

THE COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) met on November 4 – 6, 2021 and April 20, 2022. The meetings were chaired by Tracy Blais, BS, CVT, Med; and Kelly Foltz BA, LVT, VTS (ECC) served as vice chair.

Accreditation of Veterinary Technology Programs

Within the above meeting timeframe, the CVTEA reviewed and granted re-accreditation to 24 veterinary technology programs and granted initial accreditation to nine new veterinary technology programs. No programs had accreditation withdrawn during this timeframe. In addition, the CVTEA reviewed a total of 76 progress reports. There are a total of six veterinary technology programs undergoing the initial accreditation application process.

CVTEA Accreditation Site Visits

The CVTEA completed a total of 51 site visits in 2021. Site visits were completed in both in-person and virtually.

The CVTEA allows a maximum of 50 site visits annually and each site visit is approximately 2 - 2.5 days in length. Each visit site team is composed of four members including the site visit team chair who is a member of the CVTEA, a state veterinarian, a state veterinary technician, and a public representative. An AVMA staff member attends each site visit as well.

CVTEA COVID-19 Response

The Committee approved the COVID-19 policy updated November 2021, which is available at the AVMA website <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/CVTEA-COVID-19-policy-updated-April-2021.pdf>. In addition, the CVTEA has approved an Emergency Conditions Policy to address current and any potential situations where in the view of the AVMA CVTEA Executive Committee, the usual AVMA CVTEA site visit operations cannot be reasonably undertaken.

CVTEA Accreditation Statistics

There is currently a total of 222 AVMA CVTEA-accredited veterinary technology programs which are classified as follows: 161 at Full Accreditation, 38 at Initial Accreditation, 21 on Probationary Accreditation, and two on Voluntary Terminal Accreditation.

The list of accredited veterinary technology programs is available on the AVMA website, <https://www.avma.org/education/accreditation/programs/veterinary-technology-programs-accredited-avma-cvtea>

For the 2020-2021 academic year, there were approximately 5,284 graduates. Of this amount, 4,813 graduated with an associate's degree and 471 graduated with a bachelor's degree. There are approximately 31,257 enrolled veterinary technology/nursing students. Of this amount, approximately 2,527 are enrolled in bachelor's degree programs. There are 25 programs that offer a bachelor's degree.

Accreditation Standards

The CVTEA cyclically reviews its Standards of Accreditation, Essential Skills, and Equipment and Resources List every three to five years. The *Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities* manual is typically updated twice each

year in January and July.

The Committee has continued to devote time to addressing student safety regarding rabies. Effective January 1, 2022, the Committee modified 4e and Appendix A, that prior to live animal use students must be vaccinated against rabies or the program must implement a comprehensive rabies mitigation protocol.

The Committee initiated a review to include diversity, equity, and inclusion language into the CVTEA Standards. The Committee has undertaken two periods of stakeholder consultation and is carefully considering stakeholder feedback. The Committee expects the finalized Standards to be published by the end of 2022.

The *Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities* manual is available on the AVMA website:

<https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/cvtea-pp.aspx>

Activities Report

A CVTEA internal working group is charged with exploring long term recommendations to address the “activities” portion of the CVTEA charge. Further, the AVMA Board of Directors established a committee to assess the entity charge with regard to activities.

On behalf of the CVTEA, Tracy Blais and Kelly Foltz attended the AVMA/NAVTA Leadership Committee meeting during the 2022 virtual Veterinary Leadership Meeting. Dr. Jennifer Asher, and Sharon Johnston RVT, VTS (Anesthesia) serve on the Veterinary Technician National Examination Committee on behalf of CVTEA.