

## **PROGRAMME FITNESS TO PRACTISE STATEMENT**

### **MVB and BSc (Veterinary Nursing)**

#### **UCD Policy Definition**

Fitness to Practise means having the skills, knowledge, health and character necessary to undertake and complete safely and effectively a programme with professional practice, experiential learning or clinical work, fulfilling the responsibilities within the scope of practice in a chosen field.

#### **Purpose of the UCD Fitness to Practise Policy**

- To protect animals, the public, students, placement providers and the University;
- To instil in students the qualities and competencies required for professional practice and to support and guide students who experience issues that may affect their ability to practise;
- To provide a suitable framework for the effective management of fitness to practise issues that may arise during a student's programme of study.

#### **Fitness to Practise in Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing Programmes**

In cases where there is a reasonable concern about a student's fitness to practise, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine will follow UCD's Fitness to Practise protocols. The School will also be guided by the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, and the Veterinary Council of Ireland Codes of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Nurses. During any fitness to practise process, students will be provided with all of the necessary supports.

Students are expected to partake in practical and clinical placements from the first year of their degree programme, and therefore will be interacting with members of the profession and the public as professionals-in-training. The School expects each student to act in a manner that does not bring themselves, the profession, the School and the University into disrepute.

A primary concern for every student must be for the welfare of animals. Students must be cognisant of the need to act to protect animal health and relieve animal suffering.

A core principle underpinning a student's fitness to practise relates to the veracity of their signature and information supplied on any formal documentation submitted as part of their educational training, e.g. forms relating to EMS and Clinical EMS placements. Fraudulent claims or certification by a student will raise serious concerns in relation to a student's capacity to adhere to the VCI's Codes of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners and Veterinary Nurses.

When animal patients, or patient records, are entrusted to the care of a veterinary student, either on a farm or other establishment, or within a veterinary practice, students must adhere to the Veterinary Council of Ireland codes regarding client confidentiality. Students are expected to treat members of the public, clients, placement providers, placement staff, supervisors, classmates, and other University staff with dignity and respect.

During their studies, students shall maintain high standards of biosecurity. They must also recognise their own responsibility and the responsibility of the School in ensuring that their health and that of the public, clients, patients, placement providers, placement staff, supervisors, classmates, and other University staff are not compromised.

***UCD School of Veterinary Medicine***