

## **Student Success and Educational Outcomes**

Cornell graduates have a distinguished legacy in the profession: as scientists, as veterinarians, and as academic leaders. The College of Veterinary Medicine monitors a number of student outcomes to continuously improve the educational program. These factors include the recruitment, retention, and academic success of a diverse student body, measures of clinical competence, employment rates at the time of graduation, student performance on the national licensing examination, and the number of internships and residencies they obtain. The College also regularly surveys graduates and their employers for feedback, and engages other stakeholders in discussions to continually strengthen the program and to ensure that it adapts to meet societal needs. Key factors are summarized below.

### ***Retention and Academic Success***

Students at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine are successful by all measures. They bring a rich and diverse set of interests and experiences to the college, which seeks to provide an educational environment in which they will thrive. Our students enjoy the learning process, which is both challenging and rewarding. They are also engaged in many activities outside the formal curriculum that enhance their academic experience. For instance, membership of Cornell students in the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA) exceeds 95%, and more than 35 other student organizations provide opportunities for students to get involved and pursue special interests.

A wide range of resources, advising, and support services are in place to help students succeed. These mechanisms also help to identify any problems as they arise, so that they may be addressed in a timely manner. Attrition rates among our veterinary students are very low (< 2%), and instances when a student leaves the program for academic reasons are unusual. Occasionally, and usually for personal reasons, a student may require an extended leave of absence; in these cases, the student will join a later class, but typically completes the program successfully.

### ***Employment***

Cornell students are highly successful in securing employment, and most accept offers prior to graduation. The average percentage of students in the past five years who had accepted employment at the time of graduation is 94%. While long-term career goals vary, most of our students enter clinical practice immediately following graduation, either through an internship, residency, or private practice experience. Some of our graduates pursue doctoral degrees,

some enter military service, and some accept positions in private industry or with the federal government.

### *Licensing*

The national licensing examination for veterinary medicine is the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, or NAVLE. Historically, Cornell students have performed very well on this exam, and they continue to pass at a high rate. Results for the past five years for Cornell students at the time of graduation are below:

	Cornell Pass Rate
Class of 2009	99%
Class of 2008	100%
Class of 2007	98%
Class of 2006	95%
Class of 2005	99%

### *Internship and Residency*

Increasing numbers of Cornell students are choosing to pursue internships following graduation, and some elect to specialize and pursue residency training. Cornell graduates are highly competitive in obtaining both internships and residencies.

### *Accreditation status*

The College of Veterinary Medicine is fully accredited by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association. The next scheduled site visit will be in November 2010.