

Veterinary Technology

APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY®
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Veterinary Technology (BS) Student Handbook 2023-2024

Physical Location

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Welcome

Welcome to the Appalachian State University (“University” or “Appalachian”) Veterinary Technology Program (“VTN Program”). This handbook contains the most essential and commonly used policies of the University, as well as specific VTN Program policies. Please note that the handbook is subject to change as needed in the University’s discretion.

As you begin your education in veterinary technology at Appalachian State University, remember that you are the veterinary professional leaders of tomorrow. The VTN Program supports the mission of the University, which includes excellence in teaching and learning and the fostering of scholarship and service to community. The complete text of these statements is included in the Appalachian State University Undergraduate Bulletin. The VTN Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, political affiliation, age, disability, veteran status, genetic information or sexual orientation in either the selection of Students for participation Program, or as to any aspect of the clinical training.

Veterinary Technology Program Directory

Title	Name	Office Number	Office Phone	Email
Administration				
Program Director	Virginia Corrigan, DVM, MPH, DABVP, CCRP, CHPV	203 Howard Street Hall	828-262-5355	corriganvk@appstate.edu
Assistant Program Director	Jennifer Serling, CVT, RVT, BVSc	Remote office	828-262-6320	serlingja@appstate.edu
Clinical Coordinator	Leigha Wright, RVT, LVT, MBA	Remote office	828-262-6884	wrightld1@appstate.edu
Wellbeing Coordinator	Rebecca Newman, PsyM, CVT, RVT	Remote office	828-262-6883	newmanrl@appstate.edu
Instructional Designer	Mary Beth McKee, BS, MS		828 262-8637	mckeemb@appstate.edu
Academic Advisor	Hannah Huff, MA	100 I.G. Greer Hall	828-262-6476	huffhc@appstate.edu
Administrative Support Specialist	Trisha Browne		828 262-7196	brownetr@appstate.edu
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Adjunct Faculty-Veterinary Practice Management	Heather Derk, RVT, CVPM, SPHR	Remote office		derkhp@appstate.edu
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Lecturer	Sarah Charles, M.E.d., RVT	Remote office	828-262-6763	charlesse@appstate.edu
Lecturer	Bethany Gabrie, LVMTg, LVT, MBA, FFCP	Remote office		gabriejb@appstate.edu
Lecturer	Valerie Ramos, CVT, LVT, MBA	Remote office	828-262-6762	ramosvj@appstate.edu

Program Vision, Mission, Core Values, Philosophy, Culture Code, and Goals

Vision:

Shaping the future of veterinary medicine

Mission:

To cultivate an innovative educational experience and advance a thriving veterinary community.

Core Values:

- Well-being
- Curiosity
- Compassion
- Optimism
- Integrity

Philosophy:

We believe that veterinary medicine is a team sport, and well-being is essential to thriving in this profession. We believe that veterinary medical professionals provide the best care for animals and service to society when they are able to prioritize and be supported for compassionately caring for themselves. We believe in providing an engaging, safe, and inclusive learning environment where students can foster an enduring passion for veterinary medicine.

Culture Code:

We adopt the 10 principles of the veterinary culture manifesto:

1. Prioritize people, purpose, and progress
2. Champion culture as a core objective
3. Empower the next generation
4. Seek and adopt modern technology
5. Celebrate diversity, equity, and inclusion
6. Honor mental health and oneself
7. Break status quo and build for the future
8. Cherish vulnerability and honesty
9. Uplift your peers and build rich community
10. Embrace a life of learning and growth

Goals:

1. Strengthen the pipeline of credentialed veterinary technicians and veterinary nurses
2. Improve sustainability within the veterinary profession
3. Elevate the role of the credentialed veterinary technicians and veterinary nurses

Program Outcomes

The following educational outcomes are based on the mission, vision, goals, and philosophy of the Appalachian State University VTN Program and are adapted from the Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (“AAVMC”) Competency Based Veterinary Nursing Education (“CBVNE”) framework for four- year B.S. programs in veterinary technology / veterinary nursing.

