be able to observe animals of the common domestic species from a distance and close at hand, and to use observation skills for interpretation of diagnostic tests such as radiography, ultrasonography, and electrocardiography. The candidate must have the ability to learn to sense and interpret possible warning sounds and signs in order to work safely around and with animals. The candidate must be able to take in and process necessary information consistently and accurately to practice safe and collaborative care.
- II. **Communication:** The candidate must be able to speak clearly in English; to read and write clearly in English; to hear such that they can access information from educational offerings; to demonstrate understanding of verbal and non-verbal communications from clients, instructors, and colleagues; and to clearly communicate in written and verbal formats with all members of the health care team, government authorities, and other partners in veterinary practice. In responding to emergency situations in the clinical setting, candidates must be able to receive, understand, and convey information essential for the safe and effective care of patients and minimize risks to clients and members of the health care team in a clear, unambiguous, and timely fashion.
- III. **Motor:** The candidate must have the ability to restrain, move, and lift veterinary patients as needed to ensure that they can complete physical examination and relevant specialty examinations, sample collection, and common laboratory and clinical procedures, including surgery, relevant to the common domestic species. The candidate must be able to perform palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic procedures, basic laboratory tests, necropsy, and diagnostic procedures within an appropriate time frame. The candidate must have the ability to provide routine and emergency care to animals in the common domestic species. The candidate must have the ability to move equipment and supplies in the field. The candidate must also have the ability to move from danger when restraining or handling a patient in confined spaces.
- IV. **Intellectual:** The candidate must be able to measure, evaluate, and synthesize information to make timely decisions. The candidate must be able to solve problems in a time period appropriate for the situation and to demonstrate clinical reasoning by integrating, analyzing, and synthesizing data in a setting where there may be a high level of stress and distraction. The candidate must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationship and to understand the spatial relationships of structures.

- V. Behavioral / Social: The candidate must possess the emotional health required for full use of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with fellow students, faculty, staff, and animal owners and managers. The candidate must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. The candidate must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, professionalism, and motivation are all personal qualities that are expected during the education process. The candidate must be able to maintain and display ethical and moral behaviors commensurate with the role of a veterinarian in all interactions with peers, faculty, staff, and the public. The candidate is expected to understand and abide by the UMN CVM vision of professionalism,** and the legal and ethical standards of the practice of veterinary medicine.

* Candidates with questions about their ability to meet the technical standards due to a disability should contact the PPVM liaison for the Disability Resource Center for a confidential discussion and to explore reasonable accommodations necessary for full participation.

** I will...

- Communications:
 - Be mindful about the timing and content of communications
 - Use appropriate tone and attitude in conversations
 - Use appropriate email etiquette
 - Provide and receive feedback with positive intent
 - Strive for clear communication

- Teamwork:
 - Respect diverse experiences and personal knowledge of team members
 - Ensure team roles are fairly distributed
 - Contribute equitably toward team projects
 - Model respectful behavior with all team members
 - Work to advance team goals, whether as leader or follower
 - Be aware of and support others' needs
 - Encourage open communication

- Honesty
 - Conduct myself in a truthful and straightforward manner
 - Be honest in all communications

- Reliability
 - Be fully present when required
 - Be punctual and prepared
 - Follow through on commitments made to others
 - Provide advanced notice if unable to fulfill obligations

- Collegiality
 - Be pleasant, kind, courteous, and helpful
 - Maintain a positive attitude around others
 - Model respectful behavior in the classroom and in clinics
 - Respect others' time and privacy
 - Make requests rather than demands
 - Assume positive intent from others

- Maturity
 - Meet deadlines for required work
 - Take responsibility for my actions
 - Acknowledge consequences for personal choices
 - Present myself professionally and appropriately for the situation
 - Practice self-care

Approved by the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Committee on Curriculum and Educational Policy and South Dakota State University Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine 10/28/20