



## CVMA CVA Student and Mentor Roles

The CVMA has recognized that the experience gained from working under the leadership and expertise of a licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician is irreplaceable. When complemented with the ACT web based instruction, the student approaches each skill with a new sense of understanding and confidence. This relationship, between the Student and the Mentor is predicated on both parties understanding their roles and responsibilities.

### **The Student**

The key to mastering the skills outlined within the CVMA CVA program is “Teachability”. This implies a willingness to submit to the leadership and experience of their assigned Mentor. It also implies a willingness to ask questions if the student doesn’t understand. And finally, it implies a willingness to commit to mastering each and every skill through however much practice and time is required. Students must be 16 years of age on the date of the final examination.

### **The Mentor**

Not everyone has a natural ability to teach. Mentors should be carefully selected for their willingness to assume this “teacher” role. This will require patience, good communication skills and a personal commitment to spending whatever time is necessary with their assigned student(s). The Mentor will be required to sign the student’s application and skills validation list, acknowledging the student’s full comprehension and competency in each of the skills required for certification. The Mentor is perhaps the single most important of the four educational components making up the CVMA CVA program.

Both the Mentor and the Student should initially express to each other their commitment to completing the CVMA CVA program in their designated roles. It is important to not only have scheduled time for the Mentor and Student to work through skills and techniques each week, but it is also important to have scheduled time each week to sit and discuss the overall educational process. Each week, attention should be given to attitude, successes, challenges, and any other work issues that might warrant a one-on-one discussion.

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