Students will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving to support evidence-based decisions that consider animal and client needs, available resources, and social context.
2. Perform preventive, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures for the health, wellness and treatment of animals, as directed by a veterinarian.
3. Under the direction of a veterinarian, implement programs in disease prevention and control to improve the health, welfare and productivity of animal populations.
4. Respond to issues at the interface of animals, humans, and the environment, utilizing a global perspective and sensitivity to local cultures.
5. Communicate effectively with diverse clients, colleagues, other healthcare professionals and the public to promote animal, human and environmental health and wellbeing.
6. Collaborate with diverse colleagues, clients and other stakeholders and demonstrates skills as a leader and inter-professional team member to improve outcomes and reduce error.
7. Demonstrate expected behaviors including ethical reasoning, reflective practice, self-regulation, self-advocacy, professional development, and personal wellbeing.

8. Utilize business acumen to manage professional and personal decisions, complies with legal and regulatory requirements and ensures safety of the workplace.
9. Demonstrate the systematic identification, evaluation, integration and adaptation of evidence and experience to formulate questions and solutions, and educate others.

Veterinary Technician Oath & Code of Ethics

Veterinary Technician Oath

I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and promoting public health.

I accept the obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession's Code of Ethics, furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning.

The NAVTA Ethics Committee has developed a Veterinary Technician Code of Ethics. This can be reviewed at the following link: <http://navta.net/policies/>

General Information

Student Advisement

Academic advising is provided by the College of Arts and Sciences College Advising and Support Services Hub (CASSH). Ms. Hannah Huff is the current Appalachian VTN Program Academic Advisor; email: huffhc@appstate.edu. For any concern or issue, students are encouraged to contact the Program Director, Dr. Virginia Corrigan, corriganvk@appstate.edu. Academic advising for undeclared students who do not meet the requirements to declare is provided by the student's assigned advisor from the University College Advising Center. A student's assigned advisor can be found in [Degree Works](#).

Student Input Into Quality Program Improvement

The VTN Program invites students to provide input for quality program improvement through completion of faculty and course evaluations, participation in voluntary focus groups and surveys, and through representation on the Program Advisory Board.

Student Information and Consents

Throughout the Veterinary Technology program, students are required to convey current information to the department regarding the following:

- Contact information (changes in name, address, and phone number)
- Family emergency contact
- Illness or injury
- Course drops, additions, withdrawals from one or more classes

Academic Affairs Policies

Students must comply with all Appalachian State University policies including:

- [Student Code of Conduct](#)
- [General Attendance Policy](#)
- [Student Engagement in Coursework](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)

University Student Support Services

Library Services (828-262-2186): Students are encouraged to use the Appalachian's library facilities.

Counseling Center (828-262-3180), <http://counseling.appstate.edu/>: Appalachian's Counseling Center is available to students at any time. For emergencies, on weekends and evenings, students may contact Appalachian's Police at (828)262-2150 if a counseling staff member is needed. In addition, the counseling center may refer students to local mental health services.

Disability Resources (828-262-3056), <https://odr.appstate.edu/>: Appalachian State University is committed to providing an inclusive experience, accessible learning environments and equal opportunity to individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation. The Office of

Access & Equity: Disability Resources (ODR) is the designated office to determine and coordinate course accommodations for students. Course accommodations are determined individually to minimize the effects of the disability's impact and functional limitations in order for students to complete the established academic standards and course/program requirements.

Inclusive Excellence (828-262-2144), <https://cas.appstate.edu/initiatives/inclusive-excellence>:Appalachian is committed to Inclusive Excellence and does not position diversity as simply the presence of difference, but instead treats diversity as the intentional inclusion of the cultures, worldviews, gifts, talents, history, and traditions of all people and places.

The Office of Access & Equity: Equal Opportunity strives to make Appalachian State University a discrimination-free, harassment-free environment for faculty, students and staff to work, live, and learn. EO is responsible for managing and monitoring the University's equal opportunity and compliance actions. EO oversees university equal opportunity policies, responds to complaints, conducts investigations, develops and delivers training and educational outreach to campus, as well as provides consultation to supervisors and managers regarding equal opportunity concerns and initiatives.

Financial Aid

Listed below are resources for information on financial aid detailing up-to-date specifics to assist in the appropriate funding for your needs.

