

Pathways to Eligibility for Board Certification with the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation

This document outlines the pathways to eligibility for applicants to submit credentials for the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation board certification. The table below outlines the pathways and their related requirements. A slightly more expanded description of these requirements is below. Interested applicants are asked to refer to the complete guidelines established for each of the pathways to American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation board certification by visiting our website: www.vsmr.org.

Credentialing Pathways	Requirements											
	Prior Clinical Experience	*Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation	*Specialty Rotation	*Independent Study (TR) or Indirectly Supervised Clinical Experience (PE)	*Individualized Rotations & Vacation	*Logged Cases	Logged Experience	Logged Skills	*Seminars & Continuing Education	*Oral Presentations	*Peer Reviewed Publication	Examination
Practice Experience (PE) Residency Training Program	1 year internship or equivalent	24 weeks direct supervision & 48 weeks indirect supervision	20 weeks	38 weeks of Indirectly Supervised Clinical Experience	26 weeks	400 cases canine 300 cases equine	No	No	120 hours CE	3	1	Yes
Traditional Residency (TR)	1 year internship or equivalent	72 weeks direct supervision	20 weeks	38 weeks of Independent Study	26 weeks	400 cases canine 300 cases equine	Yes	Yes	200 hours Seminars & 50 hours CE	3	1	Yes

* Allowable Retroactive Credit for Practice Experience Residency

1. During the next 5 years (2016-2021), retroactive credit will be allowed under circumstances documented below. The goal of retroactive credit is to encourage veterinarians with extensive prior experience in sports medicine/rehabilitation to pursue the practice residency. Credit will only be accepted following committee approval. **Documentation verifying retroactive credit requests must be submitted with the Practice Experience Residency Application.**
2. The following must have been completed within 10 years of program initiation, with the exception of the publication requirement which must be within 5 years of program initiation. These circumstances may not apply to every applicant.
 - a. Prior Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Practice after the required 1 year internship or Practice Equivalent.
 - i. Each YEAR of Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Practice can count as follows:
 1. 2 weeks per year of direct ACVSMR Diplomate supervised Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation; Maximum credit of 12 weeks (i.e. 6 years of practice experience)
 2. 4 weeks per year of indirect ACVSMR Diplomate supervised Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation; Maximum credit of 24 weeks (i.e. 6 years of practice experience)

3. 4 weeks per year of Indirectly supervised Clinical Experience; Maximum credit of 36 weeks (i.e. 9 years of practice experience)
 - ii. The resident must include with their application **two** letters from veterinarians who can attest to the caseload and case type managed by applicant during the prior years.
- b. Previous Board Certification
 - i. Equivalent time or rotations spent obtaining prior board certification may be substituted for the Specialty Rotation requirements. These must be verifiable.
 - c. Case Requirements
 - i. Resident must provide documentation of clinical cases that are specifically related to Sports Medicine or Rehabilitation to their ACVSMR Diplomate supervisor for verification.
 - ii. Maximum of 150 cases for equine and 200 cases for canine can be credited towards the case requirements.
 - iii. The supervisor verification letter must be submitted with the application that attest to the number of cases the resident has seen and managed.
 - d. Individualized Rotations
 - i. Up to 6 weeks of the Individualized Rotations may be credited towards the following:
 1. A verifiable Rotation with the alternate species (e.g., equine resident spending time with a canine rehabilitation practice and vice versa) with the approval of the supervisor
 2. A verifiable Special Rotation at a human sports medicine/rehabilitation facility
 3. A verifiable Special Rotation with a human physical therapist trained in veterinary rehabilitation
 - e. Continuing Education
 - i. The 120 hours of Continuing Education requirement can be fulfilled by prior completion or certification in a comprehensive continuing education program related to Sports Medicine or Rehabilitation that is at least 120 hours in length. This must be verifiable and proof submitted with the application.
 - f. Oral Presentations
 - i. Multimedia presentations within 3 years of program initiation may be credited towards the presentation requirement.
 1. Must have covered topics related to Sports Medicine or Rehabilitation.
 2. Must have been at least 20 minutes and presented to an audience of their peers.
 3. Must have been at least 1 diplomate of any specialty college present.
 4. Presentations must be verifiable by the ACVSMR Diplomate supervisor.
 - g. Publication
 - i. Sports Medicine or Rehabilitation publications that meet the **Publication Requirements** and which occur within 5 years of program initiation will be credited towards the publication requirement.

Brief Description of Requirements for American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Board Certification

CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO REVIEW THE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION

Clinical Experience: An Internship or equivalent is a prerequisite for both residencies.

Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation immersion with American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation diplomate supervision: This requirement consists of a total of **72 weeks** in specific sports medicine and rehabilitation activities. A total of 300 equine or 400 canine cases must be reported in a clinical case log.

