



# College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: DVM Degree Program Disability  
Policy

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## **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree Program Disability Policy**

MSU-CVM is committed to facilitating the integration of qualified students with disabilities into this college community. Each qualified student with a disability is entitled to reasonable accommodation that will assist him or her to meet the requirements for graduation from the college.

MSU- CVM will attempt to make appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to facilitate student participation for any qualified student who is properly identified as having a disability. However, the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program has specific clinical competencies that students must master as a minimum requirement for the profession. The diversity and scope of the educational experiences in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program require that the student has the faculties to acquire the various skills necessary to complete both the curriculum and attain the D.V.M. degree. It is not possible for individuals to be allowed exemption from the required pre-clinical and clinical curriculum of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Furthermore, while recognizing that individuals with a range of disabilities can successfully practice as veterinarians, consideration must always be given to the care and safety of animals, clients, and the individual. Accommodations for disabilities cannot compromise animal well-being or the safety of the people involved. Veterinary medical students may be exposed to materials and incidents that may result in human injury. Traumatic accidents can occur while working with animal patients and are an inherent risk of the veterinary medical profession. In addition, the curriculum requires several courses that may involve exposure to animals and/or substances and/or agents that are potentially hazardous. Therefore, it may not be possible to accommodate all disabilities and allow for successful completion of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program.

Candidates invited for interviews are asked to complete a form indicating any disability and stating that they consider themselves capable to practice as a veterinarian. Candidates for the D.V.M. program must, at a minimum, be able to perform the following functions to be capable of practicing veterinary medicine:



- communicating with owners of animals and colleagues
- observing patients and providing routine animal husbandry
- collecting and analyzing clinical data
- performing medical and surgical treatments
- maintaining animal and human safety
- demonstrating appropriate judgment during the veterinary training process.

Applicants to the degree program in veterinary medicine should be familiar with the essential skills and abilities required for the study of veterinary medicine. Essential skills and abilities required by the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program were established so that students, animals/patients, fellow-students, clients, faculty, and staff of CVM would, among other goals, be kept safe from negligence and harm. The MSU-CVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program has established these essential skills and abilities in an effort to provide a framework to balance several competing interests: (1) the rights of applicants and students; (2) the safety of students, their co-workers, and veterinary patients; (3) the significant clinical training component of the MSU-CVM Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree curriculum; (4) the requirements imposed on the MSU-CVM for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association; and (5) the conditions for licensure of the MSU-CVM graduates. It is the CVM's intent to make sure that students enrolling in the program understand the demands needed to successfully complete the courses, laboratories, and clinical rotations.

The essential skills and abilities set forth below constitute the minimum standards that allow an individual to perform at the lowest acceptable level of the core competencies to be a candidate for a DVM degree. Students must be able to perform, with or without the use of appropriate auxiliary aids (including prosthetic devices) or other reasonable accommodation, the following essential skills and abilities:

1. **Observation:** The student must be able to participate in learning situations that require observational skills. In particular, students must be able to observe animals and acquire visual, auditory, and tactile information from their examinations.
2. **Communication:** Students must be able to acquire an adequate history from an owner. Students must be able to hear and observe their animal patients in order to effectively collect information and describe the findings (verbally and/or written).
3. **Motor Skills:** The student must demonstrate sufficient motor function to be able to restrain patients and perform a physical examination on an animal that may include, but is not limited to, palpation, auscultation, percussion and diagnostic procedures including examination with an ophthalmoscope, otoscope, or stethoscope on large and small animals. Students must be reasonably able to execute motor movements to safely handle large and small animals and to achieve general proficiency with surgical therapy and other related therapies.
4. **Intellectual Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** The student must demonstrate the cognitive skills and memory necessary to measure, calculate, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend dimensional and spatial relationships. There are diagnostic, problem-solving activities commonly encountered during the DVM program that need to be executed in a timely fashion.
5. **Non-Technical Attributes:** Veterinary students must consistently demonstrate non-technical skills, knowledge and aptitudes that allow them to interact with clients, collect histories, apply sound judgment, and complete responsibilities in the diagnosis and treatments of animals. Students must be able to develop effective relationships with owners, staff and colleagues.

### **Procedure for Requesting an Accommodation**

In order to request an academic accommodation for a specific qualified disability, MSU requires that students submit current documentation (within three years) from a trained and licensed professional in the area of medical, psychological, or educational assessment and evaluation. The documentation must consist of a specific diagnosed medical, psychological, or learning disability, prescribed educational strategies, and recommendations as to what type of academic accommodations that person may need. It is the responsibility of the student to report to the University's Office of Student Support Services (SSS) and CVM's Office of Academic Affairs any personal restrictions or disabilities that may influence academic performance or human safety. A qualified student must submit the following to the Academic Affairs Office and Office of SSS prior to the beginning of the academic year or within one week of medical diagnosis of any medical restrictions or physical/mental disabilities:

- ✓ **WRITTEN** notification of restriction/disability.
- ✓ **WRITTEN** request for specific accommodations based on your restrictions/disability.
- ✓ **WRITTEN** documentation from a trained and licensed professional in the area of medical, psychological, or educational assessment and evaluation.

The college is not obligated to make accommodations for your restrictions/disabilities if you do not fully inform the college with the information requested in the previously stated guidelines.

Approved: Kent H. Hoblet 3-25-2013  
Kent H. Hoblet, Dean Date  
College of Veterinary Medicine