Appalachian's Financial Aid Office

(828)262-2059 <https://financialaid.appstate.edu/> They can help with programs such as Pell Grants and Stafford Loans, State-funded programs such as the NC Student Incentive Grant, work-study opportunities, and scholarships available only to Appalachian Students.

Scholarship opportunities specifically for Veterinary Technology students may be found on the website: <https://rri.appstate.edu/vet-tech/scholarships> \

Formal Complaints

The Veterinary Technology Program abides by the University guidelines in addressing formal complaints for:

Student Misconduct

Definition of Misconduct from the Appalachian State University Code of Student Conduct. "...any action by a student that endangers or threatens to endanger the health or safety of the University community or the education mission of the University, or any behavior that violates the standards of conduct specified in this Code".

In the event that a complaint has been made regarding student misconduct, every attempt is made to ensure that students' rights to a fair process are upheld. For complaints regarding student misconduct, please contact the Office of Student Conduct: Plemmons Student Union, Rm. 320, studentconduct@appstate.edu, 828-262-2704.

Accreditation Status

Regional Accreditation:

The Bachelor of Science ("B.S.") degree program in Veterinary Technology is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

AVMA CVTEA Accreditation:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) evaluates and awards accreditation to veterinary technology programs. This accreditation is crucial as state veterinary boards require veterinary technicians to have graduated from an accredited program to be eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and state board examinations. This allows new graduates to become credentialed technicians.

New programs like Appalachian State are required to submit an initial application stating their desire to be an accredited program prior to the first cohort of students beginning classes. The Appalachian State Veterinary Technology program's Application for Initial Accreditation to the AVMA CVTEA has been accepted. Application for accreditation does not guarantee accreditation and applying for accreditation does not grant any temporary status of accreditation. A site visit to evaluate the program and determination of accreditation status will be completed prior to the first graduating cohort.

Veterinary technician credentialing eligibility is the responsibility of each autonomous state licensing board. Check with your state to determine its licensure requirements at www.aavsb.org.

Source: <https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/accredited-programs-cvtea>

App State Online Services and Resources

Included/Eligible	Not included but can opt in for a fee	Not included and currently cannot opt in
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic Strategy Instruction • Academic Success Workshops • AsUR • Career Development • Common Reading • Disability Resources • Engage • Library Services • Social Work Care Collaborative • SSS • Tech Support • Textbook rental (with option to opt out) • Tutoring • Wellness & Prevention • Writing Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling • Health Services • Parking • Dining meal plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appalachian State Campus Resources for Students

Veterinary Technology Program Fee

Starting in the Fall 2023 semester, a new fee will be assessed each semester to support educational needs directly associated with the Veterinary Technology program.

Who: Students with a declared, or intended, major in Banner set as Veterinary Technology (note: students must be a declared or intended Vet Tech major to register for VTN courses at the 2000 & higher levels)

What: a \$150 fee each year **When:** \$75 assessed on the tuition bill each Fall and Spring semester (summer enrollment is excluded)

Why: To provide students with educational materials specific to the Veterinary profession; Notably, access to specific online content and resources that enable online instruction.

Admission, Progression, and Graduation, Dismissal, and Readmission Policies

The Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology (VTN)

The purpose of this degree program is to prepare students to become credentialed veterinary technicians. In this pre-licensure program, students develop academic knowledge and skills for the care of animals while also building the foundation for a wide array of career opportunities in the field of veterinary medicine. This program is not intended to prepare students to become Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) nor prepare students for entrance into DVM programs.

Admission Criteria

- Students must be admitted to the University. If you have completed at least 30 semester hours, including credit for RC 1000 or an equivalent course and credit for or current enrollment in UCO 1200 or an equivalent course, and have obtained at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA, you may declare a major unless additional admissions requirements must be met.
- Program declaration requirements (successful completion of VTN 1030 with C or higher and VTN 1040 in addition to [university declaration requirements](#)) and required supplemental advising
- 2.5 GPA requirement for graduation [catalog year 2023-2024 and beyond](#)

Transfer Credit

- ● Transfer credit is reviewed through the [Transfer Admissions and Engagement Office](#). You can use the [Transfer Course Equivalency Search Tool](#) to identify how your credit may transfer.

