

TECHNICAL STANDARDS DOCUMENT- 5 MINIMUM PSYCHOMOTOR REQUIREMENTS

College of Veterinary Medicine North Carolina State University

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree signifies the holder is prepared for entry into the practice of veterinary medicine and/or postgraduate training, therefore graduates must have the knowledge and skills to function in a broad variety of clinical situations and to render a wide spectrum of patient care.

Candidates for the DVM degree must have somatic sensation and the functional use of the senses of sight and hearing. Candidates' diagnostic skills would be lessened without the functional use of the senses of equilibrium, smell, and taste. Additionally, candidates must have sufficient exteroceptive sense (touch, pain, and temperature), sufficient proprioceptive sense (position, pressure, movement, stereognosis, and vibratory), and sufficient motor function to *safely and effectively* carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. They must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately integrate all information received by whatever senses employed. They must also have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, and analyze data.

Candidates for the DVM degree must have the following abilities and skills: (1) observation; (2) communication; (3) motor skills; (4) conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities; (5) behavioral and social attributes. Technological compensation can be made for some handicaps in certain areas, but candidates should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Compensation through the use of an intermediary may influence a candidate's judgment.

1. **Observation-** Candidates must be able to observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences, including but not limited to physiologic and pharmacologic demonstrations in animals, microbiologic cultures, and microscopic studies of microorganisms and tissues in normal and pathologic states. Candidates must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. Observation necessitates the functional use of sight and somatic sensation. It is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.
2. **Communication-** Candidates should be able to speak, hear, and perceive non-verbal communication in order to elicit information. They must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with clients using oral and written means.
3. **Motor Skills-** Candidates should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients (restraint, palpation, auscultation, and percussion). They should be able to do basic laboratory tests (urinalysis, CBC), carry out diagnostic procedures (including necropsy), and read electrocardiograms and radiographs. Candidates should be able to execute movements required to provide general medical and surgical care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment required include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administering intravenous medication, applying pressure to stop bleeding, opening obstructed airways, suturing wounds, and performing obstetrical maneuvers. Such general and emergency actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and sight
4. **Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities-** Candidates must have the conceptual, integrative, and Quantitative abilities necessary to solve problems. These abilities include measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis.
5. **Behavioral and Social Attributes-** Candidates must possess the emotional health required for fully utilizing their intellectual abilities, exercising good judgment, promptly completing all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and developing sensitive and effective relationships with patients, clients, and colleagues. Candidates must be able to tolerate strenuous workloads and function effectively under stress. They 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. For specific expectations of conduct, candidates are encouraged to review the Code of Conduct document for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

*Candidate refers to both applicants to and students of the College of Veterinary Medicine's DVM program.

The College of Veterinary Medicine’s faculty Committee on Admissions is responsible for applying these standards with respect to applicants. The individual faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine is responsible for applying these standards with respect to student in the professional program. Should any individual be denied admission to or dropped from the program due to failure to meet these technical standards, and believes that an appeal of that decision is necessary, then the following procedures shall be followed:

1. An appeal shall be made in writing to the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. This appeal shall state the basis of the appeal, citing the technical standard in question and requesting a hearing with an appeal board.
2. Within ten (10) working days, the Dean shall convene an appeal hearing at which the appellant must be present in person. He/she may have an advisor of his/her choosing present to assist in the presentation of his/her position.
3. The appeals board shall be chaired by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine or his/her designee. The membership must include five additional individuals not involved in making the decision being appealed. One member must be a department head of a department where the technical standard would be essential. One member shall represent the University and such representative shall be conversant with the 504 regulations. One member shall be a then- current student in the College of Veterinary Medicine and shall be of equal or advanced academic rank, and of the same sex as the appellant.
4. During the appeal hearing, the appellant shall be requested to demonstrate the physical and/or mental standards in question. The Chairman of the Faculty Committee on Admissions or the faculty member most involved in the original decision shall present his/her position and such evidence as he/she deems to be appropriate in support of his/her position. The hearing will be summarized in writing and the written record of that meeting retained in a confidential file for three years, after which the file shall be destroyed.
5. The Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine or his/her designee shall seek the advice and recommendation of the appeals board in closed session. The Dean shall, within five working days of the hearing, render a decision in writing to the appellant with a copy to the Chairman of the Faculty Committee on Admissions or to the involved faculty member. A decision that the applicant is admissible on the technical standards shall have no bearing on Admission Committee consideration of academic standards.
6. No further appeal shall be available within the administrative procedures of North Carolina State University.

I have read and I understand the performance criteria expected of me in this program.

Initial the appropriate box

I **DO PERCEIVE PROBLEMS** complying with the criteria.

I **DO NOT** perceive problems complying with the criteria

Print Name (Legibly): _____

Signature: _____

Student ID#: _____

Date: _____