Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program
Scholastic Standards and Grading Policies and Procedures
Revised March 2016

I. Scholastic Standards Committee

The Scholastic Standards Committee of the DVM Program consists of five faculty members (at least two representing the first two years of the DVM Program and at least two representing the second two years of the DVM Program), and the Associate Dean for Veterinary Academic and Student Affairs (AD) (ex officio). Terms for faculty representatives will be for three years renewable and begin May 15th. The Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences shall, in addition, appoint two DVM student representatives from the 4th year DVM class, also renewable annually and beginning on May 15th. The chair of the committee will be a faculty member serving on the committee, elected annually by all members. This committee recommends to the faculty and to the Dean all academic standards, policies and procedures applicable to DVM students matriculating in the College. The committee serves as an appeals body for all DVM student grievances derived from academic decisions made in the DVM program. The committee also makes recommendations regarding DVM student appeals for readmission.

The College DVM Scholastic Standards and Grading Policies and Procedures document contains material pertinent to academic standards, academic probation, dismissal from the DVM Program, and appeals process. Scholastic standards, policies, and procedures for undergraduate and graduate students in the College are those of the University as described in the Academic Program Guide that contains material pertinent to “Student Rights and Responsibilities” and “Scholastic Standards and Grading”; these policies do not apply to DVM students. Furthermore, the principles and provisions of the Code of Honor of the DVM Students of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences provide guidance for the Scholastic Standards Committee and the administration of the DVM program.

II. Grades and Scoring for VM courses

A. The course coordinator and faculty of the course (with approval from the DVM Curriculum Committee) will identify the objectives, assignments, examinations or subtopics within a course that must be individually mastered. The general guideline for satisfactory mastery of requirements is a score of 69.5% or better (considered to be equivalent to an S/C grade or better). Raw scores may be curved, normalized or otherwise adjusted as necessary to provide a cutoff equivalent to 69.5%.
Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale, beginning with the class of 2016:

- ≥ 89.5%        A
- ≥ 79.5% and < 89.5%  B
- ≥ 69.5% and < 79.5%  C
- ≥ 64.5% and < 69.5%  D
- < 64.5%    F

The following will be applied to the class of 2015:

- 69.5 ≤ S < 100%
- 64.5 ≤ U/D < 69.5%
- F <64.5%

As per university policy, a course coordinator may choose to incorporate +/- grading. University guidelines for grading may be found at: [http://registrar.colostate.edu/media/sites/29/2014/12/Grade-Received-GPA-chart.pdf](http://registrar.colostate.edu/media/sites/29/2014/12/Grade-Received-GPA-chart.pdf)

Course coordinators may modify these grading scales at their discretion. The grading strategy, whether conventional or modified, must be defined in the course syllabus. Course coordinators may modify at their discretion. The grading strategy, whether conventional or modified, must be defined in the course syllabus.

B. For all classes, student performance within junior practicum is assessed using a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) designation. Junior practicum is not included in the courses used to establish class standing.

C. A grade of U/D is assigned when the total number of points earned is ≥ 64.5 and < 69.5%, with 69.5% being the passing grade. In those courses in which a passing grade (equivalent to a C grade or better) is other than 69.5%, the percentages associated with a U/D grade must be specified in the course syllabus.

D. A grade of F is assigned when a student demonstrates a major performance deficiency as determined by the course coordinator and course instructors. A failing grade (F) will be assigned when the total number of points earned is < 64.5%. In those courses in which a passing grade (equivalent to a(n) S/C grade or better) is other than 69.5%, the percentages associated with an F grade must be specified.

E. If a student receives a U/D or F grade in an elective course, the student will not be able to remediate and will not receive credit for the course. The U/D or F grade will be recorded on the transcript and will count toward overall GPA (beginning with the class of 2016) as well as the maximum allowance of 10 U/D credits. If the grade in the elective course results in an overall GPA < 2.0, the student will be placed on academic probation. The student must attain a cumulative GPA ≥ 2.0 by the end of the subsequent semester.
Failure to achieve a cumulative GPA ≥ 2.0 within 1 semester will result in academic dismissal.

F. A grade of I is assigned when a student has not yet finished the requirements of a course because of illness or extenuating circumstances. This grade is NOT to be used when a student cannot achieve satisfactory academic standing in the course.