Graduation Requirements

- In order to remain in the Veterinary Technology program, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) and earn a minimum grade of “C” (2.0) in [VTN 1030](#).
- 2.5 major GPA is required for graduation starting catalog year 2023-2024 and beyond. Students on the 2022-2023 catalog must earn a minimum 2.0 major GPA for graduation. Major GPA calculation will include all courses taken in the major discipline plus any other courses under Major Requirements.
- Minimum of 18 semester hours of courses taken to fulfill major requirements must be courses offered by Appalachian.
- The B.S. program in Veterinary Technology consists of 120 credit hours. Of these, 44 semester hours are general education requirements, and 76 hours are major specific requirements.
- The [Veterinary Technology Program of Study](#) outlines the courses required for the major. Make sure the Program of Study you view matches your Catalog Year (found on [Degree Works](#))

Academic Probation & Suspension Policy

- VTN Program students may be placed on academic probation or suspension if they fail to meet the requirements to remain in “good standing.” For more information: <https://registrar.appstate.edu/resources/policies/academic-policies/academic-probation-and-suspension>
- You must maintain a 2.0 (a C average) or higher GPA to be in good standing. If you fall below that, you’ll be placed on academic probation.
- A minimum 2.0 overall cumulative GPA, a minimum 2.5 major GPA (catalog year 2023-2024 and beyond), and a minimum of at least 120 credit hours must be earned in order to graduate with this degree from Appalachian. Major GPA calculations will include all courses taken in the major discipline plus any other courses under “Major Requirements” on your Program of Study.
- If your overall GPA is low, there’s a good chance your major GPA is as well. If you have questions about your major GPA, please contact the [CASSH office](#).

Withdrawals

- Students who need to withdraw (i.e., discontinue all classes) for the current term or a future term must complete the online Withdraw from the University Form.

Completed form will automatically be forwarded to the Registrar's Office for withdrawal processing. For withdrawal process questions, please contact the Registrar's Office at (828) 262-2050 or registrar@appstate.edu.

- Newly admitted undergraduate students who no longer plan to attend Appalachian, must also notify the [Office of Admissions](#).
- Starting the first day of classes, discontinuing enrollment in all your classes is considered a withdrawal for the term. If the withdrawal occurs after the official last day to withdraw from the term as published in the Academic Calendar, there will be no refund and grade(s) will be recorded as "Withdrawal Failure" or "WF." To find the last day to withdraw from the term, please refer to the academic calendar for that term.
- The Withdrawal Checklist provides students with detailed information about necessary steps they need to take in the withdrawal process.
 - <https://registrar.appstate.edu/resources/policies/academic-policies/withdrawal-policy>
- The Registrar's website provides students with detailed information about necessary steps they need to take in the withdrawal process.

Refund Policy

- Information and/or questions regarding refunds can be found on the [Office of Student Accounts website](#).

Dismissal Policy

Students may be sanctioned or dismissed from the Program. Students dismissed from the VTN Program will receive notification via a formal letter from the Director that includes a reason for the sanction or dismissal and information regarding eligibility for readmission, if applicable.

The VTN Program's Academic Performance Standards and expectations of essential behaviors for each standard were developed to ensure clarity of expectations for behavior and achievement and to ensure that students from our program are well-suited for the professional demands, roles, and responsibilities of veterinary medical professionals, acknowledging that the development of competency in every area is progressive, beginning with a basic level of commitment, knowledge, understanding and skill and moving towards an appropriate degree of professional competency in all areas by graduation. Therefore, academic performance expectations will follow this developmental sequence, with increasing competency expected over time.

Student academic performance is monitored throughout the VTN Program. When concerns are noted in any of the areas outlined in the Academic Performance Standards, the Department will utilize the policies and procedures outlined in the following paragraphs.

The severity of the concern will influence the level of intervention and steps followed. It is important to note that if a Clinical Affiliate Site requests a student be removed, the VTN Program is required to honor the request.

When an academic, behavioral, or professional concern is identified the following steps are strongly recommended (Refer to Professionalism p. 30).

