

Alignment of Spectrum of Care Preparation with the AVMA Council on Education Curriculum Requirements



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Question 1. Meeting the AVMA Council on Education (COE) Standard 9 requirements may involve including nonspecialist/non-board-certified instructors to deliver aspects of the curriculum directly related to spectrum of care (SOC) practice. How could this affect a college of veterinary medicine's accreditation review and standing?

The Standards allow for instructors who are not board-certified to deliver parts of the curriculum. This is stated in Standard 8 Faculty as follows:

Instruction in the pre-clinical and clinical setting must be delivered by faculty who have education, training, expertise, professional development, or a combination thereof, appropriate for the subject matter. (AVMA Council on Education, 2025, p. 26)

The self-study guidelines for Standard 8 Faculty provide an opportunity for the college to describe an instructor's qualifications for teaching subject matter if it is not obvious from their credentials. The full self-study guidelines are available as part of the accreditation policies and procedures of the AVMA COE (2025). Please see 8.14. An excerpt from that document is below:

For subject areas in which a faculty member does not have advanced training (such as board certification or an advanced degree) in their area of curricular responsibility, describe qualifications, including education, training, experience, professional development, or a combination thereof, for subject matter expertise in the area the specific faculty member provides education in a narrative. (AVMA Council on Education, 2025, pp. 114-115)

Question 2. What evidence is needed to document that a range of treatment options are included in the curriculum? What evidence will be acceptable to document that those outcomes have been achieved?

Curriculum map, tagged objectives, specific courses or course content, lecture notes, or rotation opportunities are all acceptable pieces of evidence. Site teams rely on syllabi and lists of learning objectives for courses to demonstrate that considering a range of treatment options is emphasized in the preclinical and clinical curriculum. Furthermore, the college is expected to give a presentation on its curriculum during the site visit. During that presentation and discussion, program leaders can highlight the steps the college takes to include SOC considerations in multiple areas of the curriculum. With regard to documenting outcomes, an example would be requiring students to include multiple treatment options in their diagnostic plans for patients seen on clinical rotations.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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REFERENCES

AVMA Council on Education Council. (2025). *Accreditation policies and procedures of the AVMA Council on Education January 2025*. <https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/accreditation-policies-and-procedures-avma-council-education-coe>