G. CSU Registrar policies apply to course withdrawal options.

H. Please see the DVM policy entitled Grading, Senior Practicum Evaluations, Student Course Rank and Class Standing. Junior DVM students ranking in the top ten percentile or better and Senior DVM students ranking in the top twenty-five percentile or better may be nominated to Phi Zeta. Special designations at graduation for scholastic performance are determined according to the following University criteria: “Summa Cum Laude”, top one percent of graduates; “Magna Cum Laude”, next three percent of graduates; “Cum Laude”, next six percent of graduates.

III. Academic Standards for the DVM Program

A. Students are required to fulfill all published course requirements for completion of work assignments, successful achievement of evaluation criteria, and attendance during scheduled class time. Course coordinators and departments are responsible for establishing class attendance policies. These policies must accommodate student participation in college sanctioned extracurricular or co-curricular activities. Details relevant to attendance are outlined in the CVMBS DVM Class Attendance Policy. In the event of a dispute under this policy, individuals may appeal using procedures described under Appeal Processes for the DVM Program.

B. Students may be required to pass a comprehensive final examination if such is offered and/or required by the instructor(s) in a course. A practical examination may be required by the practicum coordinator to evaluate the proficiency of the students in the procedures taught during the junior and senior practicum.

C. For the junior and senior practicum, each rotation is an assignment that must be fully attended and mastered. Each faculty member responsible for a senior practicum rotation must complete a written critique of performance for each student, and assign a grade. The critique and grade must be submitted to the junior/senior practicum coordinator no later than two weeks after the end of the rotation for which the grade is given. An unexcused absence or unsatisfactory performance in one rotation (a U/D grade) would require makeup. A second unexcused absence or unsatisfactory performance would be the basis for an F grade and lead to academic dismissal. A U/D grade may be assigned to a student by the faculty junior/senior practicum coordinator for an unexcused absence from junior or senior practicum orientation. For the junior practicum, two U grades earned in a semester will result in a grade of F and lead to academic dismissal. For the senior
practicum, two U/D grades earned anytime in the 4th year will result in a grade of F and lead to academic dismissal.

If a student receives a U/D grade for a rotation, the faculty overseeing the rotation will convey the grade and a written evaluation to the student and to the junior/senior practicum coordinator within one week of the end of the rotation. Within one week of receiving the information, the junior/senior practicum coordinator must record the grade and return one copy of the full evaluation to the student, and inform the Associate Dean for Veterinary Academic and Student Affairs of the student’s performance. The goal of this process should be to identify limitations, strategies for improvement and resources required so that the student may optimize opportunities for success during a make-up rotation, if the grade did not result in dismissal from the program. The faculty member assigning the grade should inform the student that he/she must consult with the practicum coordinator to schedule a make-up rotation within eight weeks of receiving the failing grade, and that he/she may appeal the grade (see Scholastic Standards Policy Section IV). All communications are to be documented in writing for inclusion in the student record.

D. To graduate, students must maintain good academic standing within the DVM Program by achieving a(n) S or C grade (≥ 69.5%) for all required course work in the professional curriculum. Each semester in the DVM program is considered a prerequisite to the next.

E. A student whose scholastic progress is unsatisfactory (as judged by the criteria in the following sections) will be subject to probation or dismissal. The AD will monitor academic progress of each student and will forward information on any unsatisfactory progress to the Scholastic Standards Committee for review. The Committee will forward a recommendation for action (based on the following criteria) to the AD, who will notify each student of all actions taken.

i. Academic Probation/Academic Warning

1. Academic probation signifies a level of performance that, if continued, will lead to academic dismissal. Students will be placed on academic probation when they receive one U/D grade for the purpose of monitoring and counseling by the AD, which may include discussions regarding learning disability assistance, tutoring, psychological support and time management/study skills, as appropriate.

2. The U/D grade may be converted to a(n) S/C either by additional scholastic work, successful completion of a re-examination, or both as determined by the course coordinator in consultation with course instructors. The remediation may be an isolated exercise (i.e. successful remediation does not require integration of the remediation score into the overall course grade). Regardless of the performance on the
remediation exercise, the highest grade that may replace the U/D grade is an S/C (69.5%). Successful remediation will terminate probationary status. Re-examinations and make-up assignments to correct performance deficiencies should be coordinated by the AD and the course coordinator for review of the basis for a U or D grade and approval of the prescribed corrective plan. The DVM Scholastic Standards Committee should be notified of the remediation by the AD.

