



AAVMC-AVMA DiVersity Matters Climate Survey

Welcome to the AAVMC-AVMA DiVersity Matters Climate Survey. In 2005 the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) launched the DiVersity Matters initiative which seeks to increase diversity in the US schools and colleges of veterinary medicine. One component of this initiative is to advance supportive academic environments which promote and support success and persistence among all students.

AAVMC has worked closely with the colleges of veterinary medicine in the Southeast region of the United States to develop a survey instrument designed to assess the campus culture within each veterinary school. AVMA has offered staff and leadership support in this effort. The University of Georgia, including specifically Dr. Paige Carmichael, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, has played a critical role in the development and finalization of this survey.

INFORMATIONAL INFORMED CONSENT

This research survey is being conducted by Dr. Paige Carmichael at the University of Georgia and Ms. Lisa Greenhill at AAVMC with the purpose of assessing the current campus climate with respect to diversity at your school or college of veterinary medicine. The resulting findings will allow us to develop enhanced national programming and guidance on best practices for improving and maintaining successful, supportive academic climates within AAVMC member institutions. While there is not a direct, real time benefit to participating in this research survey, the benefit to you, as a student, is in contributing valuable information that informs the development of future programming that will benefit the environmental success of all students. Depending on your present class standing in your program, you may find that you are a direct beneficiary of such future programming prior to the completion of your studies at your individual institution.

The three schools or colleges of veterinary medicine with the highest response rates will receive a monetary award of \$500 to support the local SCAVMA chapter. While there is an institutional incentive to participate in this research survey, your participation is strictly voluntary. Your refusal to participate in this study will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to you or your institution. You may also begin the study and discontinue your participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to you or your institution.

Your individually-identifiable responses will be kept confidential. Please understand that the data generated from this study will be published but only summary information will be reported, meaning that the identities of all study participants will be kept confidential. Additionally, the leadership of each individual institution will receive a raw data file with responses specific to the institution. A preliminary analysis of each institutional data file will be completed on race, ethnicity and gender data points and potentially identifiable students in groups of less than 5 will be aggregated in an effort to add a level of identity protection for participating students.

Please note that Internet communications are insecure and there is a limit to the confidentiality that can be guaranteed due to the technology itself. Each link sent to the research survey and the research survey itself is encrypted to protect participant confidentiality. Once the researcher receives the completed research surveys,

standard confidentiality procedures will be followed. All data files will be pass code protected and all original files will be housed on the AAVMC servers. Only the researchers will have access to the master data file. Data files returned to the colleges will also be pass code protected and subject to standard confidentiality procedures at the local institution.

If you are not comfortable with the level of confidentiality provided by the Internet, please feel free to print out a copy of the research survey, fill it out by hand, and mail it to the researcher at the address given below, with no return address on the envelope. Please note that paper submissions will be manually added to the master data file and the paper copy destroyed. Paper submissions will not be included in institutional response rates.

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1101 Vermont Avenue, NW; Suite 301
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All DVM students matriculating at AAVMC member institutions in the US are being asked to complete this research survey in its entirety. The AAVMC and AVMA sincerely request your "best effort" participation in this research survey because we truly believe that the information collected will best inform our future programming efforts to the benefit of participating institutions and their students. This research survey includes questions of a sensitive nature pertaining to various diversity attributes and issues. Should you find the questions difficult to answer, you may skip questions and/or exit the research survey at anytime and seek support or counseling through services provided at your college or university. Students may also contact Dr. Paige Carmichael at kpc@uga.edu or Ms. Lisa Greenhill at lgreenhill@aavmc.org or 202-371-9195 x147 with questions and concerns regarding the research survey.

Questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant should be directed to The Chairperson, University of Georgia Institutional Review Board, 629 Boyd GSRC, Athens, Georgia 30602-7411; telephone (706) 542-3199; email address irb@uga.edu.

You may save and/or print a PDF copy of this informed consent notice by pasting this url:
<<http://www.aavmc.org/Diversity/AAVMC002DAVMA-DiVersity-Matters-Climate-Survey.aspx>> into a new browser window.

This research survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

By continuing with this research survey you are providing your consent to participate.

Thank you for your time and your participation.