



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Subject: **Veterinary Medical Technology
Degree Program Disability
Policy**

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Veterinary Medical Technology 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 the student 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 Veterinary Medical Technology (V.M.T.) 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 V.M.T. degree program require that the student has the faculties to acquire the various skills necessary to complete both the curriculum and attain the V.M.T. degree. It is not possible for individuals to be allowed exemption from the required pre-clinical curriculum of the Veterinary Medical Technology Degree Program.

Furthermore, while recognizing that individuals with a range of disabilities can successfully practice as veterinary technologists, 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 person involved. Veterinary medical technology 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 technology 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 Veterinary Medical Technology degree program.

Candidates for the V.M.T. 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 medical technology. Essential skills and abilities required by the V.M.T. 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 V.M.T. 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 V.M.T. degree curriculum; (4) the requirements imposed on the MSU-CVM for accreditation by the Committee on Veterinary Technology Education & Activities of the American Veterinary Medical Association; and (5) the conditions for licensure as veterinary technologists/technicians for 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 V.M.T. 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 V.M.T. program that need to be executed in a timely fashion.
5. **Non-Technical Attributes:** Veterinary medical technology 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.

