



## CVMA CVA Mentor–Student Relationship

The CVMA has recognized that the experience gained from working under the leadership and expertise of a trained veterinarian or licensed 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. Students must be 16 years of age or older to qualify for the CVMA CVA program.

### **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.

### **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 log in to their own account where they will have the ability to not only “check off” the successfully completed tasks of their student, but to add their constructive comments as well. This Mentor is perhaps the single most important of the four educational components making up the CVMA CVA program. The process of mentoring a student is often a powerful propellant for generating a lifelong personal and professional relationship. There is a limit of 5 CVMA CVA applicants for each mentor/supervisor.

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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