what is SAVMA?
Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA)

The Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) was created in 1969 as the national organization for veterinary students, to foster communication among individual chapters. Currently, SAVMA is comprised of:

- 36 Student Chapters
  - 30 in the U.S.
  - 1 in Canada
  - 2 in the Caribbean
  - 3 in the United Kingdom
- 1 Student Associate organization in the Caribbean

In total SAVMA represents over 17,000 veterinary student members. Its mission is to support, empower, and inspire all veterinary students in improving their lives, education and career, along with securing a better future for our profession through collaboration with our parent organization, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

How SAVMA works

SAVMA is led by an Executive Board (EB) and a House of Delegates (HOD), consisting of two representatives from each of the 36 student chapters, 3 satellite campuses and 1 associate organization. Elections are held locally for delegate positions. Students interested in running should reach out to their local SAVMA chapter board. The HOD is the legislative body of SAVMA and represents the voice of its student members. They meet twice a year – at the AVMA Convention and the SAVMA Symposium. The EB is made up of the national SAVMA officers that are elected by the HOD. Delegates can run for officer positions after they have attended at least 1 HOD meeting.

Learn more about SAVMA at avma.org/SAVMA

For a complete listing of the numerous benefits of SAVMA membership, visit avma.org/SAVMA
Student chapters and student associate organizations

Local student chapters are organizations representing student members at a college of veterinary medicine accredited or approved by the AVMA Council on Education. Student associate organizations represent student members at non-accredited schools.

Eligible students may become members of SAVMA if they are full-time students of veterinary medicine enrolled in a program of study leading to a professional veterinary degree to be granted by their college. This includes veterinary students from across the globe.

Find a complete listing of all student chapters and associate organizations at avma.org/SAVMA

Local SAVMA chapters provide numerous benefits. These may include:

• Lectures and other education experiences
• Camaraderie among fellow veterinary students
• Travel grants and additional travel opportunities
• Networking events
• Local volunteer and community experience
• Discounts on merchandise and medical supplies
• Leadership development opportunities
• Opportunity to be the voice of veterinary students/represent your college, and much more!

The AVMA family provides funding for local chapter events and benefits through the ALL for Students program. Reach out to your local SAVMA chapter president to confirm the benefits offered.
Why join the Student AVMA (SAVMA)?

Your school’s chapter or associate organization is your link to all the privileges and resources available in SAVMA, including:

• Opportunities to gain additional professional knowledge and an understanding of professional ethics and conduct
• Access to organizations representing specialized areas of interest
• SAVMA helps improve communication among the local student organizations and gives a national voice to veterinary students around the world
• SAVMA members gain a higher degree of professionalism and help the public acquire a broader knowledge of the veterinary profession
• All SAVMA members who graduate in good standing with their local organization receive AVMA recent grad benefits, including complimentary AVMA membership upon graduation

What is the AVMA and what does it do?

The American Veterinary Medical Association is the nation’s leading advocate for the veterinary profession. Representing more than 93,000 members, the AVMA protects, promotes and advances the needs of all veterinarians and those they serve. The AVMA’s commitment is to advance the shared interests, values and goals of our membership, through a variety of avenues:

• Developing positions on key issues, advocating for veterinarians, and advancing their ability to provide crucial veterinary services
• Providing educational accreditation and certification programs that protect and elevate the quality of veterinary care
• Providing timely and relevant products and services that enhance AVMA members’ opportunities for success and service, and support them in protecting the health and welfare of animals in their care
• Educating the public on the important and varied types of work that veterinarians do to advance both animal and human health

Learn more at avma.org

Join SAVMA today at avma.org/SAVMA
benefits of SAVMA MEMBERSHIP
Journal of the AVMA (JAVMA) and the American Journal of Veterinary Research (AJVR)

- SAVMA members receive free access to download JAVMA app for your Apple or Android smartphone or tablet, along with free access to the online archive of all JAVMA articles dating back to 2000.
- Additionally, SAVMA members receive reduced subscription rates to the print version of the JAVMA and AJVR for $40 each annually. That’s a savings of at least $200 per year, per journal. Purchase a journal subscription by logging onto the SAVMA dues website and adding one to your cart today.

Visit avma.org/JAVMA

AVMA Member Edge

The AVMA Member Edge program gives SAVMA members expanded access to exclusive offers, discounts and other rewards. This program is a benefit with your SAVMA membership and requires no additional cost to participate.

With Member Edge, you’ll find savings on many of the products, services and solutions you use every day, in the following categories:

- Hotel and travel
- Business products and services
- Financial solutions
- ID and insurance protection
- Entertainment and gifts
- Auto purchase and leasing

From movie tickets, theme parks, apparel and hotels, to office supplies, ID protection and more, Member Edge provides valuable benefits to AVMA members, alongside products and services you already rely on from the AVMA.

