TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The purpose of this document is to set forth the technical standards for enrollment and participation in the Veterinary Medical and Veterinary Technology curricula. The technical standards stated in this document are required of students pursuing the degree "Doctor of Veterinary Medicine" and students pursuing the degree "Associate or Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology".

In addition to the technical standards described in this document, individual courses within the curricula also have specific academic and technical standards. Individual course standards may include elements of both academic and technical standards in any combination, but these may not exceed the standards approved by the faculty, or stated in this document.

The Admissions Committees of the School of Veterinary Medicine shall extend offers of admission contingent upon ability to satisfy the required technical standards described in this document. If a prospective student’s ability to satisfy the technical standards is questioned, the individual shall be required to demonstrate the questioned ability in the presence of no less than three members of the appropriate Admissions Committee. Where possible, these skills shall be demonstrated in the appropriate curriculum setting; where this is not possible, the simulation shall approach the actual setting to the maximum degree possible.

Faculty members of Purdue University’s College of Veterinary Medicine shall determine that each student enrolled in a course for which the faculty member is responsible satisfies the technical standards required for the particular course. If a student’s ability to satisfy the technical standards is questioned, the student shall be required to demonstrate the questioned ability in the presence of no less than two faculty members familiar with that activity and the head of the department involved, or designee. If a student's inability to satisfy a technical standard is of a temporary nature, every reasonable effort will be made to rearrange the student’s schedule in such a way as to provide the opportunity for satisfactory completion of the curriculum.

When a prospective student or student is required to demonstrate the ability to satisfy a technical standard, the applicant/student shall be informed of the determination within ten days of the demonstration by certified mail, return receipt requested.

Review and appeal of decisions relating to the technical standards described in this document shall follow the procedure set forth in the document entitled "Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine Review Procedure of Determinations Pursuant to Technical Standards for Enrollment and Participation in the Veterinary Medical and the Veterinary Technology Curricula." Review and appeal of academic standards shall follow the procedure set forth in Academic Standard Documents and the Purdue University Grade Appeals System as described in the Purdue Regulations Handbook.
The Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine will make appropriate academic adjustments to facilitate enrollment and participation of qualified individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities. The College has established these technical standards in an effort to provide a framework to balance several competing interests: (1) the rights of applicants and students; (2) the safety of students, their co-workers, and veterinary patients; (3) the significant clinical training component of the College’s curricula; (4) the requirements imposed upon the College for accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association; and (5) the conditions for licensure of our graduates. These competing interests and the nature of veterinary educational activities may prevent some prospective students with disabilities and students with disabilities from qualifying for enrollment or continued enrollment and may limit access to the academic programs of the College.

The technical standards set forth in this document are the minimum standards that allow an individual to perform at the lowest acceptable level in the required activity having the highest, greatest, or most complex requirement for the designated sense, function or characteristic. Applicants and students must be able to satisfy, with or without the use of appropriate auxiliary aids (including prosthetic devices), the following technical standards which relate to physical abilities. If one aid or prosthetic device interferes with a second aid or prosthetic device needed to carry out a single act, then the individual may be restricted in meeting the technical standard.

**Body Senses**

**Vision**
1. An individual must be able to observe movement at a distance ranging from 30-45 centimeters to 15-20 meters at a discrimination level that permits detection of subtle differences in movement of the limbs in animals. Application: Slight right front lameness in a horse at trot; abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; ability to read anesthesia monitoring equipment.
2. An individual must be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is no more than 0.5 mm in width. Application: Bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; ability to see ECG tracing.
3. Depth perception must allow detection of a 0.5 cm elevation which is no more than 1 cm in diameter on a slightly curved surface having a slightly irregular surface. Application: Tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth-haired dog; suturing tissues.

**Hearing**
1. An individual must be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading. Application: Oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks.
2. An individual must be able to perceive the origin of sound. Application: Movement of large animals in a pen or corral; monitoring multiple patients in an ICU.
**Proprioception.**

1. An individual must be able to determine the position of one hand extended from the body within ±10° when the arm is extended in any direction, the eyes are closed, and the individual is standing. Application: Rectal palpation on both large and small animals; intrathoracic or intra-abdominal surgery on both large and small animals; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection.

2. An individual must be able to differentiate between four round semisolid objects having diameters of 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2 cm and judge the shape and consistency of objects when the arm is extended and the eyes are closed. Application: Determining size of the follicle or corpus luteum on the bovine ovary by rectal palpation; assisting in surgery; rectal palpation in dogs; lymph node palpation; palpation of trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size.

**Body Function**

**Speech.**

An individual must be able to speak English and be understood by others who cannot see the lips or facial expressions of the individual. Application: Oral communications in a surgery room where all occupants are wearing surgical masks; managing a patient with cardiac arrest.

**Coordinated movement**

1. An individual must be able, when communicating with other individuals by speech, either in person or by telephone, to make legible written notes in English within the margins and space provided on the appropriate forms. Application: Completing medical records and charts; anesthesia records.

2. An individual must be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. Application: Make a single, clean 3 cm incision of ±0.5 cm through the skin of a dog; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous catheters.

3. An individual must be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string. Application: Hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00 silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine; apply bandages.

