

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** American Veterinary Medical Association (1952 / 2016)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") in the United States of programs leading to professional degrees (D.V.M. or D.M.D.) in veterinary medicine.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") in the United States of programs leading to professional degrees (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) in veterinary medicine.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 07/30/2019
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years
7. **Issues or Problems:** None

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) was formed in 1863 to recognize the veterinary medical profession in the United States. It began accrediting schools of veterinary medicine in 1906 through its Committee on Intelligence and Education. In 1946, the AVMA was reorganized, and the Council on Education (COE) replaced the Committee on Intelligence and Education.

The AVMA is a programmatic accrediting agency that currently accredits 28 schools of veterinary medicine located in regionally accredited universities. These programs use the agency's accreditation to participate in the Health Professions Student Loan program offered through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Recognition of the agency does not enable its programs to seek eligibility to participate in the Title IV funding programs. During this recognition period, the Department received one complaint and over 10 third party comments for the American Veterinary Medical Association. The Department received ten 3rd party comments in support of the renewed recognition for the AVMA. Also, there have been no complaints submitted to the Department during this recognition period for the agency.

Recognition History

The Council on Education (COE) of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) was on the Commissioner of Education's first list of nationally recognized accrediting agencies published in 1952, and its recognition has been renewed periodically. The agency was last granted a period of recognition for one and one-half years in 2016.

The COE of the AVMA was last reviewed for renewed recognition in December 2012. At that time, the Senior Department Official required the agency to come into compliance within 12 months, and submit a compliance report that demonstrated the agency's compliance with the issues identified in the staff analysis. The agency was granted an extension for good cause as noted in the March 2015 Senior Department Official's decision letter to come into compliance with the remaining issues of the staff analysis. The agency's compliance report submission was then reviewed at the June 2016 NACIQI meeting, which resulted in the agency's continued recognition for a period of one and one-half years. The agency's review for renewed recognition is the subject of this analysis.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

Staff Analysis of 3rd Party Written Comments

The Department received ten comments recommending the continued recognition of the agency. The commenters were all

external constituents of the agency. The comments support the agency's rigorous standards that assure that accredited colleges and schools of veterinary medicine produce qualified veterinarians. Further, the comments acknowledge that the agency is broadly accepted throughout the educational community and widely recognized as the most appropriate accrediting agency for veterinary medical education programs.