



University of Missouri

College of Veterinary Medicine

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& EVENTSAccreditation Renewed for MU
College of Veterinary Medicine

The American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (AVMA COE) has renewed University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine's full accreditation status. The AVMA COE is recognized as the accrediting body for schools and programs that offer the professional DVM degree or its equivalent in the United States and Canada. The COE renews accreditation on a yearly basis and conducts a full evaluation every seven years.

"We were gratified that the site visit team recognized that we do not just meet all standards required for accreditation, but that we are an outstanding organization," said College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Neil C. Olson.

The AVMA COE sent a nine-member assessment team to the MU CVM in May. The objective of the site visit was to verify and supplement information that was presented to the COE in the College's self-study. The College was required to conduct a thorough self-study to assess how well it meets 11 standards, which are: Organization, Finances, Physical Facilities and Equipment, Clinical Resources, Library and Information Resources, Students, Admission, Faculty, Curriculum, Research Programs and Outcomes Assessment.

For the self-evaluation report, the College was asked to:

- State the major goals and objectives of the college, and comment on how they are being met.
- Describe methods and/or tools used to measure outcomes of the total program of instruction, research, and service.
- List the major strengths and weaknesses of the college.
- Offer recommendations.

As part of the site visits, the AVMA COE team offered recommendations that fall into one of three classifications — must, should and encouraged. The team proposed several improvements for the CVM to implement. Of the COE recommendations, two fell into the must category:

- The College must provide annual updates on the progress toward securing funding for a proposed academic building.
- The College must conduct a holistic review of the curriculum to ensure continued instructional quality and effectiveness in light of the multiple changes made in the preclinical and clinical curriculum.

The site visit team also encouraged the CVM to devise and implement a plan to address space limitations in the anatomy lab, promote the use of professional development opportunities for faculty, and develop more sources of funding to support additional professional students interested in exploring research as a career option.

Olson said that all of the concerns raised by the site team are already being addressed. Retaining accreditation is important, Olson noted, not only to recruit top students and faculty, but also because low-interest federal loans are only available for students enrolled in accredited academic institutions.

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