



CHANGES FOR 2019

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AVDC General Policies Regarding Changes in Training Program Requirements

1. *All Changes within this document come into effect January 1, 2019.*
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, 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, 2019 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 Secretary (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 in the [Information for Registered Residents](#) 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: Equipment list, Dental Charts, 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 Secretary 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 Secretary 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 4-6, 2019 and June 16-18, 2020.

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. There are an abundance of residency programs that have not submitted 5-year re-evaluation documentation. A deadline has been set. All approved residency sites with an approval date prior to July 1, 2014 will need to submit a Residency Site Re-Evaluation Form (with supporting documentation), located on the Information for Diplomates webpage under Residency Program Information and Forms. **The Re-evaluation Form for programs registered prior to July 1, 2014 is DUE to the Executive Secretary by July 1, 2019.** 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.**

MAJOR Change:

1. Full-time residents at an AVDC approved residency site no longer need to have the TSC approve their status as a resident. New full-time residents will need to submit a Residency Registration Application form, residency registration fee, and curriculum vitae to the Executive Secretary at the start of their program. Part-time residents will still need to have their program approved by the TSC to ensure that they are capable of meeting all credentialing requirements.
2. The definition for the internship requirement has been clarified further. The "1 year internship or equivalent" can be met 2 ways:
 - a. Completion of a formal 12-month rotating internship program that includes rotations through a broad range of clinical services.
 - b. Practical, post-graduate time (minimum 12 months) in a multi-veterinarian general small animal (NSS-SA residencies) or equine/mixed animal (EQ residencies) hospital/practice that sees a wide range of patients with a variety of disease. The applicant is to provide a detailed description of the time spent at the facility and the range of clinical patients seen, facilities provided, and staff available to consult.
3. **Small Animal Residency Direct Supervision Hours: AVDC/EVDC-Equine Diplomates cannot provide direct supervision hours for small animal residents.**
4. **Small Animal Residency MRCL forms: AVDC/EVDC-Equine Diplomates can only approve equine, livestock, and wildlife/exotic MRCL forms. They cannot approve MRCL forms for cases performed on dogs and cats.**

Changes in Credentials Package Items

MAJOR Change:

1. PE4 category: The use of the periceutical Doxirobe® will now be accepted as part of guided tissue regeneration cases (off label usage) if simultaneously used with bone augmentation materials apical to the Doxirobe® material. The PE4 category does require case variety (67% rule). NOTE: Many commercial guided tissue regeneration membranes labeled for this use are available, and residents are strongly encouraged to use these materials.
2. EN3 category: The EN3 category can contain 2 cadaver cases if necessary. The 67% rule will still apply to the category.
3. Surgery Specialty Hours: A maximum of 16 hours out of the 40 hours required to meet the Small Animal Surgery Specialty Hours can now be acquired with an AVDC OMFS Fellow.
4. Delayed submission: Review articles no longer qualify for delayed submission. Delayed submission can still be used for original research articles and in-depth case reports.

MINOR Change:

If a radiograph set is Not Approved, the specific views that were inadequate as critiqued on the non-approval evaluation form can be retaken on the same cadaver and swapped into the set. The revised set can then be resubmitted. The set should be resubmitted through DMS clearly labeled as a resubmission. The resubmission set will then be reviewed by the same CC review team that reviewed the first submission. Only the images that were inadequate and swapped out will be reviewed the second time. The CC reviewers will utilize the same evaluation form as used for the first set.

Changes in Certifying Examination Items

MAJOR change:

If you have a disability and you will be requesting ADA examination accommodations, the disability form (located within the Information for Registered Residents page within the Examination materials) with the appropriate documentation and list of examination accommodations needs to be submitted to the Executive Secretary 3 months prior to your examination attempt to best ensure that the AVDC Board of Directors and Examination Committee can make arrangements for accommodations if necessary. If you have a chronic disability (>2 years) that will require ADA examination accommodations, accommodations along with the appropriate supporting documentation should be requested *at the latest* three months prior to your SECOND examination attempt (candidates are always welcome to request accommodations for known disabilities prior to the first exam attempt). Candidates with unforeseen, acute, or temporary disabilities are welcome to submit requests prior to any

examination attempt. Please see the Examination Disability Policy and Form for complete details.

Changes in Appeal Items

The following change cannot be categorized as major or minor. Historically, our Appeals guidelines in Article II Section 1 of the AVDC By-Laws has included language that the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVS) would facilitate mediation between the AVDC and an appellant if requested. This language was changed February 22, 2018 to reflect a change in ABVS guidelines. The AVMA and ABVS are no longer offering mediation for any appeals within a specialty college. Please see the AVDC By-Laws and/or the Appeal document on the Information of Registered Residents webpage for the updated appeal procedure.

The ABVS has undergone a re-organization. Please note that the ABVS has split into the Veterinary Specialty Organizations Committee (VSOC) and the ABVS. The VSOC is now responsible for annual review of specialty recognition for all veterinary specialty organizations.

Changes in Maintenance of Certification Items

The Maintenance of Certification document is now available on the Information for Diplomates only webpage. Please read the instructions and start documenting your materials! DMS is now ready to accept MOC materials. This is a requirement for all Diplomates receiving diplomas in the year 2014 to the present. Recertification is required every 10 years.

Changes in Equine Program ONLY

All documents relating to the Equine program can be found on the AVDC Equine website (www.avdc.org/Equine_portal.html).

MAJOR Changes:

1. OM category: The OM category can contain no more than 10 RAD/TP cases.
2. EN1 category: The EN1 category must include 10 *equine* EN1 cases performed either *in vivo* or on an equine cadaver.
3. RE category: All RE cases must be performed on a live horse or on an equine cadaver.
4. OS4 category: One OS4 case must be a rostral maxillectomy or rostral mandibulectomy performed on a live horse or equine cadaver. "Rostral" is defined for this category as rostral to the region of the canine teeth or including the canine teeth if present.
5. General MRCL requirement: For MRCL categories that rely heavily on cadaver cases or other species (>50% of cases can be cadaver or other species), a resident MUST

demonstrate proficiency in the category for at least 50% of cases so that they are prepared to work on patients *in vivo* and to sit the certifying examination.

6. Secondary Operator definition: “S” or secondary operator is defined as working as an assistant to an Academy Fellow, human dentist, or a veterinary specialist (e.g. ACVS-Large Animal Diplomate). These cases now count only as “Assisting” for calculation of % of MRCL cases as Primary or Assisting. These cases must be fully documented and require a long MRCL review form for the resident’s supervisor to complete. Hours spent assisting an ACVS-LA surgeon may also be logged as Surgery Specialty Hours. In the instance that the resident’s supervisor and an ACVS-LA Diplomate are the primary clinicians working together on a case, the resident cannot log BOTH direct supervision residency hours with the residency supervisor and surgery specialty hours for that case.
7. Equipment List: At the time of credentials package submission, all materials on the equipment list needs to be present at the candidate’s current place of employment. Stating that equipment could be borrowed or shipped from a colleague or mentor is NOT acceptable.