



College of Veterinary Medicine Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program

Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation

A candidate for admission to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain intellectual, emotional and physical abilities (sensory and motor functions) that would enable the individual to acquire the knowledge, technical and clinical skills needed to complete, successfully, the curriculum in order to pursue a career in veterinary medicine. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below throughout their progression in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. Graduation from the program signifies that the individual is prepared for entry into clinical practice or into postgraduate training programs. The candidate must be able to integrate - consistently, quickly, and accurately - all information received by whatever sense(s) are employed. In addition, they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize data.

The practice of veterinary medicine requires specific essential functions, which include but are not limited to the following six broad categories: observation, communication, motor, interpretative (conceptual and quantitative), behaviors/social and physical health. For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation in order to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC) at (909) 469-5297.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

Observation Skills

Candidates and students must have sufficient vision to be able to observe demonstrations, experiments and macro- and microscopic laboratory exercises. They must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand. A candidate must be able to acquire information from written documents and to visualize information presented as paper, films, slides, and video and computer images. A candidate must be able to visualize radiographs (x-rays), other visual diagnostic tools, and other graphic images, with or without the use of assistive devices. A candidate must have functional use of visual, auditory and somatic sensation (palpation, etc.) while using appropriate enhancement of sensory modalities (such as microscopes, stethoscopes, etc.). Reasonable accommodations may be provided for the visually impaired.

Communication Skills

A candidate must be able to communicate clearly, appropriately and effectively with a degree of sensitivity with patient caretakers or guardians; establish good rapport, convey or exchange information at a level allowing development of a health history; identify problems presented; explain alternative solutions; and give directions during treatment and post-treatment. For effective patient treatment, the candidate must be able to communicate with patient caretakers or guardians, colleagues and all members of the veterinary and medical health care team effectively and efficiently. Communication must be culturally appropriate taking into consideration the diversity at WesternU. Communication includes oral and written modes requiring the ability to understand, write, and speak fluent English. The candidate must also be able to recognize nonverbal communication cues. Reasonable accommodations may be provided for the hearing and speaking impaired.

Motor Skills

A candidate should have a sufficient level of manual dexterity such that she/he is able to execute the fine movements required to provide general veterinary care and treatment to patients within a specified amount of time. It is required that a candidate possess the manual motor skills necessary to directly perform diagnostic and treatment procedures associated with the practice of general veterinary medicine. Such procedures require coordination of both gross and fine

muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional uses of the senses of touch, hearing, and vision. Examples of procedures reasonably required of students and veterinarians include, but are not limited to: physical examination of different species in the emergency and non-emergency settings, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, insertion of a variety of catheters, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding in open wounds, opening obstructed airways, suturing wounds and surgical incisions, performance of obstetrical maneuvers and performance of diagnosis and manipulation of the patient.

Interpretative (conceptual/quantitative) Skills

A candidate must be able to measure, memorize, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information. A candidate must be able to comprehend and mentally visualize three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Problem solving, clinical decision-making, and critical thinking skills demanded of a general veterinarian are required for all of these intellectual abilities in a timely fashion for effective patient treatment.

Behavior and Social Skills

A candidate must possess the emotional health and maturity required for full utilization of her or his intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, maintenance of confidentiality, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, patient caretaker/guardians, faculty, staff, and fellow students. A candidate must recognize that the curriculum is physically, mentally, and emotionally demanding. She/he must be able to function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.

Physical Health

WesternU has established medical status credential requirements that must be completed prior to matriculation. Medical status credentialing is designed to ensure that the safety of patients and patient caretaker/guardian are not compromised while protecting the rights and safety of students as well. For more detailed information, contact the Student/Employee Health Coordinator at stu-emphealth@westernu.edu.