

Policy on Student Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic

*The Office of the Dean and the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) have determined that personal travel could threaten the continuation of clinical rotations and the didactic curriculum and place the health of AUCVM personnel at significant risk. **Discretionary personal travel except for life-necessities, such as food or medical treatment, is discouraged.** If traveling for any reason, the student should adhere to the biosecurity guidelines practiced in the CVM: face covers, physical distancing, and effective hand hygiene.*

Three types of travel will be permitted under strict biosecurity conditions:

- 1. Required Academic Travel (RAT)** is defined as travel that is necessary to meet an academic requirement or a unique, time-sensitive educational experience. For 4th year clinical students, externships, cardiology rotations, Gulf Shores rotation, Birmingham shelter medicine rotation, special/research problems, the practice based equine clerkship all fall under this category.

Students engaged in RAT must adhere to the college's biosecurity guidelines at all times and continue daily health surveys currently in place for the duration of the period of travel. Personal travel is discouraged during RAT, except for life-necessities such as food and healthcare.

- 2. Vacation Travel (VT)** is defined as travel conducted during a designated vacation rotation block or weekends. Underclassmen will not be excused from classes or exams for vacation travel. As with RAT, students must adhere to the college's biosecurity guidelines at all times and continue daily health surveys for the duration of VT.
- 3. Optional Emergency Travel (OET)** is defined as travel conducted in response to a family emergency, such as hospitalization or a funeral of an immediate family member {spouse, parent, grandparent, child (adopted, half and step children are included), grandchild, sibling, aunts, uncle, first cousin, in-laws (mother, father, brother, sister, daughter and son)}. This travel is strictly personal in nature and is not associated with academic advancement. As with RAT, students must adhere to the college's biosecurity guidelines at all times and continue daily health surveys for the duration of OET.

Submitting a Request for Travel: *Written requests for RAT must be made 2 weeks in advance, except for 4th year clinical externships, cardiology rotations, Gulf Shores rotation, Birmingham shelter medicine rotation, special/research problems, and the practice based equine clerkship. Written requests for OET must be made as soon as possible before travel. Both requests should be made to the Assistant to the Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Brandon Brunson (brunsbl@auburn.edu).*

Reviewed by the CVM Executive Committee August 4, 2020