



COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: **Technical Standards for
VMT Students**

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Technical Standards for VMT Students

The VMT office has established technical standards that all students in the program must meet.

MSU and CVM will make appropriate academic accommodations to help facilitate student participation for any student that is properly identified as having a temporary and/or permanent disability. Technical standards of the VMT were established to keep students, animals, clients, faculty, and staff safe from negligence and harm. VMT has established these technical standards 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 VMT curriculum; (4) the requirements imposed upon the VMT for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association (CVTEA); and (5) the conditions for licensure of the VMT 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 experiences.

The technical standards set forth in this document are the minimum standards that allow an individual to perform at the lowest acceptable level in the required activity having the highest, greatest, or most complex requirement for the designated sense, function or characteristic. Students must be able to satisfy, with or without the use of appropriate auxiliary aids (including prosthetic devices), the following technical standards which relate to physical abilities. If one aid or prosthetic device interferes with a second aid or prosthetic device needed to carry out a single act, then the individual may be restricted in meeting the technical standard.

I. Body Senses

A. Vision/Coordinated Movement

1. An individual must be able to observe movement at a distance ranging from 30-45 centimeters to 15-20 meters at a discrimination level that permits detection of

subtle differences in movement of the limbs in animals. Application: Detect and describe a change in color of hair coat caused by licking or trauma; detect abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; ability to read anesthesia monitoring equipment.

2. An individual must be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width. Application: Bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; ability to ECG tracing.
3. Depth perception must allow detection of a 0.5 cm elevation which is no more than 1 cm in diameter on a slightly curved surface having a slightly irregular surface. Application: Detection of tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth haired dog; determining presence of reaction to skin testing for allergies.

B. Hearing

1. An individual must be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading. Application: Oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks.
2. An individual must be able to perceive the origin of sound. Application: Movement of large animals in a pen or corral; monitoring multiple patients in an ICU

C. Proprioception

1. An individual must be able to determine the position of one hand extended from the body within ± 10 degrees when the arm is extended in any direction, the eyes are closed, and the individual is standing. Application: endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection.
2. An individual must be able to differentiate between four round semisolid objects having diameters of 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2cm and judge the shape and consistency of objects when the arm is extended and the eyes are closed. Application: assisting in surgery; lymph node palpation; palpation of trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size.

II. Body Function

A. Speech

An individual must be able to speak English and be understood by others who cannot see the lips or facial expressions of the individual. Application: Oral communications in a surgery room where all occupants are wearing surgical masks; managing a patient with cardiac arrest.

B. Coordinated Movement.

1. An individual must be able, when communicating with other individuals by speech, either in person or by telephone, to make legible written notes in English within the margins and

space provided on the appropriate forms. Application: Completing medical records and charts; anesthesia records.

2. An individual must be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. Application: Assist in holding of hemostats or other instruments while standing and assisting in surgery; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous catheters.
3. An individual must be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string. Application: Hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00 silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine; apply bandages.
4. An individual must be able to move their entire body a distance of no less than three meters within two seconds of a signal to do so. Application: Movement from danger while handling animals in confined spaces.

C. Physical Stamina.

An individual must be able to lift objects and/or animals weighing 0-5 pounds constantly; 5-20 pounds frequently; 20-50 pounds occasionally. An individual must be able to lift all of the above to a height of one meter and carry the object or animal for a distance of two meters. Application: Placing a dog on a surgery table; lifting and carrying a bag weighing approximately 35 pounds of drugs, equipment and supplies from an ambulatory service vehicle to an animal patient in a nearby barn or lot; restrain a small animal patient for a medical procedure; restrain horses and cattle by halter, twitch, nose tongs and other techniques; administer oral medication to ruminants by balling gun or dose syringe.

D. Allergy and/or Fear

An individual must be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and the environments in which they are housed and treated. During such contact, the individual must be able to carry out routine medical care on such animals.

This policy exists to ensure students entering the VMT program are aware of the requirements necessary for the study of veterinary technology and that they have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program and earn a BS degree.

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 (approved by industry standards) that will assist him or her to meet the requirements for graduation from the college.

