

GUIDELINES FOR VISITING VETERINARY MEDICAL STUDENTS ON CLINICAL ROTATIONS

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AAVMC TASK FORCE ON GUIDELINES FOR VISITING VETERINARY MEDICAL STUDENTS ON CLINICAL ROTATIONS

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BACKGROUND

The AAVMC published the original Position Statement for Visiting Veterinary Medical Students on Clinical Rotations document in 2011, and it was last reviewed in 2019. The document was scheduled for review and an Academic Affairs Committee task force was established. The task force determined that the document should be labeled as guidelines rather than a position statement.

SUGGESTED CITATION

AAVMC Task Force on Guidelines for Visiting Veterinary Medical Students on Clinical Rotations, Dascanio, J. J., Camus, M. S., Danielson, J. A., & Fedesco, H. N. (2025). Guidelines for visiting veterinary medical students on clinical rotations. Washington, DC: American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges.

These guidelines are intended to reflect the general principles and considerations that the AAVMC and the schools/colleges consider important related to students visiting for short-term clinical training. Students should check directly with institutions they would like to visit before scheduling an educational opportunity as individual university policies may differ in details from the general principles described in this guidance document.

These guidelines apply to students in good academic standing in their clinical training year(s) at a veterinary medical training program leading to the DVM or equivalent degree that is accredited (full, probationary, or provisional) by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE). When students are permitted to undertake short-term clinical educational rotations at other AVMA COE-accredited program institutions without incurring financial charges for the educational opportunity, the following conditions typically apply:

- Educational opportunities are typically 2 to 6 weeks in duration per student during their clinical training year (exact time limitation based upon the host institution's typical time frame for individual rotations).
- Requests for longer periods of clinical rotation will be subject to financial charge at a rate and payment schedule determined by the hosting institution.

- Hosting institutions may accept such students provided that the students' home institution has a clinical learning environment that can/will reciprocally accept the hosting institution's students under the same guidelines. If this is not the case, the hosting institution has the right to refuse to provide clinical training or charge a fee for the training. Existing interuniversity agreements supersede this program.
- Visiting students will be expected to comply with all of the hosting institution's rules and regulations related to student conduct on clinical training rotations.
- Hosting institutions will have the flexibility to design their own requirements for application/enrollment materials, such as a dean's letter of good standing from the student's home institution, evidence of health insurance, proof of immunization, etc.
- The hosting institution will use its own system to assign a grade/evaluation to the student unless a different agreement is reached before the start of the externship. The home institution may accept this grade as is or interpret it as appropriate to the home institution's evaluation system.
- All requests for visiting student clinical rotations will be based upon space available status at the hosting institution. Once a visiting student is scheduled, it is the expectation that they will attend. Failure to attend without notification of unavoidable schedule changes at least 3 months prior to scheduled arrival would be considered a breach of professionalism (except under extenuating circumstances) and should be handled by that student's home institution in the appropriate manner.
- Visiting students will be expected to manage and pay for travel arrangements, housing, and other related items.
- Some institutions offer very specialized rotations with a course fee. In those cases, the student would be required to pay the associated fee in order to participate. The hosting institution should clearly communicate those specialized fees.
- International students (whether as citizens of and attending an AVMA COE-accredited DVM or equivalent degree program from outside the country of the hosting institution, or a foreign national attending from a country other than either the hosting or student's home institution) must comply with any applicable visa requirements and must be personally responsible for all visa application procedures and fees. International students may be limited in what they are allowed to do in a clinical environment (e.g. only be allowed to observe rather than actively engage in clinical procedures), as determined by the limitations imposed by their visa status.
- Students must comply with all local/regional/national laws and regulations, including the host's regional veterinary practice act, if applicable.