Specialty Practice with board specialist mentoring: This requirement consists of **20 weeks** in specialty activities within the following areas:

Specialty Rotations	Traditional Residency Training Program	Practice Experience Residency Training
1. Diagnostic imaging	6 weeks	6 weeks
Required exposure to radiology, diagnostic ultrasound, nuclear scintigraphy, and MR/CT modalities.		
2. Surgery	6 weeks	6 weeks
With suggested exposure to regenerative medicine, gait analysis, lameness examinations, and arthroscopy.		
3. Internal medicine	6 weeks	6 weeks
With suggested exposure to nutrition, gastrointestinal disorders, upper and lower respiratory disease, and cardiology. **Canine programs – 3 of the 6 weeks must be in neurology. With suggested exposure to neurologic examinations, diagnostic tools, and post-mortem evaluation.		
5. Pain management	2 weeks	2 weeks
With suggested exposure to both acute and chronic pain conditions, pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical approaches (e.g., acupuncture, cryotherapy, etc.) and multimodal pain management approaches.		

Independent Study: This Traditional Residency requirement consists of **38 weeks** that is intended to allow development of independent thought, staff mentoring and teaching skills, focused study in specialized facets of sports medicine and rehabilitation, further elective rotations, further supervised or independent rotations in sports medicine and rehabilitation, cross species training or human physical therapist interactions.

Indirectly Supervised Clinical Experience: This 38 week Practice Experience Residency requirement is designed to allow the resident to independently work in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Practice

Individualized Rotations & Vacation: This requirement is for both residencies and consists of **26 weeks** in any or all of the following rotations (with a minimum of one week suggested in any rotation):

- Research or clinical investigation
- Preparation of scientific manuscripts
- National or international level continuing education courses

- Rotation with the alternate species (e.g., equine resident spending time with a canine rehabilitation practice and vice versa) with the approval of the supervisor
- Special rotation at a human sports medicine/rehabilitation facility
- Special rotation with a human physical therapist trained in veterinary rehabilitation
- Up to six weeks of vacation time over the course of the program may be counted toward this requirement.

Experience Requirement (Traditional Residency Only): This requirement is for observation and participation in specific clinical problems, procedures, or cases. Each experience is logged. Experience is achieved by the resident's direct observation and participation. Direct hands-on participation (rather than simple observation) is expected whenever possible and is highly encouraged.

Skills Requirement (Traditional Residency Only): This requirement is for the development of specific skills and procedures that the resident must learn. These skills represent a higher level of training and include a list of skills critical to the practice of sports medicine and rehabilitation. The skills must be taught to the resident through discussion and demonstration by the supervisor and mentor(s).

Seminar and Continuing Education Requirements:

- **Traditional Residency** candidates must complete **250 hours** of didactic training in sports medicine and rehabilitation. The resident must provide written documentation that the following criteria have been satisfied. The resident must actively participate in medical seminars, literature reviews (i.e., journal clubs), clinical case rounds conferences, and board review sessions on a wide range of topics related to sports medicine and rehabilitation medicine. There should be substantial input into the seminar series by individuals other than the applicant. This training experience may be received at a veterinary or human teaching hospital. This experience must include at least **200 hours of seminars** or didactic graduate level courses accrued over the residency or prior 5 years of practice experience. The Traditional Residency candidate must participate in a minimum of **50 hours of continuing education** related to Sports Medicine or Rehabilitation sponsored by local, state, and national veterinary or human medical organizations. These continuing education requirements are differentiated from seminar requirements in that seminars are defined as regularly scheduled, ongoing series in a hospital setting while continuing education is defined as sporadically offered veterinary or human conferences. Monthly local veterinary association meetings would, however, fall into the continuing education requirement if the subject matter were related to sports medicine and rehabilitation. Topics should cover a wide range of issues in sports medicine and rehabilitation. The continuing education requirements can be fulfilled by a one-time enrollment in a comprehensive continuing education program.
- **Practice Experience Residency** candidates must have **120 hours in National or International level continuing education courses** related to Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. The continuing education requirement can be fulfilled by a one-time enrollment in a comprehensive continuing education program that is at least 120 hours in length.

Publication: The candidate is required to be first author on a peer-reviewed, hypothesis-driven publication on the subject of veterinary sports medicine or rehabilitation. The publication must be accepted by August 1 of the year prior to the certification exam for which the candidate is applying and must not be more than 5 years old at the time of application. The material within the publication must not have been published previously other than in an abstract or proceedings format. The publication must be written in or fully translated to the English language. Non peer-reviewed publications such as book chapters, proceedings, review articles and clinical case reports are not acceptable material to meet this publication requirement.

Examinations: The annual American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation board certification examination will consist of two examinations. Both must be passed for a candidate to become board certified. One examination, taken by all candidates, contains questions on basic physiological, medical, surgical and rehabilitation knowledge. The second examination is species-specific with candidates taking either the canine or the equine examination. Each examination will consist of 200 multiple-choice questions written under the guidelines of the National Board of Medical Examiners. A reading list of relevant textbooks and journals related to sports medicine and rehabilitation will be provided to applicants with a list of topics to assist in focusing their study to relevant areas of sports medicine and rehabilitation.