

APPENDIX A TO U.W.-MADISON SVM
ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

CODE OF STUDENT ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Preamble – The purpose of this code is to promote ethical standards of personal conduct among veterinary medical students at the University of Wisconsin. This code shall apply to all students in the School of Veterinary Medicine and to all conduct which may reflect upon the individual student, the School of Veterinary Medicine or the veterinary medical profession.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

1.Professional ethics. Upon entering veterinary medical school, an individual begins his or her career as a veterinarian. Veterinary medical students shall maintain the highest standards of honor and ethical behavior and shall conduct themselves in a manner which is consistent with the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as set forth by the American Veterinary Medical Association. These principles are the “foundation of individual and collective efforts” as veterinary practitioners.

2.Commitment to Learning. Veterinary medical students shall be committed to the acquisition of knowledge and the development of skills necessary to effectively deal with animal health care needs. The teaching design, which may involve the use of laboratory animals, will be at the discretion of and under the authorization of the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine. Faculty members will decide what instructional methods will best prepare students with the necessary professional knowledge and skills.

Students, in their learning endeavors, shall share classroom responsibilities, opportunities and materials with other veterinary medical students.

3.Regard for animal life. A major objective of the veterinary medical profession is the promotion of regard for animal life. Students shall abide by state law which prohibits treating any animal in a cruel manner. This does not preclude the appropriate use of animals in teaching or bona fide scientific research. As a member of the health care team, veterinary medical students will be given responsibility for some aspects of patient care. In assuming this responsibility, the students shall follow through to the full extent of their abilities. Students shall provide veterinary medical care only while under the supervision of a qualified instructor, except in an emergency, when students should render service to the best of their ability.

4.Interpersonal relationships. Veterinary medical students shall communicate with other students, allied professionals and the public so as to merit their full confidence and respect. Students shall be courteous and demonstrate initiative and interest while establishing rapport with clients. The integrity of clients and the confidentiality of their communications shall be respected. In addition to possessing and utilizing verbal communication skills, veterinary medical students should be aware that appearance and behavior are powerful nonverbal communicators. High standards of dress and hygiene, and avoidance of abusive language or behavior, are aspects of professionalism expected of veterinary medical students.

Students shall treat all persons with whom they come in contact fairly and with respect, regardless of sex, race, age, religion, social or ethnic background or physical handicaps.

5. Limitation of student professional activities. Students shall provide veterinary medical care only while under the supervision of an authorized person. While enrolled in the School of Veterinary Medicine, students shall not solicit payments for veterinary medical services performed. Pharmaceuticals, instruments and equipment belonging to the School of Veterinary Medicine shall not be used by students except in class-associated activities, unless special permission has been given by an authorized member of the faculty.

6. Fairness and honesty. In the pursuit and achievement of all academic and professional matters, students shall act fairly and honestly. Students shall not unfairly advance their academic status by receiving or giving unauthorized aid on examinations, denying others preparatory materials, feigning illness to postpone an examination or plagiarizing materials. Students believed to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to the disciplinary process outlined in University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Disciplinary Guidelines and Chapter UWS 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Students shall not falsify any documents, including medical records, or data contained in them. Students shall recognize that patient hospital records constitute confidential and official records and shall act accordingly.

Veterinary medical students shall make available to their colleagues the benefit of any professional knowledge and experience which might enhance others' knowledge and improve the quality of animal care. There shall be no misrepresentation of the work of other students. Students shall avoid influences or conflicts of interest which might compromise the free exercise of their professional judgment and skills, jeopardize their professional standing, or diminish the quality of patient care.

7. Respect for property. Students shall conduct themselves in accordance with existing laws and regulations relating to University property and the property of other individuals. These policies provide, among other things, that students shall not damage or destroy library books or other University property or property of another member of the University community. Students believed to have violated University policies relating to non-academic misconduct or conduct on University lands shall be dealt with in accordance with University of Wisconsin-Madison Student Disciplinary Guidelines and Chapters UWS 17 and 18 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Approved by Faculty Vote
September 17, 1984
Amended June 23, 1992