

4.1.4 Appendix D – Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

a. COE Members and Consultants

No member shall serve on a site visit team who:

- Is a graduate of any program in the institution being evaluated.
- Has collaborative research, teaching, or service interests with a key administrator or faculty member of the institution being evaluated. (Holding a patent interest, shared research grants, and contract teaching are examples of collaboration.)
- Is or has been employed by the institution being evaluated. (Members who have been interviewed for employment at an institution wherein some conflict arose should exclude themselves from consideration as a site visit team member.)
- Has served as a consultant on accreditation matters with the institution being evaluated.
- Has a financial interest or is a fiduciary of an institution or a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
- Is employed or has a consultative relationship with a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
- Is an employee or former (within the past five years) employee of the AVMA.
- Has reason to believe other conflicts of interest exist that have not been listed herein. (The member should communicate with the Chair of the Committee on Evaluation for clarification of any concerns.)

b. AVMA Staff

Although AVMA staff members do not participate directly in decisions regarding accreditation of colleges, they are in a position to influence the outcomes of the process. Conversely staff provides continuity to the evaluation process. No AVMA staff member will serve on a site visit team who:

- Has graduated during the past five years from a college being evaluated.
- Has been employed during the past five years by a college being evaluated.
- Has a financial interest in an institution or a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
- Is employed or has a consultative relationship with a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
- Has close personal or familial relationships with key personnel in the college being evaluated.

c. Public Members

No public member shall be appointed to the COE who is:

- An employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited or preaccredited by the COE or has applied for accreditation or preaccreditation;
- A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with the COE; or
- A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any of the individuals listed above.

All site team members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest Statement/Confidentiality Statement.

AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT
Site Visit Team Member

To assure that all matters dealing with accreditation of colleges of veterinary medicine are conducted in an unbiased manner, the COE has adopted a Conflict of Interest Policy. The policy extends and pertains to those COE members and other site team members who have immediate family (e.g., parents, spouses, and siblings) in any of the potential conflict areas listed.

No COE Members or other site team member shall serve on a site visit team who:

1. Is a graduate of any program in the institution being evaluated.
2. Has collaborative research, teaching, or service interests with a key administrator or faculty member of the institution being evaluated. (Holding a patent interest, shared research grants, and contract teaching are examples of collaboration.)
3. Is or has been employed by the institution being evaluated. (Members who have been interviewed for employment at an institution wherein some conflict arose should exclude themselves from consideration as a site visit team member.)
4. Has served as a consultant on accreditation matters with the institution being evaluated.
5. Has a financial interest or is a fiduciary of an institution or a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
6. Is employed or has a consultative relationship with a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
7. Is an employee or former (within the past five years) employee of the AVMA.
8. Has reason to believe other conflicts of interest exist that have not been listed herein. (The member should communicate with the Chair of the Committee on Evaluation for clarification of any concerns.)

AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT
Site Visit Team Member

In accordance with AVMA policy, all information related to the Council on Education (COE) accreditation of a veterinary medical college is strictly confidential. This includes but is not limited to reports of evaluation, letters, self-evaluation and accreditation materials, interim/annual reports, correspondence, and the content of any discussion related to the veterinary medical college or its accreditation. All requests for information related to a specific institution and/or veterinary medical college must be referred to AVMA staff, or the respective institution.

Freedom of Information Acts which may be applicable in a given state, province, or country do not apply to AVMA confidential information related to the accreditation of veterinary medical colleges. Information requested through such acts may be obtained through due process from the respective institution or state/province/country office.

By signing your name below, you are agreeing to abide by AVMA policy with respect to the accreditation of veterinary medical colleges.

I, _____, on this date _____
signature

have read the conflict of interest policy and confidentiality agreement for COE site visit team members and by signing this document confirm that no conflict exists for me to serve as a site team member in evaluating the _____ College of Veterinary Medicine.

AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT
AVMA Staff Member

Although AVMA staff members do not participate directly in decisions regarding accreditation of colleges, they are in a position to influence the outcomes of the process. Conversely, staff provides continuity to the evaluation process. No AVMA staff member will serve on a site visit team who:

No AVMA Staff Member will serve on a site visit team who:

1. Has graduated during the past five years from a college being evaluated.
2. Has been employed during the past five years by the college being evaluated.
3. Has a financial interest in an institution or a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
4. Is employed or has a consultative relationship with a required educational site or a required educational site's parent organization.
5. Has close personal or familial relationships with key personnel in the college being evaluated.

AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT
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In accordance with AVMA policy, all information related to the Council on Education (COE) accreditation of a veterinary medical college is strictly confidential. This includes but is not limited to reports of evaluation, letters, self-evaluation and accreditation materials, interim/annual reports, correspondence, and the content of any discussion related to the veterinary medical college or its accreditation. All requests for information related to a specific institution and/or veterinary medical college must be referred to AVMA staff, or the respective institution.

Freedom of Information Acts which may be applicable in a given state, province, or country do not apply to AVMA confidential information related to the accreditation of veterinary medical colleges. It is our understanding that information requested through such acts may be obtained through due process from the respective institution or state/province/country office.

By signing your name below, you are agreeing to abide by AVMA policy with respect to the accreditation of veterinary medical colleges.

I have read the conflict of interest policy and confidentiality agreement for AVMA Staff participating as a COE site visit team member and by signing this document confirm no conflict exists for me to serve as a site team member in evaluating the _____.

(Staff Member Name) Signature

Date

AVMA COUNCIL ON EDUCATION CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

FOR PUBLIC MEMBERS

I certify that I am not:

- An employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited or pre-accredited by the Council on Education (COE) or has applied for accreditation or pre-accreditation.
- A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with the COE; or
- A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of any of the individuals listed above.