



CHANGES FOR 2020

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AVDC General Policies Regarding Changes in Training Program Requirements

1. *All Changes within this document come into effect January 1, 2020.*
2. Changes are either **Major** or **Minor**.
 - a. A **Major** change affects the **substance** of a training program or credentials requirement, for example reducing or increasing the number of cases required in a particular MRCL category, changing the number of required publications, etc.
 - b. **Minor** changes affect the **format** of a training program or credential's requirement, such as requiring that only AVDC-approved abbreviations are used in AVDC Case Log Diagnosis and Procedure fields in the online case log. For **Minor** changes, residents are **not** required to change AVDC case log records that already exist, though they are encouraged to do so if the changes are made to facilitate review of case log records by the Training Support or Credentials Committees. Additional **Minor** changes can include different formatting of radiograph sets, submission documentation of publication requirement, points of clarification to already standing AVDC policy, etc.
3. **Major** changes are not retroactive – i.e. they do not apply to residents whose AVDC-approved training program registered start date is earlier than the date on which a change was implemented. However, a resident can elect to follow the changed requirements if s/he decides to do so, as some **Major** changes are to the advantage of both new and current residents. *Major changes within this document apply only to residents registered with AVDC on January 1st, 2020 or later; residents registered prior to that date can elect to make use of any Major change if they would like to do so.*
4. **Minor** changes are to be instituted by *all residents* starting January 1 of the year of the change.
5. Changes noted below **apply to both Equine and NSS-SA diploma programs** unless specifically stated otherwise. **Changes that apply only to the small animal program are in red type.** **Changes that apply only to the equine program are in blue type and/or listed under the Equine Program changes section.**
6. AVDC takes seriously reporting and fee payment requirements, such as response to Action Required notifications associated with Annual Report reviews, submission/approval of Radiograph Sets and payment of Annual Fees. The status of residents not in compliance will be reviewed by the TSC chair and recommendations made to the Board of Directors; registration as a resident or active residency status may be cancelled for non-compliance with AVDC requirements.

Consequences Resulting From Not Meeting Training Program Requirements That Include a Deadline

If the stated submission timelines are not met, the status of the resident's training program registration will be reviewed by the Training Support Committee (TSC) chair. In the absence of an acceptable explanation for missing the deadline and a plan to correct the non-compliance, registration of the training program may be suspended. During the period when registration as an active resident is suspended, accumulation of Specialty Training Hours, Visitation Hours/Diplomate-supervised clinical service time and Case Logging will not be permitted. Also, the six year case logging 'clock' will **not** be stopped during a period in which a program registration is suspended by AVDC.

If a training program registration has been suspended and deadlines are missed on a subsequent occasion by that resident, and in the absence of an acceptable explanation for missing the deadline and a plan to correct the deficiency, a resident's program registration may be terminated by the AVDC Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Training Support Committee.

AVDC understands that there are circumstances that may legitimately prevent a resident from being able to complete a required task in the stated time frame; if such circumstances occur, please send an explanatory email note to the Executive Director (ExecSec@AVDC.org).

Important Dates and Deadlines for AVDC Residents and Exam Candidates

No Set Date: Residency application and registration start date: No set annual deadline. The **minimum** duration of a full-time residency program is 30 months. The **maximum** duration of a part-time residency program is six years.

Varies from January 31st – October 1st: Annual Report Submission deadline: Varies from January 31st (for residents planning to credential that year) through October 1st, depending on the registration date of your residency program (see the Annual Report section under the Resident Resources on the webpage). [All equine annual reports are due January 31.](#)

End of first residency year: Submission of Radiograph Set(s): By the end of the first year of registration as a resident.

End of second residency year: The required radiograph sets must be **approved** by the end of the second year.

Pre-Approval Submissions: Submission of items for Credentials Committee Pre-Approval: Specialty Training Hours, Radiograph Sets, and Publications can be submitted from September 15th to May 1st. Pre-approval **remains open** to all from **May 1st through September 15th**, but **residents** will experience a delayed response in review time during this period due to credential package reviews. During this time, review priority will be given to residents submitting a credentials package July 15th of that year. Please note that pre-approval notifications are NOT ensured for July 15th credential packages if the resident submits later than May 1st of that year.

July 15th: **Credentials Applications Deadline:** July 15th each year for full- or part-time residents. Applicants whose applications are approved by the Board are then Candidates, eligible to take the examination the next time it is given. Full-time residents who have completed all residency program requirements except the full 30 month program duration requirement can submit a credentials application by July 15th. If the application is approved as complete except for the 30 month requirement, Provisional Approval will be granted, with the stipulation that the Residency Program Director must confirm that the applicant has met the full 30 month residency requirement before full Approval is granted. Upon Provisional Approval being granted, the applicant becomes eligible as a candidate to take the Phase I examination at the next opportunity.

October 31st: Examination Security Form and Fee – Phase 1: The signed form and examination fee are to be submitted to the Executive Director by October 31st for the Phase 1 Examination.

