

## CUSTOMER STORY

# Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine Gets Ahead of Competency-Based Education Requirements with isseek.ai

While competency-based education has established a strong foothold in allopathic and osteopathic medicine, it remains relatively new to veterinary education. Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (K-State CVM) is among a handful of schools paving the way. Dr. James Roush, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, has pioneered a program to analyze and track the school's curricular content against veterinary competencies. Central to this effort is isseek.ai, a platform K-State CVM has leveraged since 2022 to streamline curriculum mapping.

Dr. Roush has been a cornerstone of K-State CVM since 1989. A small animal orthopedic surgeon for the majority of his academic career, he served as Interim Associate Dean of Academic Programs and Student Success from early 2020 before formally stepping into the permanent role a year later. He is now expanding his leadership influence as Chair Elect of the Associate Deans Committee within the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges.

Gina Scott, Instructional Designer II on Dr. Roush's team at K-State CVM, plays a critical role in overseeing the school's Learning Management System (LMS) and lecture capture video platform. Since the introduction of isseek.ai, she has been instrumental in its successful rollout.



## ABOUT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

### SCHOOL TYPE

Veterinary Medicine, Public

### LOCATION

Manhattan, Kansas

### FOUNDED

1905

### WEBSITE

[www.vet.k-state.edu](http://www.vet.k-state.edu)

### iseek.ai SOLUTIONS

Curriculum Intelligent Agent™

## INTERVIEWED FOR THIS STORY

### Dr. James Roush

Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Student Success

### Gina Scott

Instructional Designer II

To gain deeper insights into their journey with iseek.ai, we spoke with Dr. Roush and Gina about the platform's adoption against the backdrop of a changing educational landscape and their vision for how it can address curriculum information needs as veterinary education continues to evolve.



## THE CHALLENGE

Founded in 1905, K-State CVM is renowned for its rich history of innovation and academic excellence. In preparation for its 2017 accreditation review, the school faced a significant challenge: the accrediting body (AVMA COE) requested detailed curriculum maps that linked every lecture to corresponding subjects.

The college's initial solution involved a cumbersome internal program where faculty manually entered lecture details and keywords into an Excel spreadsheet. According to Dr. Roush this method was not only labor-intensive but also prone to inconsistency.

As the person responsible for reconciling the data, Gina remembers the ordeal vividly. Although they wrote a special program on the back end to grab the inputs from an internal website, it wasn't clearly understood what to use for keywords, and some faculty submitted huge volumes of tags while others provided almost none. "It was a disaster," she recalls.

As the next accreditation cycle loomed, the school sought a more-efficient solution. Dr. Roush attended a demonstration of iseek.ai and was impressed by its ability to integrate and automatically tag content to ontologies, generate curriculum maps, and search within lectures. These features proved crucial in the decision to adopt the platform.

**“** *We wanted something that would be automatically updated and stay current for us, and the broad search capabilities were something we didn't have.* **”**



## THE SOLUTION

Today, K-State CVM leverages iseek.ai for several key functions:

- **Accreditation preparation:** Dr. Roush anticipates that future accreditation reviews will likely require mapping to the Competency-Based Veterinary Education (CBVE) framework. While the COE's acceptance of this framework for accreditation reporting is still pending, a crosswalk implemented in iseek.ai translates CBVE categories to the COE's CO9 competencies.



## THE SOLUTION (CONT.)

- **Curriculum review:** Every 3½ to 4 years, K-State CVM’s faculty teams conduct comprehensive reviews of the core curriculum. iseek.ai supports this process by providing detailed insights into course content, lectures, and slides, allowing reviewers to assess topic coverage, presentation, and delivery.
- **Peer reviews:** During K-State CVM’s periodic peer reviews, iseek makes it easier for faculty to evaluate courses across other departments by enabling convenient access to curricular materials in a readily searchable format.

Beyond these key applications, Dr. Roush highlights the search capabilities of iseek.ai, noting the speed and precision with which users can locate specific content within the curriculum. Gina adds that iseek.ai has improved faculty attention to content organization and data hygiene. For example, it revealed that instructors should update their file names each year to ensure the materials are distinguishable.

Dr. Roush agrees, noting that their adoption of iseek prompted them to standardize their syllabi and lecture schedules, making them easier to retrieve. Overall, they explain, the platform provides a new level of visibility, opening the door to the implementation of best practices that have long been on their radar.

Meanwhile, K-State CVM faculty are beginning to recognize how they can leverage iseek for their own quality improvement efforts. As one professor shared with Gina: “I can see what I taught in past years...I can see if I’ve made changes appropriately, make sure I’m on the right track. I can also see where students are learning this in other courses, and whether I need to beef up what I’m teaching.”

“That’s the goal!” she told him.



## THE iseek.ai DIFFERENCE

The K-State CVM implementation was marked by creativity and collaboration. A notable example involved the selection and integration of a taxonomy for veterinary topics that could be used for reporting, search and analytics. Lacking a standardized industry nomenclature for searching veterinary case databases, K-State CVM chose to adopt the National Board Exam (NAVLE) testing terminology. The iseek.ai team was able to seamlessly incorporate this system into the platform and automatically tag relevant content to the NAVLE terms, leveraging its AI technology to understand the relationships among topics.



## THE **iseek.ai** DIFFERENCE (CONT.)

In a related example, the **iseek.ai** team extrapolated CBVE tags that K-State CVM had applied to their syllabi and extended them to corresponding lecture materials. To enhance their utility, the team created custom filters and reports so the K-State team could easily search for and view the lecture materials associated with specific competencies.

Building on these adaptations, the **iseek** team fine-tuned the search tool to ensure it surfaced the content most relevant to K-State CVM users. By enhancing the search algorithm, they prioritized specific content based on the school's unique parameters. This adjustment better fulfilled user expectations by presenting key materials as top results.



*Teams conducting peer reviews of courses can look at the lectures, the slide formats, and how topics are taught, and provide feedback accordingly.*



## THE ROAD AHEAD

Dr. Roush envisions a future where K-State CVM more-fully harnesses the capabilities of **iseek**. He recognizes the benefits of systematically reviewing the curriculum to identify redundancies and omissions, and hopes to someday have dedicated staff for this purpose.

Still, **iseek** is fulfilling the school's current needs. Dr. Roush believes that better-leveraging Gina's reports can help put K-State CVM at the leading edge of veterinary schools, including those already implementing CBVE.

As our conversation wraps up, Dr. Roush reminds us that Competency-Based Education is just beginning to take root in veterinary medicine, but anticipates its widespread adoption, mirroring developments in other medical disciplines. K-State CVM stands ready to navigate this evolving landscape with confidence.