



**UNIVERSITY OF PISA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY
SCIENCES**

Type of document:

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENT HEALTHCARE

Identification Code: VET-LM5 007

Date: 16/07/2021

Page 1 of 5

INDICE

0. Revision matrix
1. Aim
2. Reference documents, abbreviations and definitions
3. Responsibility, authority and competences
4. Operating mode
5. Attachments

0. REVISION MATRIX

REVISION	TYPE OF ACT	ACT NUMBER	ACT DATE	DESCRIPTION/REPORT TYPE OF MODIFICATION
00	Resolution	35	16/07/2021	First issue
01				
02				
03				
04				
05				



1. AIM

The purpose of this document is to define the methods of managing the healthcare of students, or of the set of medical documents, aimed at protecting the health and safety of workers, in relation to the working environment, to professional risk factors and the methods of carrying out the work activity.

The requirements contained in this procedure apply to the Degree Course in Veterinary Medicine and concern all students who carry out the Professional Practical Training and apprenticeship for degree theses.

2. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS, ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

Reference documents:

- University Teaching Regulations in force.
- Work safety standards (Legislative Decree April 9, 2008, art.2).

3. RESPONSIBILITY, AUTHORITY AND COMPETENCES

The figures involved in the procedure are the following:

- The **President of the Degree Course in Veterinary Medicine** has the task of:
 - sending to students enrolled in the first year a notice prepared by the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service relating to occupational risks for students;
 - organizing annually, together with the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service, a schedule of medical examinations for third year students.
- The **Teaching Unit** has the task of:
 - receiving the certificates of suitability of the students from the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service;
 - preparing and keeping updated a database in which the expiry date of eligibility is reported for each student;
 - verifying that the student submitting a pre-professional training application has a valid medical certificate.
- The **first-year student**, having read the information, is required to contact the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service in case of need and for the reporting of pathologies and health problems, in accordance with the information attached to this procedure.
- The **third-year student** is required to undergo a visit on the days and at the times established in the schedule prepared by the President of the Degree Course.

4. OPERATING MODES



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Identification Code: VET-LM5 007

Date: 16/07/2021

Page 3 of 5

- At the beginning of the second semester, when the number of students enrolled in the first year is established, the President of the Degree Course sends all students the information note prepared by the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service (see Annex). Students with particular health problems are invited to contact the Service using the methods indicated in the information note.
- During the teaching break between the first and second semester, the President of the Degree Course, in agreement with the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service, sends third-year students the scheduling of medical examinations.
- Students must comply with this schedule by attending the medical examination and reporting any possible absence promptly to presidenzamv@vet.unipi.it and to didattica@vet.unipi.it, in order to book another examination.
- At the end of the medical examination, the UNIPI Competent Doctor Service issues the student with a 3-year certificate of suitability. These certificates are also sent in copy to the Teaching Unit of the Department which uses them to update the database of students who have obtained the certificate of eligibility and the relative expiry date.
- The Teaching Unit verifies that the student submitting a pre-professional training application has a valid medical certificate.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Report on exposure to risks for the student



REPORT REGARDING EXPOSURE TO WORKING RISKS FOR THE VETERINARY SCIENCE STUDENT

During the course of their university career, the student belonging to the Department of Veterinary Sciences starting from the third year will be engaged in Professional Practical Training and apprenticeship consisting in theoretical/practical activities .

The occupational safety regulation defines the "worker" in Article 2 of Legislative Decree April 9, 2008 and in the definition includes "trainees".

In fact, "worker" is defined as the person who, *“regardless of the type of contract, carries out a work activity within the organization of a public or private employer, with or without pay, even for the sole purpose of learning a trade... ..; the beneficiary of the pre-professional training and orientation initiatives referred to in Article 18 of the Law of June 24, 1997, no. 196....; the student of the educational and university institutes and the participant in professional training courses in which laboratories, work equipment in general, chemical, physical and biological agents are used, including equipment with video terminals limited to the periods in which the student is actually using the instruments or laboratories in question...”*.

For this reason, before the start of the Professional Practical Training activities, the student is subjected to "healthcare", that is to say *“that set of medical acts, aimed at protecting the health and safety of workers, in relation to the environment of work, the occupational risk factors and the methods of carrying out the work activity”*.

However, the organization of the Degree Course foresees that, albeit in a completely sporadic/exceptional way, the student may face risks deriving from contact with physical, chemical or biological agents.

Some of these risks can also be caused by accident-related dynamics:

- bites, scratches of animals due to errors in handling and containment of the animals themselves;
- wounds from sharp instruments such as syringes, needles, scalpel blades;
- other traumatic events.

Also in relation to what is highlighted above, it should be remembered that already upon enrollment in the Degree Course the student should check their vaccination status against tetanus and carry out a booster dose of the vaccine every 10 years.

In addition, contact with animals or exposure to plant allergens during "off-site" teaching activities can represent trigger occasions for the onset of allergies in atopic subjects. Allergens, in this context, consist of proteins from saliva, urine, feces, serum, dandruff from animal hair (please note the high allergenic power, among others, of the *epithelium of dogs, cats, rabbits, horses*, etc...), or the most common seasonal allergens (grasses, parietaria, olive, etc...) to which one might be exposed during outdoor teaching activities.

Also worth mentioning is the risk deriving from *hymenoptera stings*, including bees, (capable of



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Page 5 of 5

inducing severe allergic reactions up to anaphylaxis in hypersensitive subjects) with which students could come into contact during some theoretical/practical exercises already in the first years of the Degree Course.

In light of this, although healthcare officially starts only from the third year of the Degree Course, the Competent Doctor's structure is available to students who, for logistical reasons (e.g. off-site), were unable to contact the district healthcare provider for the renewal of the tetanus vaccination.

On the other hand, in the case of already known *serious forms of allergies* related to the allergens described above, in advance of activities exposing the student to such allergens, the service of the Competent Doctor is available for preventive medicine consultation, in order to facilitate also in these circumstances the achievement of teaching objectives.

Useful references:

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The Service of the Competent Doctor