



University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Technical Standards for Veterinary Students

The curricula leading to a degree in veterinary medicine require students to engage in diverse and complex experiences directed to the practice, refinement and full acquisition of essential veterinary competencies and functions. Unique combinations of cognitive, behavioral, sensory, psychomotor, and communication abilities are required to perform these functions in a satisfactory manner and to consistently demonstrate these competencies.

The American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education's Directive on Clinical Competency states that "veterinary graduates must have the basic scientific knowledge, skills and values to practice veterinary medicine, independently, at the time of graduation. At a minimum, graduates must be competent in providing entry level health care for a variety of animal species." Further, the Directive requires students have the: knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, aptitudes and behaviors necessary to address responsibly the health and well being of animals in the context of ever-changing societal expectations.

The School of Veterinary Medicine requires all students to satisfactorily complete clinical competencies as part of the requirement for academic progress and graduation, in order to fulfill the mandate of the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education's Directive. Demonstration of proficiency in these competencies occurs throughout the curriculum, during both pre-clinical and clinical training experiences.

This statement describes the non-academic qualifications required by the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition to being essential to the successful completion of the requirements for the respective veterinary degree, the competencies and functions described below are necessary to ensure the health and safety of animal patients, fellow students, faculty and other veterinary school employees. These are in addition to the necessary academic qualifications that students must exhibit. Candidates for the veterinary degree must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodations for continuation in, and graduation from, the School.

- * Demonstrate the ability to integrate and assimilate large volumes of information from multiple sources and multiple educational experiences in a timely fashion, and be able to apply that information to problem solving and decision making.
- * Work constructively in stressful and changing environments with the ability to modify behavior in response to evolving events.

- * Fully use his/her intellectual ability, exercise good judgment and promptly and accurately complete all responsibilities attendant to implementing an appropriate plan of care for animal patients across the life span. These include, but are not limited to: cat, dog, cow and horse patients.
- * Demonstrate ethical behavior, including adherence to the School and University Code of Academic Integrity.
- * Demonstrate emotional and interpersonal skills sufficient to:
 - *adapt to changing environments.
 - *function efficiently and effectively in conditions of uncertainty inherent in the clinical problems exhibited by animal patients.
 - * remain calm in an emergency situation.
 - *function effectively and efficiently in times of physical and mental stress for short and/or for extended periods.
 - *be aware of one's emotional responses and biases.

Communication Characteristics:

- * Interrelate with colleagues, faculty, staff, clients and other professionals with honesty, sensitivity, integrity, respect and non-discrimination
- * Communicate effectively with clients of diverse religious, cultural and/or social backgrounds
- * Express own ideas and feelings clearly and demonstrate a willingness and ability to give and receive feedback
- * Communicate effectively in oral and written forms in person and/or when using electronic communication devices
- * Perceive and interpret non-verbal communication and verbal cues
- * Recognize and appropriately respond to emotions
- * Demonstrate the following communication abilities: speech, hearing, reading, writing, and electronic modality literacy

Demonstrate skills/ability sufficient to:

- * Elicit and record information about health history, current health status or responses to treatment from clients
- * Convey information to clients, members of the healthcare team and others as necessary, to teach, direct, and counsel individuals and groups.
- * Give verbal directions or follow verbal directions from other members of the health care team and participate in health care team discussions/coordination of patient care.
- * Process and communicate information of the animal patient's status with accuracy in a timely manner to members of the healthcare team.

Psychomotor Abilities:

