

# Fitness to Practice Rules (V1.0)



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## 1. Objective

- 1.1 These rules document and communicate a code of conduct for practice in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) in the Melbourne Veterinary School (MVS), Faculty of Science.
- 1.2 The concept of being fit to practice is not just about achieving academic qualifications; it is about being of good character, being responsible and being worthy of the trust and confidence of the public and peers. To maintain that trust and confidence, veterinary students must behave in a manner that upholds the reputation of the University, the profession and promotes animal welfare.

## 2. Scope

- 2.1 These rules are made under the [Student Fitness to Practice Policy \(MPF1345\)](#).
- 2.2 These rules apply to all students admitted to the professionally accredited DVM in MVS, where students undertake one or more professional practice requirements (e.g. work-integrated learning placements, experiential learning and clinical case work).
- 2.3 Failure to meet one or more of the fitness to practice rules laid out in this document may lead to a fitness to practice hearing in accordance with the [Student Fitness to Practice Policy \(MPF1345\)](#).

## 3. Rules

## Professional requirements

- 3.1 Professional regulatory bodies define the professional and personal conduct expected of practitioners. As practitioners-in-training who will be interacting in a professional or clinical setting, students are expected to adhere to codes of conduct, guidelines, principles and standards, issued by all professional regulatory bodies including the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria and the Australian Veterinary Association.
- 3.2 Students should familiarise themselves with the codes of conduct, guidelines, principles and standards specified in Appendix A, in particular the guide from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

## Health requirements

- 3.3 To participate in a veterinary clinical or professional setting, students must:
  - (a) Maintain their health and wellness (including by appropriately managing any pre-existing health or medical condition) so that they can conduct their professional responsibilities safely, competently and ethically.
  - (b) Regularly assess their own health in the context of their professional responsibilities.
  - (c) Advise the subject coordinator and Director, Veterinary Education, MVS if they have health or medical issues that may affect their ability to provide safe, competent and ethical care.

## Learning and participation requirements

- 3.4 When participating in a veterinary clinical or professional setting, students must:
  - (a) Communicate effectively with peers, clinical, academic and other staff, patients and clients, with appropriate consideration of any cultural and personal differences.
  - (b) Protect the confidentiality of information about patients and clients (including animals), tutors or students gained during clinical teaching or professional practice sessions.
  - (c) Participate in tutorials, seminars and collaborative learning activities in accordance with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine core participation rules outlined in the Handbook
  - (d) Be prepared for and attend mandatory learning and teaching sessions as outlined in the University Handbook.
  - (e) Notify the appropriate staff members, in advance, of any planned absence that affects attendance at clinical teaching or professional practice sessions.
  - (f) Complete all tasks assigned during or in connection with clinical teaching or professional practice in a timely manner.
  - (g) Follow instructions or directions from clinical, academic and other supervisory staff regarding the requirements of clinical or professional practice, including but not limited to requirements about health and safety, or animal welfare.
  - (h) Follow instructions and advice from clinical, academic and other staff about professional and personal behaviour and demonstrate modified behaviour.

## 4. Fitness to Practice Officer

4.1 The Fitness to Practice Officer is the Director of Student Experience Clinical Years.

## Version History

V1.0	<p>Endorsed by the nominee of the University General Council as compliant with the laws of Australia, including, but not limited to, any statutory regimes controlling entry into professions.</p> <p>Endorsed by the Academic Secretary as compliant with Section 39(1) of the Academic Board Regulation, and compliant and proportionate with the objectives of the Fitness to Practice policy (MPF1345).</p> <p>Approved by the Dean on 3 November 2023 and made accessible from Schedule 1, in accordance with section 2.1(b) of the Student Fitness to Practice Policy (MPF1345).</p>
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## Appendix A

Links to the Handbook and professional regulatory body codes of conduct/standards

<b>School</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Professional regulator body codes of conduct/standards</b>
Melbourne Veterinary School	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	<a href="#">Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria Practitioner Guidelines</a> <a href="#">Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Code of Professional Conduct</a> <a href="#">Legislative and Regulatory Requirements for Australian Veterinary Professional</a> <a href="#">Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons - Fitness to Practise – A Guide for UK Veterinary Schools and Veterinary Students</a> <a href="#">Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics of the American Veterinary Medical Association</a> <a href="#">University of Melbourne – Handbook, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Entry and Participation Requirements</a>