

## Return to Program Readiness

Students should return from a leave of absence when it is determined they are ready. Following a prolonged medical leave (greater than one month), this written declaration of readiness to return to the program will be required as a condition of returning to the clinical year training program. The form must be completed by a treating physician/practitioner with whom the student is working, and sent to the Clinical Year Leave Committee (CYLC).

AES may (with student's consent) contact the treating physician/practitioner for further details or clarifications, especially if any modifications to training have been proposed.

Essential Skills and Abilities Required for the Veterinary Medicine D.V.M. Program and SVMA by-laws regarding fitness to practice should be read before completing this form (please see attached).

### Section 1: Student Information

Name:	
NSID:	
Program:	
Academic Year:	

### Section 2: Information on the Return from the Leave of Absence

Expected Date of Return: <i>Student must provide adequate notice of their return to the Associate Dean Clinical Programs Office.</i>	<a href="#">Click here to enter a date.</a>
Is the student able to return to work/training schedule? <i>If the answer is <u>other than Yes, full time</u>, please see the WCVM Disability Accommodation Policy.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, full time <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, with accommodations (following the WCVM Disability Accommodation Policy) <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the student able to perform all of the functions of his/her training as defined in the Essential Skills and Abilities document?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the student able to return to work/training without posing a significant risk or substantial harm to him/herself or others?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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### Section 3: Physician or Practitioner Information

Name:	
Address:	
Field of Specialty:	

### Essential skills and abilities required in D.V.M. program

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan is responsible to society to provide a program of study that produces graduates with the knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to practice veterinary medicine.

- Graduates are expected to diagnose and manage health conditions in a wide variety of animal species.
- Graduates must provide compassionate care to animals and be able to communicate clearly with owners, regulatory agencies and others.
- Graduates must also meet licensing requirements and pass licensing examinations.

While a disability should not preclude a student from consideration for admission, disabilities must not prevent the student from:

- communicating with owners of animals and colleagues
- observing patients
- collecting and analyzing clinical data
- performing medical and surgical treatments
- maintaining animal and human safety
- demonstrating appropriate judgment during the veterinary training process

Applicants to the degree program in veterinary medicine should be familiar with the essential skills and abilities required for the study of veterinary medicine.

### Essential Skills and Abilities Required for the Study of Veterinary Medicine

Candidates for the DVM degree must demonstrate a number of essential skills and abilities.

**1. Observation:** The student must be able to participate in learning situations that require observational skills. In particular, students must be able to observe animals and acquire visual, auditory and tactile information from their examinations.

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**2. Communication:** Students must be able to acquire an adequate history from an owner. Students must be able to hear and observe their animal patients in order to effectively collect information and describe the findings.

**3. Motor skills:** The student must demonstrate sufficient motor function to be able to perform a physical examination on an animal that may include palpation, auscultation, percussion and diagnostic procedures including examination with an ophthalmoscope, otoscope or stethoscope on large and small animals. Students must be reasonably able to execute motor movements to achieve general proficiency with surgical therapy and other related therapies.

**4. Intellectual conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities:** The student must demonstrate the cognitive skills and memory necessary to measure, calculate, analyze, integrate and synthesize information. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend dimensional and spatial relationships. There are diagnostic, problem-solving activities commonly encountered during the DVM program that will need to be executed in a timely fashion.

**5. Non-technical attributes:** Veterinary students must consistently demonstrate non-technical skills, knowledge and aptitudes that allow them to interact with clients, collect histories, apply sound judgment and complete responsibilities in the diagnosis and treatment of animals. Students must be able to develop effective relationships with owners, staff and colleagues.

This policy exists to ensure students entering the DVM program are aware of the requirements necessary for the study of veterinary medicine, and that they have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program and earn a DVM degree.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to facilitating the integration of students with disabilities into this college community. Each student with a disability is entitled to reasonable accommodation that will assist him or her to meet the requirements for graduation from the college.

Reasonable accommodation will be made to facilitate each student's progress. Such accommodation, however, can not compromise animal well-being or the safety of the people involved. Therefore, it may not be possible to accommodate all disabilities and allow for successful completion of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program.

### Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association Bylaw

12.5. Member responsibilities to the profession:

- e. Members who are impaired or whose performance is adversely affected by physical or mental health conditions shall not act in the capacity of a veterinarian or veterinary technologist and shall seek assistance from qualified organizations or individuals. Colleagues of impaired members or

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non-members should encourage those individuals to seek assistance and to overcome their impairment.

### **REFERENCES**

SVMA Bylaws, September 7, 2018