

Evaluation of Veterinary Education in the USA



Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World
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AVMA Accreditation of Veterinary Colleges

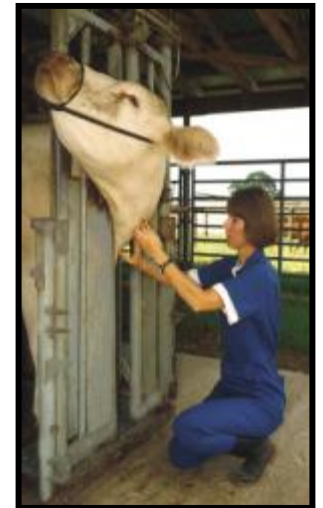


- Overview of accreditation history
- Accreditation standards
- Accreditation process
- Commentary and conclusions

Accreditation in the US



- AVMA initiated *accreditation* process in 1921
- AVMA's Council on Education (COE) recognized by US Department of Education as official accrediting agency for veterinary education in USA since 1952.
- Partnership with Canadian VMA
- Currently 42 colleges are accredited
 - 28 in US
 - 5 in Canada
 - 9 foreign



AVMA – COE Accreditation



Provides assurance that graduates of accredited veterinary medical programs are:

- Firmly based in the fundamental principles, basic knowledge, and physical & mental skills of veterinary medicine.
- Able to apply these fundamentals to solve veterinary medical problems in different species.



Council on Education



- Composed of 20 volunteer members elected by the AVMA House of Delegates
- Membership includes academicians, private practitioners, researchers, public health veterinarians, Canadian VMA representative, 3 public members
- One, non-voting liaison from the AAVMC (Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges)

Standards of Accreditation



- Colleges of veterinary medicine are evaluated based on compliance with 11 standards.
- Educational programs are not compared across institutions but are evaluated by comparison to each standard.



Accreditation Standards



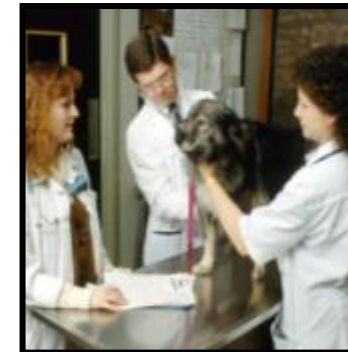
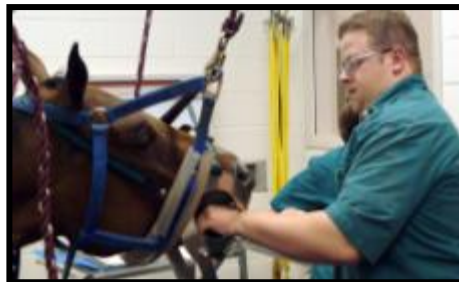
- Accreditation standards *reflect the needs of society*
 - Developed with input from many groups including the public, veterinary profession and academic veterinary medicine
- Standards are reviewed on a regular cycle for adequacy & relevancy



11 Accreditation Standards



- Organization
- Finances
- Physical Facilities and Equipment
- Clinical Resources
- Library and Information Resources
- Students
- Admissions
- Faculty
- Curriculum
- Research Programs
- Outcomes Assessment



Accreditation Procedure



- Self-study document prepared by the college
- COE site team visits the college
- Report of Evaluation prepared for consideration by full Council
- Classification of accreditation assigned for up to 7 years with annual reporting

Categories of Accreditation



- Reasonable Assurance
- Provisional Accreditation
- Full Accreditation
- Limited Accreditation
- Terminal Accreditation



Commentary



- The COE accreditation process is similar to those used in Europe, Australasia, and other areas with similar societal needs and expectations.
- Common global accreditation standards cannot accommodate widely dissimilar societal needs
- Many countries may not be prepared for the application of global accreditation standards
- The AVMA *accreditation model* might be applied in multiple situations but the *accreditation standards* would have to be customized to the needs and expectations of the specific country or region where they are applied.

Conclusion



The AVMA:

- Endorses **minimum educational standards** to meet the need for effective national veterinary services in all countries
- Stands ready to assist in further development of this process

However:

We should not confuse *minimum educational standards* with *accreditation of colleges* of veterinary medicine.