4. An individual must be able to move his/her entire body a distance of no less than three meters within two seconds of a signal to do so. Application: Movement from danger while handling animals in confined spaces.

**Physical stamina**

An individual must be able to lift objects and/or animals weighing 0-5 pounds constantly; 5-20 pounds frequently; 20-50 pounds occasionally. An individual must be able to lift all of the above to a height of one meter and carry the object or animal for a distance of two meters. Application: Placing a dog on a surgery table; lifting the leg of an adult horse to conduct a physical examination of the foot; lifting and carrying a bag weighing approximately 35 pounds of drugs, equipment and supplies from an ambulatory service
vehicle to an animal patient in a nearby barn or lot; restrain a small animal patient for a medical procedure; restrain horses and cattle by halter, twitch, nose tongs and other techniques; administer oral medication to ruminants by balling gun or does syringe.

**Allergy and/or fear**
An individual must be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and the environments in which they are housed and treated. During such contact, the individual must be able to carry out routine medical care on such animals.

**APPEALS PROCESS**

The purpose of this document is to set forth the review procedure for adverse determinations made pursuant to the PUCVM Technical Standards for Enrollment and Participation in the Veterinary Medical and Veterinary Technology Curricula. Any individual who is not allowed to enroll in the Veterinary Medical or Veterinary Technology program of the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine ("PUCVM") because of a failure to satisfy any of the technical standards as described in the PUCVM Technical Standards for Enrollment and Participation in the Veterinary Medical and the Veterinary Technology Curricula may appeal the determination utilizing the procedures that follow. Additionally, these procedures are also applicable to students enrolled in any course in the Veterinary Medical and Veterinary Technology Curricula and who have received a failing grade in such a course because of an adverse determination pursuant to the PUCVM Technical Standards for Enrollment and Participation in the Veterinary Medical and Veterinary Technology Curricula.

I. Initial Review.

A. Initiating an Appeal. All appeals shall be in writing and directed to the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine. The written appeal must be received by the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine within 10 working days of notification of an adverse determination. The written appeal must include the following information:
   1. A clear and unequivocal statement that the prospective student/student is seeking review of an adverse determination regarding a technical standard;
   2. the technical standard involved; and
   3. the basis of the appeal (i.e., whether the validity of the technical standard itself is being challenged or whether some error is asserted regarding the methodology of testing for satisfaction of the technical standard).

B. Review Board. Within five working days of receipt of a written appeal, the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine shall appoint a Review Board. The Review Board shall be chaired by the Dean or designee. The Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine shall appoint six additional members who were not involved in making the determination being reviewed. One member must be a PUCVM department head of a department where the technical standard is essential. One member shall be a representative of the Purdue University Office of the Dean of Students who are familiar with the requirements of the
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. One member shall be a representative of the Purdue University Student Health Center and be skilled in the area of the technical standard being questioned. One member shall be a currently enrolled student of the College of Veterinary Medicine. One member shall be a PUCVM faculty member who does not have major administrative responsibilities. The Chair of the Academic Standards, Scholarships, and Awards Committee shall also be a member of the Review Board.

C. Procedure for Appeal Hearing. Within ten working days of appointing a Review Board, the Chair of the Review Board (i.e., the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine or designee) shall determine the date, time and location for the appeal hearing. The appeal hearing shall be held within thirty days of initiation of the appeal. The prospective student/student who is seeking review of an adverse determination regarding a technical standard shall be notified, via certified mail return receipt requested, of the date, time, and location of the appeal hearing at least ten working days before the appeal hearing. The prospective student/student must be present for the appeal hearing. The prospective student/student may have an advisor present at the appeal hearing. The prospective student/student may be represented at the appeal hearing by an attorney. The chair of the Admissions Committee or the faculty member most involved in the challenged decision may also be represented by an attorney at the appeal hearing. The Chair of the Review Board shall be notified of such representation at least five working days prior to the appeal hearing.

D. Appeal Hearing. During the appeal hearing, the prospective student/student shall be required to present the basis for the appeal. The prospective student/student shall be required to demonstrate the ability to satisfy a technical standard. The chair of the Admissions Committee or the faculty member most involved in the challenged decision shall attend the appeal hearing in order to present the basis for the initial determination and present such evidence as is considered to be appropriate in support of the initial determination.

E. Final Determination. Following the appeal hearing, the Chair of the Review Board (i.e., the Dean of the College of Veterinary medicine or designee) shall seek the advice and recommendations of the review board in closed session. The Dean shall, within five working days of the appeal hearing, inform the prospective student/student of the final determination in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested. A copy of the final determination shall also be provided to the chairperson of the Admissions Committee or to the involved faculty member.

II. Further Review.

A. Prospective students of the Veterinary Medical or Veterinary Technology program of the Purdue University College of Veterinary medicine (i.e., those who have not been allowed to enroll for failure to satisfy a technical standard) may seek further review of an adverse determination pursuant to the PUCVM Technical Standards.
B. Students enrolled in any course in the Veterinary Medical and Veterinary Technology curricula and who have received a failing grade in such a course because of an adverse determination pursuant to the PUCVM Technical Standards may seek further review via the Purdue University grade appeals system as set forth in University Regulations.

(Source: Faculty Document 93-5[a] and other related documents)