

EXEMPLAR TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR VETERINARY MEDICAL EDUCATION

AAVMC Taskforce on Technical Competencies

Our first goal was to communicate to candidates that they are welcomed and valued. To meet this objective, we developed the following Exemplary Introductory Language:

[Name of program] actively collaborates with students to develop innovative ways to ensure accessibility and creates a respectful, accountable culture through our specialized disability support. We are committed to excellence in accessibility and encourage students with disabilities to seek accommodations.

In keeping with OCR guidance, we then recommended a statement that provides direction to current and prospective students.

Applicants and students who, after review of the technical standards, determine that they require reasonable accommodation to fully engage in the program should

determination] to privately discuss their accommodation needs. Given the clinical nature of our programs, time may be needed to create and implement the accommodation(s). Accommodation(s) are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

In the next two domains our focus was on developing a functional rather than organic language to communicate the technical standards for observation and communication, while upholding the COE standards and EPAs.

Observation:

Students should be able to directly obtain information from demonstrations and procedures in pre-clinical and clinical coursework. Students should be able to assess a patient

behavior, physical and mental status to provide appropriate veterinary care. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch or the functional equivalent.

Communication:

Students should be able to communicate with clients and all members of the health care team, to establish effective professional relationships in order to elicit and provide information. Students should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively, both in person and in writing.

The *motor domain* was an important area of intentional development for veterinary medicine as students must be able to perform surgery and other techniques according to the COE CBVE standards. The Task Force carefully examined what skills and abilities were truly required in the practice of veterinary medicine, while continuing to prioritize functional over organic technical standards language.

Motor:

Students should, after a reasonable period of time, possess the capacity to directly perform physical examinations, and preventative, diagnostic, medical, surgical, and emergency procedures. Such actions require some coordination

and equilibrium.