January: Phase 1 Examination. Multiple choice questions written examination, given online at regional examination centers.

March 1st: **Examination Security Form and Fee – Phase 2:** The signed form and examination fee are to be submitted to the Executive Director by March 1st for the Phase 2 (practical examination). Candidates are eligible for entry to the Phase 2 examination only after passing the Phase 1 examination.

June: Phase 2 Examination. Given at the Oquendo Education Center, Las Vegas June 16-18, 2020, June 15-17, 2021 and June 14-16, 2022.

Changes in Training Support and Annual Report Items

****REQUIREMENT:** Please note this is not a change but a rule that will now be enforced. All AVDC approved residency sites will need to be re-evaluated every 5 years. All approved residency sites with an approval date between July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015 will need to submit a Residency Site Re-Evaluation Form (with supporting documentation), located on the AVDC website under the Diplomat Resources, AVDC Information for Diplomates under the heading Residency program information and forms. This form needs to be submitted via DMS. **The Re-evaluation Form for programs specified above is July 1, 2020.** From this time point forward, please ensure that your approved residency site is kept up to date, or your residency site may lose AVDC approval, which will impact future residents. Please note that if an AVDC approved residency site loses approval during the course of an active resident's program, the active resident will be allowed to finish the program, but the residency site will not have approval for new residents.**

There are no MAJOR or MINOR changes for this year.

UPDATE:

The Board of Directors has approved the creation of two Committees to help in residency and training support. This is an exciting development that is a direct result of the highly productive 2019 Town Hall at the Dental Forum this year. Thank you to all Diplomates that attended as you helped craft these Committees!

The first Committee is the Resident Education Committee as discussed during the 2019 Town Hall meeting at the Forum. This committee will be devoted to providing learning opportunities to all residents.

The second committee is the Residency Program Administrative Committee. This committee will be charged with approving new residency programs, conducting 5 year reviews of residency programs, investigating complaints from either residents or mentors in a current residency program, maintaining guidelines to help mentors and residents handle challenging situations, and supporting the maintenance and growth of high quality residency program within the AVDC.

The Board will be making the necessary changes to the By-Laws in January to formally recognize these committees. Once this is complete, the Board will start reaching out to Diplomates to identify those interested in participating within the new committees.

Changes in Credentials Package Items

****Point of Clarification:** Under no circumstances should a resident use a Diplomate's log in to approve their own MRCL cases. If a mentor and/or resident are found to be engaging in this practice, the residency and residency site will be terminated.**

There are no MAJOR changes this year.

MINOR Change:

1. Photographs have been added to the acceptable list of electronic methods (joining Skype, video, Facetime) necessary for documenting rechecks or removals in EN3, OS3, OR3, OR4, and PR cases.
2. A word limit now applies to publications submitted to the Credentials Committee for review. Original research studies have a maximum limit of 5,000 words, and case series and case reports with in-depth literature reviews have a maximum limit of 8,000 words. This does NOT apply to any publication accepted by a journal. This does NOT apply to publications already pre-approved by the Credentials Committee or submitted to the Credentials Committee prior to January 3, 2020. Word limits do NOT include the publication title, abstract/summary, and references.
3. In the OM category, downgraded OS4 and OS5 excisional biopsies (B/E) and mass removals with biopsy (maxillectomies and mandibulectomies) will only count as incisional biopsies (B/I) when considering the 67% rule for variety.
4. In the category PE4, the GTR membrane type is no longer required to be written.
5. In the category PE4, ridge augmentation for future implant placement is no longer accepted. All cases logged prior to January 3, 2020 will be accepted.
6. In the EN3 category, splinting of an avulsed tooth and providing the owner with a verbal recommendation for endodontic treatment is no longer accepted. Splinting of an avulsed tooth and subsequently performing an endodontic procedure on that tooth is still accepted. This change goes into effect January 3, 2020. All EN3 cases logged earlier than January 3, 2020 as a splinted tooth with a verbal recommendation for endodontic treatment will still be accepted.
7. The use of cadavers to fill MRCL categories has been expanded. The maximum number of cadaver cases to be used within an MRCL log still stands at 5, but 2 cadaver cases can be used in any MRCL category with the following exceptions. The maximum number of cadaver cases in the **PR** category is **4** (unchanged for previous policy), and the maximum number of cadaver cases in the **OR4** category is **1**.
8. Up to 10% of MRCL cases can be approved or supervised by an EVDC Diplomate, ACVS/ECVS Diplomate, DDS, or DMD. The following is NOT a change but a point of clarification: human cases CANNOT be logged as the medical records are protected and cannot be shared.

Changes in Certifying Examination Items

There are no MAJOR or MINOR changes to the certifying examination this year.

Changes in Appeal Items

There are no MAJOR or MINOR changes to appeal items this year.

Changes in Maintenance of Certification Items

There are no MAJOR or MINOR changes to the maintenance of certification items this year.

Changes in Equine Program ONLY

There are no MAJOR or MINOR changes to the equine program this year.