

From: "AVMA Alerts" <avmaonline@avma.org> **Date:**
December 12, 2014 at 11:51:50 AM EST **To:** (redacted)
Subject: Council on Education Update Reply-To:
avmaonline@avma.org

Dear (redacted),

The AVMA Council on Education (COE) recently participated in an accreditation renewal hearing with the National Advisory Committee for Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) of the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). This hearing was part of a routine assessment process conducted by the USDE with all of its accrediting bodies.

The NACIQI will forward a recommendation to the Undersecretary to grant the Council 6 months to one year to come into compliance with five remaining recognition criteria. This along with the [staff analyst's](#) recommendation will be forwarded to the Undersecretary , who will make the decision regarding continued recognition of the AVMA COE.

Several experts and stakeholders testified in support of COE, including Dr. Trevor Ames, dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC); Dr. Sheila Allen, dean of the University of Georgia CVM; Dr. Cyril Clarke, dean, VA-MD Regional CVM; Dr. Jeff Klausner, Chief Medical Officer, Banfield The Pet Hospital, Dr. Joan Hendricks, dean, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM); Dr. Kent Hoblet, dean, Mississippi State University CVM; Dr. Deborah

Kochevar, dean, Tufts University SVM; Dr. Michael Lairmore, dean, University of California, Davis SVM; Dr. Phil Nelson, dean, Western University of Health Sciences CVM; Dr. Jeffery Newman, president of the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association; and Mark Cushing, JD, Animal Policy Group. During their testimonies, each person shared specific evidence and examples illustrating how the COE continues to meet the recognition criteria of the USDE. Organizations, such as FDA CVM, Uniformed Services, Merial, and Zoetis have all written to the USDE to express their confidence in the COE. We also appreciate the support from our members and veterinary professionals

during this cycle of the recognition process. The NACIQI also heard testimony from veterinarians critical of the COE's role as an accreditor.

We will continue to work with the USDE to meet the remaining requirements within the next six to twelve months. We have learned from this experience, and look forward to working with our members and colleagues to uphold professional standards and preserve the integrity of the veterinary professional degree. First and foremost, the AVMA COE is committed to protecting the quality of veterinary education. As an employer, accreditation provides you with peace of mind that your associates possess the knowledge and clinical competence to provide high- quality care for your practice's clients and patients. As a graduate of an accredited school, accreditation provides you with the confidence that the education you received provides you with the knowledge and skills necessary for a successful veterinary career. We'll keep you informed through our website, AVMA@Work blog, and

other avenues as the process continues, and we welcome your input.

A transcript of the hearing will soon be available, as will information on specific steps COE has taken and will take to address USDE standards and questions . If you're interested in learning more, we've got many resources on our site about the COE and the [accreditation process](#), including the COE's [policies and procedures](#) manual, [standards of accreditation](#), [accreditation classifications](#), [pathways](#) to accreditation and more.

As always, should you have any questions about COE, please contact us at COE@avma.org.

Sincerely,

Fred Derksen
Chair, Council on Education