- * Possess sufficient position, touch, and vibration sense, as well as physical strength and mobility to carry out treatment procedures, to conduct laboratory and diagnostic tests, and to carry out physical examinations
- * Possess the motor skills required for their specialty's scope of practice, as defined by the relevant accrediting organization.
- * Possess sufficient motor function to be able to demonstrate manual dexterity in order to coordinate fine and gross muscular movements sufficient to provide safe general care and treatment to animal patients, including but not limited to cat, dog, cow and horse
- * Demonstrate an appropriate response in emergency situations, including any circumstance requiring immediate remedy.
- * Demonstrate physical abilities sufficient for carrying equipment, pushing, pulling, stooping, kneeling, bending, and moving within the confines of care delivery settings such as cages, barns, stalls, stanchions, and the operating room and between settings such as clinics, classroom buildings and hospitals.
- * Demonstrate ability to lift, push and pull with assistance (mechanical or coworker) the weight of the average canine and possess sufficient flexibility, balance, dexterity, hand-eye coordination, and stamina to deliver care and operate all related instruments and equipment including but not limited to feline, canine, bovine and equine animal patients.
- * Demonstrate the ability to work in a closed environment for extended periods of time in close proximity with animal species including, but not limited to cat, dog, cow and horse patients.
- * Demonstrate an aptitude for rapid problem solving, the capability to access and interpret medical files independently, and evaluate physical examinations, and to formulate a logical care plan in a timely manner.
- * Demonstrate good judgment in animal patient assessment, and the abilities to utilize prior knowledge and incorporate new information in the decision-making process.
- * Possess the ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and the relationships of structures.
- * Possess the necessary short and long-term memory function to retain and recall pertinent information (patient and other) in a timely fashion.
- * Possess the ability to read and understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis and synthesis.
- * Demonstrate the ability to gather, analyze and synthesize data, develop an appropriate plan of action, establish priorities, conceptualize plan of care, monitor treatment plans and modalities and provide in-depth rationale for plan of care both in quiet environments and in areas where distractions, noise, and other stressors are present.
- * Ability to distinguish colors including the accurate interpretation of diagnostic tests, changes in skin color, mucus membranes, bodily fluids and wound characteristics.
- * Possess the ability to recognize three dimensional and spatial relationships.



- * Ability to discriminate physical examination findings using inspection, auscultation, percussion and palpation.
- * Ability to discriminate between sizes, shapes, temperature, and texture by means of touch.
- * Ability to discriminate changes in position, pressure, movement and vibrations in order to perform nursing procedures, conduct laboratory and diagnostic tests, and to perform the physical examination.
- * Ability to distinguish odors that may be related to a patient's condition, noxious spills, or fumes from a fire explosion or malfunction of equipment.
- * Ability to detect sounds related to bodily functions, monitoring devices, telephones and emergency signals.
- * Ability to prepare and dispense the correct quantity of medication or therapeutic agents in a syringe or therapeutic device.
- * Possess sufficient visual acuity so as to be able to observe an animal patient's response at a distance and/or close at hand and to read lips when necessary.

During the final year of the veterinary curriculum, students will sit for The North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). The NAVLE is a qualification to practice veterinary medicine in North America as well as a requirement for licensure to practice in all licensing jurisdictions within North America. It consists of 360 clinically relevant multiple choice questions.

Consistent with its mission and philosophy, the School of Veterinary Medicine is committed to providing educational opportunities to students with disabilities. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation act, the School provides reasonable accommodations to otherwise qualified students with disabilities. However, the decision regarding appropriate accommodations will be based on the specifics of each case.

The University of Pennsylvania welcomes students with disabilities and provides reasonable accommodations to those who self-identify in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Academic accommodations, auxiliary services, and technology are made available to students who meet established documentation guidelines. Policies and procedures have been developed to provide students with as much independence as possible, to promote self-advocacy, and to provide students with disabilities the same exceptional opportunities available to all Penn students. The Student Disabilities Services (SDS) staff are available to help in the areas of assistive technology, scholarships, parking, transportation, emergency evacuation procedures, housing, and dining. Students who seek reasonable accommodations for disabilities can contact the SDS office located at Stouffer Commons, Ste 300, 3702 Spruce Street, Philadelphia PA 19104-6027.



Confirmation Page

Acceptance of: University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
 Technical Standards for Veterinary Students

I, _____ (print name), have read and understand the contents of this document.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return signed form with completed Student Data Form and \$500.00 deposit check made payable to: **The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania** .

Mail to:

University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
Office of Admissions, Rosenthal Building
3800 Spruce St.
Philadelphia, PA 19104

***Please only return signed page.**