To access these and other Member Edge offerings, visit avma.org/MemberEdge

For a complete list of the many benefits of SAVMA membership, visit avma.org/SAVMA
Advocating for the profession

AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network

Concerned about the impact of legislation on veterinary medicine? SAVMA and the AVMA advocate on behalf of veterinarians and veterinary students through the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network. Learn about AVMA’s policies and positions on federal legislative and regulatory issues, including federal student loan policy, and sign up to be a part of the advocacy network at avmacan.avma.org

SAVMA awards, competitions and scholarships

Numerous awards and scholarship opportunities are available for student members in a variety of categories. Learn more at avma.org/SAVMA

• Animal welfare and environmental stewardship
• Education and professional development
• Governmental affairs
• Integrative communications and diversity
• International veterinary experience opportunities
• Public health and community outreach
• Wellbeing program support
• SAVMA Symposium, IVSA Symposium and AVMA Convention travel grants
• Visit The Vet Gazette to read about all the great things vet students are doing, and possibly earn a stipend by sharing your experiences at thevetgazette.com

Your financial health

Take time to learn financial skills (along with surgical skills) during your veterinary school training – because the financial decisions you make today will affect your financial health and life satisfaction in the future. Learn more about student loans, money management, financial planning resources and more at myvetlife.avma.org.

Veterinary debt is one of the most important issues facing veterinarians. The AVMA is committed to helping veterinarians thrive in rewarding and financially sustainable careers – and that includes finding solutions to reduce veterinary debt, as well as maximize income. For more information, visit avma.org/VDI
Recent graduate benefits including free AVMA membership!

Student chapters and student associate members in good standing who meet their SAVMA chapter or associate organization requirements and have paid membership dues for all years in veterinary school at the time of graduation will be granted automatic membership in the AVMA upon graduation at no cost.

This means:

• No application to file and no AVMA member dues to pay for the remainder of the year of graduation
• Two additional years with AVMA membership dues reduced by 50%
• Free registration to the AVMA Convention the year you graduate (over $500 value)
• Credit for one additional free registration to the AVMA Convention within the next five years following graduation (over $500 value)
• Access to all members-only tools and resources on the AVMA website
• An invitation to join the AVMA’s Early Career Online Community starting in January of your graduation year

See more recent graduate benefits at avma.org/RecentGrad
American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) is the charitable arm of the AVMA. For more than 50 years, the AVMF has been dedicated to our mission of developing resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

The AVMF provides scholarships and grants that demonstrate our investment in the education of veterinary students. In addition to the scholarships listed below, the AVMF assists the AVMA in awarding research grants to veterinary students.

Scholarships include:

• Merck/MSD Scholarship
• Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Scholarship
• AVMA/AVMF Scholarship for Military Veterans
• AVMF/ Winn Feline Foundation Scholarship
• Harold Wetterberg Foundation Scholarship
• Additional Scholarships Found on avmf.org

Visit avmf.org to learn more about these opportunities and to link to additional veterinary student scholarships offered by other schools and organizations.
**AVMA PLIT**

For over 50 years, the AVMA PLIT has been supporting veterinarians and students with professional liability, personal lines, and business insurance solutions designed for and by veterinarians. With us, you will also have experienced veterinarians by your side, protecting you through it all.

The PLIT is honored to sponsor the liability insurance you need while you are in veterinary school. As a key SAVMA member benefit, coverage is at no cost to you. Student liability protects you during your clinical experiences (externships, preceptorships, part-time or volunteer work, even during your first year). To receive coverage, current SAVMA members can apply online at [avmaplit.com/Students](http://avmaplit.com/Students) (SAVMA Member ID required).

For information or help visit [avmaplit.com/students](http://avmaplit.com/students) or call 800-228-7548, opt. 2

Follow us on Facebook: @avmaplitstudents

**AVMA LIFE Trust**

AVMA Life Trust provides personal insurance products designed by Veterinarians for Veterinarians. For over 60 years we have provided Veterinarian Inspired Coverage.

Because we believe in our products, AVMA Life Trust provides every SAVMA member with a no cost $25,000 Student Life Insurance policy. We encourage you to register online at [avmalife.org](http://avmalife.org) to update your beneficiary.

**Additional student coverage for SAVMA members:**

- **Student Basic Protection**: Includes a $300 Rabies Prophylaxis Benefit, Disability, and Life Insurance, no underwriting.
- **Graduate Guarantee**: Benefit to graduating Veterinary students includes Life, Disability and more, no underwriting.
- **Supplemental Disability for Educational Expense Obligations**: A disability policy to help repay student loans if you suffer a covered total disability.
- **Hospital Indemnity**: Helps offset costs of in-patient or out-patient medical care. Includes Pregnancy and Emergency Care Benefits.
- **Dental/Vision**: Immediate coverage for many services.
- **Medical Exchange**

*These programs are underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company (New York, NY 10010)

For information or help, contact your school agent, visit [avmalife.org](http://avmalife.org) or call 800-621-6360
What is SAVMA?

events and OPPORTUNITIES
SAVMA Symposium
SAVMA membership includes an invitation to the SAVMA Symposium held each year in March. SAVMA Symposium is designed to expose students to areas of veterinary medicine that are not usually covered in their regular curricula, and promote networking among future colleagues.

