

Rationale for New Proposed Changes to Standard 6, Students

The COE believes that students should be well-prepared to address all aspects of life within the veterinary profession and should be provided with the services to assist them to deal with the challenges, both personal and academic that veterinary students are faced with. This also includes providing the information to create student awareness of and to provide students the opportunity to make informed decisions regarding the cost of their professional education and the potential impact of student debt.

The Council has proposed the following revisions for Standard 6, Students (additions underscored, deletions ~~struck~~)

Standard 6, Students

The number of professional degree students, DVM or equivalent must be consistent with the resources and the mission of the college. The program must be able to demonstrate, using its outcomes assessment data, that the resources are sufficient to achieve the stated educational goals for all enrolled students.

Colleges should establish post-DVM/VMD programs such as internships, residencies and advanced degrees (e.g., MS, PhD), that must complement and strengthen the professional program and not adversely affect the veterinary student experience.

Student support services must be available within the college or university. These must include, but are not limited to, appropriate services to support student wellness and to assist with meeting the academic and personal challenges of the DVM program; support for students with learning or other disabilities; and support of extra-curricular activities relevant to veterinary medicine and professional growth.

The college must promote an inclusive institutional climate that fosters diversity within the student body.

The college or parent institution must provide information and counseling services regarding financial aid and debt management. Colleges must provide career advising to assist students in their selection of electives, extramural rotations, and externships. Advice on how these decisions could impact career choices, including post graduate education, and beginning employment, must be available.

In relationship to enrollment, the colleges must provide accurate information for all advertisements regarding the educational program by providing clear and current information for prospective students. Further, printed catalog or electronic information, must state the purpose and goals of the program, provide admission requirements and procedures, state degree requirements, present faculty descriptions, provide an accurate academic calendar, clearly state comprehensive information on educational cost and debt risk, for the college. ~~tuition and fees along with~~ The college must provide information on procedures for withdrawal including the refund of student's tuition and fees as allowable, give necessary information for financial aid programs, and provide an accurate academic calendar. Information available to prospective students must include relevant requirements for professional licensure.

Each accredited college must provide a mechanism for students, anonymously if they wish, to offer suggestions, comments, and complaints regarding compliance of the college with the Standards of Accreditation. These materials shall be made available to the Council annually.

In addition, the Council proposes making the following changes to Section 12.6, Elements of the Self-Study, Students, of the Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Council on Education which states the information veterinary medical educational programs need to include in their self-study (additions underscored, deletions ~~struck~~)

Proposed Changes to Standard 6 Self-study Requirements

- 12.6.1 Complete Tables A, B, C, and D, and analyze trends.
- 12.6.2 Provide a listing of student services. These services must include, but are not limited to, registration, testing, mentoring (advising), counseling, tutoring, peer assistance, financial aid counseling programs, and clubs and organizations. Demonstrate that students are aware of and have ready access to academic counseling, personal wellness coaching, financial aid and career planning services. Demonstrate that students with educational loans have the opportunity to develop an understanding of the long-term financial obligation associated with their educational debt and to create a loan repayment plan.
- 12.6.3 Provide a list of tuition-related information available for prospective students. This information, as consistent with applicable law, must include estimated total educational cost, cost of living considerations, tuition increases over the previous 10 years, a description of financial aid programs, and contemporary data regarding recent graduates including employment rates, salaries and educational debt: salary ratios.
- 12.6.4 Demonstrate that the individuals who provide personal psychiatric or psychological counseling for students must have no involvement in the academic assessment of students.
- ~~12.6.3~~ 12.6.5 Provide a summary of college activities in support of placement of graduates.
- ~~12.6.4~~ 12.6.6 Provide academic catalogue(s) (or an electronic address for this resource) and freshman/upper-class orientation materials.
- ~~12.6.5~~ 12.6.7 Describe the system used on an ongoing basis to collect student suggestions, comments, and complaints related to the standards for accreditation.
- ~~12.6.6~~ 12.6.8 For student services that the college does not provide directly, describe how students have reasonable access to such services from the parent institution or from other sources that are relevant to the specific needs of students, and describe current plans for improvement in resources for students.