



College of Veterinary Medicine POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	Subject: Student Duty Hours Guidelines	Date: 08/26/2016 No: CVM 2.5 Page 1 of 2
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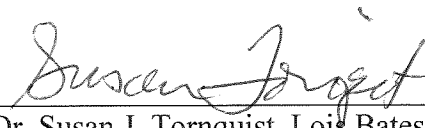
INTRODUCTION

The College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes the importance of the health, safety, and well-being of veterinary students. It is clear that students need adequate time for rest and personal care in order to optimize learning, student safety, and patient care. The following guidelines have been developed to help define those needs and suggest how to meet them. Limiting required duty hours does not imply that students should cease providing essential patient care services. Priority must always be given to patient care and avoiding transfer of responsibilities to others at inappropriate times (e.g., during an operative procedure, in the midst of a rapidly evolving clinical event). Ultimately, senior clinicians have the authority to determine if a student may be excused or if their presence is required to maintain patient care.

1. It is the responsibility of the students to inform the service faculty when they have been in the hospital after regular business hours. It is the responsibility of the faculty, residents, and staff to allow and encourage students to leave the hospital to rest and attend to personal needs.
2. Continuous on-site duty should not exceed twenty-four consecutive hours. Students may remain on duty longer at their discretion, with service faculty approval, to participate in didactic activities, transfer care of patients, and to maintain continuity of medical and surgical care. Faculty or resident approval must be confirmed before leaving to avoid disruption of patient care.
3. Students should be provided a reasonable amount of time to eat or attend to personal care at least once every six hours. However, sufficient time to leave the hospital to eat may not be available.
4. Weeknight treatment duty or on-call duty should be scheduled no more frequently than every third night, averaged over the length of the rotation, unless student numbers preclude this. Students should not trade shifts that result in consecutive nights on treatment duty or on-call.
5. Adequate time for rest and personal activities should be provided. Optimally, this should be a minimum of 8 consecutive hours within a 24 hour period unaffected by daily duties, after-hours duties or in-house call.
6. Regularly-scheduled in house duty hours, should be limited to eighty hours per week, averaged over the course of the length of the rotation.

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The guidelines were proposed by Dr. Stacy Semevolos, interim Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs and approved by the Faculty on August 26, 2016.

Approved: 
Dr. Susan J. Tornquist, Lois Bates Acheson Dean

Date 8/31/16