Join over 1,000 students for three days to:
• Attend lectures and interactive labs that supplement your school’s curriculum
• Meet and compete with other veterinary schools in academic and athletic events
• Network with future colleagues and friends

Upcoming symposia include:

Hosted by Cornell University
March 14 – 16, 2020
www.savmasymposium2020.com

Hosted by Kansas State University
March 12 – 14, 2021

AVMA Convention
Veterinary students receive FREE advance registration to the AVMA Convention held in July/August each year. Student attendees gain professional knowledge, have access to outstanding scientific and practice management sessions and network with practicing veterinarians and AVMA leaders.

Learn more at avmaconvention.org

Upcoming AVMA Conventions:
San Diego .................................................................................July 31 – August 4, 2020
Minneapolis ..............................................................................July 30 – August 3, 2021
Philadelphia ...............................................................................July 29 – August 2, 2022
Denver ..........................................................................................July 14 – 18, 2023
AVMA externship opportunities

AVMA Governmental Relations Division externship in Washington, D.C.

Application Deadline: October 11, 2019

• $1,200 stipends for a four week program, funded by the AVMA
• Open to all SAVMA members who have completed two years of a professional program at a college of veterinary medicine before beginning the externship and who are U.S. citizens
• Students should show interest in public policy and want to help advance the AVMA legislative and regulatory agenda
• Meet with veterinarians currently serving in a variety of roles for the U.S. government, and advance your profession on Capitol Hill

Visit avma.org/Externships or call 800-321-1473

The AVMA offers vast opportunities for students looking for hands-on working experience.
AVMA Headquarters Externship in Schaumburg, Illinois

Application Deadline: January 17, 2020

• Stipends averaging $2,250–$3,000 for a three–four week program, funded by the AVMA
• Open to all current SAVMA members
• Developed for students who would like to explore opportunities in organized veterinary medicine by working with different divisions of the AVMA

Visit avma.org/Externships or call 800-248-2862, ext. 6693

AVMA student externship locator

Need help finding an externship that fits your interests? Search through hundreds of externship possibilities that help build your knowledge within veterinary medicine. The student externship locator is a resource of the AVMA’s.

Veterinary Career Center. View externships by location or special interest at avma.org/VCCexternships
SAVMA directories
Find other student chapters through the online map of student chapters, and also connect with your SAVMA Executive Board members, local SAVMA chapter president, and SAVMA delegates. SAVMA organizational documents, committee web pages and historical information can be found online at avma.org/SAVMA.

SAVMA international exchange opportunities
As a member of SAVMA, you are automatically a member of the International Veterinary Student Association (IVSA). This means you can expand your knowledge by participating in an international exchange opportunity. Learn more at avma.org/InternationalExchange.

SAVMA wellbeing initiative
Taking care of yourself in vet school is important. The habits you develop as a veterinary student will influence your habits as a veterinarian. Health and wellbeing are essential components to a thriving, awesome you. Visit myvetlife.avma.org for resources to lift you up throughout your vet school years and beyond. Be on the lookout for programming and funding opportunities for wellbeing events from the SAVMA Wellness Committee.

AVMA Veterinary Career Center (VCC)
AVMA’s Veterinary Career Center is the veterinary profession’s most extensive online employment resource.

• Browse through hundreds of current open positions.
• Post your resume, making it available to hundreds of employers.
• Set up personalized email notifications to learn about new job openings that meet your criteria.

The AVMA VCC team is ready to answer your questions about your career. Visit avma.org/VCC or call 800-248-2862, ext. 6679.

Connect with SAVMA @studentAVMA
My Veterinary Life

My Veterinary Life is a dedicated AVMA website for students and recent graduates. Navigate your transition from student to veterinarian, nurture your personal wellbeing, and establish strong financial habits. We are committed to be by your side for guidance, direction and support every step of the way, from your first year through graduation and all the milestones as you establish your veterinary career.

Browse the collection of resources at myveterinarylife.com

SAVMA app for members

SAVMA members now have access to the free SAVMA app! Features include:

- View the latest SAVMA news.
- Calendar of events shows you important upcoming events and deadlines.
- Obtain instant access to the complete listing and applications for all SAVMA scholarships.
- Check out the newest articles on the Vet Gazette to learn what other great things vet students are doing across the globe. Share your own experiences, and potentially earn a stipend!

Download the SAVMA app from the Google Play store (Android) and the App Store (Apple). Sign in with your active SAVMA ID and password. Must be a current SAVMA member.
Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.