

Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences
Report on Assessment Activities
2001-02 & 2002-03 academic years

Current list of learning outcomes

- A. The ability of students to practice the following skills was considered as the desired outcome for our students.

Writing	Apply math and statistics
Listening	Use computers in veterinary medicine field
Public speaking	Use new technologies in science
Critical thinking	Interact with diverse groups of people
Lifelong learning	Work cooperatively in groups
Analyze ideas and issues	Provide leadership
Discuss ideas and issues	Planning and organizing
Conflict resolution	Understand international issues related to veterinary medicine
Problem solving	Clarify personal ethics and integrity
Conducting research on topics	
Use library resources	

- B. In addition, the ability to matriculate successfully through the curriculum of an accredited college of veterinary medicine was considered another essential learning outcome.

Assessment Method

In each of the past two years, a survey was conducted of all the students enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at Kansas State University (KSU), who completed their pre-veterinary studies in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences (VBMS) at UNL. A meeting was scheduled with these students on the KSU campus and the purpose of the survey was explained. The survey was administered to all the other Nebraska residents enrolled in the KSU CVM, who completed their pre-veterinary studies in other UNL departments or at other universities. Copies of the survey instrument were left for students that were absent, and they were returned by mail. The survey instrument was developed with the assistance of the UNL Assessment Coordinator, Dr. Jessica Jonson.

The KSU CVM Dean's office also provided data on the grade point averages (GPA) and graduate record examination (GRE) scores, for all students in the four classes in the CVM.

Additionally, they provided data regarding the leadership activities of the students. It was therefore possible to compare the performances of the VBMS Department majors to other groups of students, specifically UNL students who did not major in Veterinary Science, Nebraska residents who completed their pre-veterinary studies at institutions other than UNL, Kansas residents enrolled in the KSU CVM, and other KSU CVM students who were residents of states other than Nebraska or Kansas (At-Large Students).

The UNL Nebraska Evaluation and Research (NEAR) Center analyzed the survey data. The VBMS Curriculum Committee evaluated the results of these surveys and the written comments, as well as the statistical analyses.

Conclusions from assessment activities

The survey results provided strong support that the learning outcomes were being successfully accomplished, as reflected by the self-assessments of the students. Additionally, the analyzes of the performance data, i.e. GPA, GRE, and leadership data provided by the KSU CVM Dean's office, demonstrated the students who completed their pre-veterinary studies in the VBMS department performed as well as those in the other categories, i.e. not statistically better or worse than the other groups, with one exception. The At-Large Students had significantly higher GPA and GRE scores than the students in all of the other categories of students enrolled in the KSU CVM, including the UNL VBMS majors.

A significant adjustment that was made in the VBMS department as a result of these surveys was to expand the number of faculty and staff members actively involved in advising the undergraduate majors. Additionally, a new orientation course was instituted for incoming students to provide a venue for proactive advising of new students, and to advise them about career options. No substantial changes have been made in the curriculum.

A comparable survey of VBMS graduates who did not go on to veterinary college is being planned for the future.