3. Failure to correct the deficiencies within 30 days (or within a time designated by the coordinator that is not to exceed 60 days) following the last official instructional day of the semester in which the U or D grade is received results in automatic conversion to an F, with the following exception: repetition of a junior or senior practicum rotation may be required to resolve the U/D grade, but the next opportunity to participate in that rotation may only occur more than 30 days following the last official instructional day of the semester. In that case, the student and course coordinator must create a written agreement no later than 30 days following the end of the semester that defers resolution of the U/D until the rotation can be repeated.

4. A student who accumulates seven credits of U and/or D in core courses in the DVM Program, even if they are converted to S/C grades, will be given an academic warning indicating that the accumulation of three more credits of U and/or D in core courses will lead to dismissal, regardless of his/her percentile rank. As indicated in section III.C, two U grades in one semester for rotations in the junior practicum, and two U/D grades in one year for rotations in the senior practicum, would be the basis for an F grade and lead to academic dismissal, regardless of cumulative U and/or D grades.

ii. Academic Dismissal
   1. Students will be dismissed who
      a. Do not clear academic probation within the specified time period by either reverting a U/D to an S/C grade, or raising the cumulative GPA $\geq 2.0$ within one academic semester
      b. Receive the grade of F in any required VM course; or
      c. Accumulate 10 or more credits of U and/or D in required VM courses.

iii. Dismissal Process
   1. The Scholastic Standards Committee and the Dean will be notified by the AD that the student has entered the dismissal process, by meeting one of the above criteria.
2. Should the student wish to appeal the dismissal, he/she must to document, in writing, any extenuating circumstances that should be taken into consideration during the review of the case. Additionally, the student must identify the factors contributing to poor academic performance and strategies for resolution/management of the factors to ensure future academic success. The student will then be invited to appear in person before the committee to make a brief statement during the academic dismissal proceedings.

3. Recommendations for action concerning each case will be given to the AD by the Scholastic Standards Committee.

4. The AD will send a letter to the student indicating the Scholastic Standards Committee decision regarding dismissal and, if applicable, the basis for and effective date of such action, as well as the procedures and requirements for petitioning for readmission as described under Section IV.

5. If the appeal is successful, the probationary conditions and academic requirements of readmission will be specified in a letter to the student from the AD. Any decision regarding readmission may be contingent upon the successful completion of that plan and rests with the AD.

6. The policy describing tuition payment and student categorization in the case of provisional dismissal can be viewed on the DVM student resources page: [http://csu-cvmbs.colostate.edu/Documents/dvm-policy-provisional-dismissal.pdf](http://csu-cvmbs.colostate.edu/Documents/dvm-policy-provisional-dismissal.pdf)

7. Should readmission be granted, regardless of the grades achieved for repeated course work, the highest grade that may replace the D grade is a C or 69.5% (or in the case of junior practicum, the highest grade that may replace the U grade is an S).

IV. Appeal Processes for the DVM Program

A. Appeal of an Individual Course Grade
   i. A student with an academic grievance concerning a course(s) grade shall follow the procedures described under Grading and Grade Appeals in the University Catalog, with the following exceptions.
      1. For courses that employ more than one instructor, the official course coordinator is the instructor of record.
      2. The petitioning student has the responsibility to initiate each appeal in writing to the AD before the first day of classes of the next academic semester.
      3. The DVM Scholastic Standards Committee shall serve as the Appeals Committee.
   ii. The AD will send a letter to the student and instructor(s) indicating the decision of the Scholastic Standards Committee and the reasons for the decision within 30
calendar days of committee decision. The decision of the committee is the final decision of the University.

B. Appeal for Readmission of Students Dismissed for Academic Reasons
   i. The appeal for readmission shall be in the form of a letter addressed to the Dean of College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences stating the case for readmission. The DVM student psychologist will be available for consultation by the student to develop the appeal. A detailed plan for making up unsatisfactory academic performance in the courses that led to dismissal must be included in the appeal letter.
   ii. The Dean will review the student’s appeal for readmission and the plan proposed to correct academic deficiencies. The decision of the Dean is the final decision of the University.
   iii. If the appeal is successful, the probationary conditions and academic requirements of readmission will be specified in a letter to the student from the Dean. Any decision regarding readmission may be contingent upon the successful completion of that plan and rests with the Dean.
   iv. Should readmission be granted, regardless of the grades achieved for repeated course work, the highest grade that may replace the D grade is a C or 69.5% (or in the case of junior practicum, the highest grade that may replace the U grade is an S).