



# Veterinary Medical Technology Program Student Handbook

Subject: Guidelines for pregnant or temporary disabled veterinary students.

Section: Academic Undergrad (VMT)

Number: 8.15

Pages: 3

Date: January 2013

Replaces Policy Dated: N/A

To Be Reviewed Yearly by: VMT Director, CVM  
Policies and Procedures Committee

Source: VMTP Student Handbook

Cross Reference:

## *Guidelines for pregnant or temporary disabled veterinary students:*

The potential for human injury always exist in the practice of veterinary medicine, and the risk increases whenever an involved person is pregnant or temporarily disabled from any cause; i.e., broken leg, disease. The greatest hazards, which can occur while working with animal patients or equipment, are accidents that result in injury to the student and/or her unborn child. Added hazards in several courses of the veterinary college curriculum include exposure to toxic drugs, infectious agents, inhalation anesthetics, radiation, \*and other agents.

*The pregnant/temporarily-disabled student should:*

1. Contact a physician immediately to get recommendations to minimize exposure to the hazards associated with the veterinary student's assignments.
2. Provide a signed statement from the physician, which defines, permitted limits of exposure to possible hazards during pregnancy or period of disability.
3. Inform the VMT Administration of pregnancy or temporary disability as early as possible in order that steps may be taken to conform to the plan developed by the physician and to take advantage of available options.

Available options:

1. **Withdrawal as a student.** It is strongly recommended that the pregnant or temporarily disabled student withdraw until the completion of pregnancy or resolution of the disability. The student could resume classes and graduate at the completion of all rotations. This option minimizes the potential for injury and resulting legal actions.

**2. Continuation as a regular student with some schedule and assignment changes.**

This option may delay the time of graduation. This option may have risks. This option is dependent on:

- a) Changes in an individual's schedule of clinical assignments prepared in advance for an entire calendar year.
- b) Permission of the faculty rotation leaders to change the individual's clinical assignments.
- c) Willingness of classmates to exchange scheduled assignments with the pregnant/temporarily disabled student.
- d) Certification by an attending physician of any constraints and the individual's physical ability to continue full participation in all aspects of the educational program.
- e) A written "hold harmless" agreement signed by both the student and the student's spouse/child's father.

**Rights and Responsibilities:**

1. The pregnant/temporarily disabled student has rights and responsibilities for decisions concerning his/her condition and behavior based on a physician's subsequent assessment of circumstances.
2. The affected student is expected to complete each and every requirement of the veterinary curriculum by a schedule of plan that can be implemented and by which the risks are deemed assumable by the student and his/her attending physician.
3. A faculty member may refuse to allow a pregnant or temporarily disabled student to participate in assignments or activities whenever, in that faculty member's judgment, there exists a high potential for accidents or exposure to hazards.
4. The faculty member may insist under these circumstances that a physician inform the pregnant or temporarily disabled student of the potential hazards.
5. Copies of all documents pertaining to a pregnant/temporarily disabled student's assignment must be maintained in the student's file.

\*Guidelines by the Bureau of Radiation Control, Mississippi Board of Radiation.

Approved by: Kent H Hoblet 5/13/2013  
Kent Hoblet, Dean Date  
College of Veterinary Medicine