- 1) The faculty member and student should attempt to resolve concerns as soon as possible through open discussion of the issues. Possible solutions will be identified, implemented, and documented. Documentation may include email summaries of meetings. The Program Director may serve as resources to assist the student and the faculty member in resolving concerns.
- 2) If a satisfactory solution is not reached and/or if another issue arises following the meeting with the faculty member and student, the Program Director should be contacted. The faculty member and Program Director may use a variety of documented methods including joint and individual meetings to assist in resolving the problems; efforts to resolve the problems will be documented. Documentation may include email summaries of meetings.
- 3) If agreeable solutions are not found, the problem is not remedied, or a new problem occurs following consultation with the Program Director, the Program Director will notify the Department Chair. Possible actions may include but are not limited to the following items. The Department Chair will determine a course of action and may consult with appropriate University and Department personnel.
 - a) Gather more information which may include contact with the student, faculty members, agency, or others;
 - b) Conduct a meeting to resolve issues;
 - c) Develop a written performance plan;
 - d) Remove the student from a Clinical Affiliate Site;
 - e) Conduct an Academic Performance Review (APR);
 - f) Suspend/dismiss the student.

NOTE: Any active criminal charge or criminal conviction or active or substantiated violation of the Student Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity Code must be reported to the Program Director. If students have previously earned professional licenses or

certifications, they must also notify the Program of any current or past complaints, disciplinary actions, sanctions, and/or suspensions related to those credentials. Failure to meet these reporting requirements may result in an Academic Performance Review and/or dismissal from the VTN Program.

Violence or threat of harm to any human being or animal, cheating, or two documented instances of plagiarism may result in immediate dismissal from the VTN Program. Engaging in conduct that results in dismissal from Clinical Externships may also result in immediate dismissal from the program. Any other actions required by law and/or University policy will also be taken.

Although every effort is made to identify and positively address student concerns as early as possible, the Department may conduct an APR, or take other appropriate action, at any time to address concerns, even if the relevant issues arise late in the student's final semester. Concerns related to student academic performance, behavior, or professionalism can delay awarding the Veterinary Technology degree or lead to dismissal from the program (refer to Grading Disputes and Resolutions p. 30).

Grievance Procedures Related to Termination from the VTN Program

Students who are dissatisfied with the decision regarding suspension, probation, or termination have the right to appeal the decision. Students should submit a written appeal detailing the reasons for the appeal to the Department Chair within ten (10) working days of receipt of the decision. The Department Chair will review the written materials and may interview the student. The Chair will present a written decision within ten (10) working days of receipt of the appeal. Students who are dissatisfied with the Chair's decision have the right to appeal the decision to the Dean (or Dean's designee) in writing by email within ten (10) business days of receipt of that decision. The Dean's decision is final.

Readmission Policy

- Students who have taken a leave of absence from the program or have been suspended from the VTN Program can be readmitted through the following path: <https://registrar.appstate.edu/students/readmission/undergraduate-readmission>

- For Grade Forgiveness and Repeat Policies, students should refer to the Academic Regulations section of the bulletin:
<http://bulletin.appstate.edu/content.php?catoid=30&navoid=1879>
- Students who have previously withdrawn from the program/a specific required course for personal emergency reasons, can reapply to retake the course for a passing grade.
 - Examples of personal emergency reasons are: mental health, illness, family illness, etc.
 - Students should feel open to discuss any concerns that arise during their time in the program with the faculty and staff of the program. The faculty and staff are here to help students through the program and across any hurdles that arise.
 - University Readmission policies and processes:
 - <https://registrar.appstate.edu/students/readmission/undergraduate-readmission>

Curriculum

Curriculum Overview & Course Descriptions

The Curriculum and Course Descriptions for the VTN Program are also listed on the following website: [Program of Study](#) (refer to the Program of Study for your Catalog Year - found on [Degree Works](#)). Below you will find the Program of Study for 2023-2024.

General Education Requirements (44 Hours)

General Education Requirements

[CHE 1101-CHE 1110](#) and [CHE 1102-CHE 1120](#) or [CHE 1051-CHE 1053](#) and [CHE 1052-CHE 1054](#) fulfill the Science Inquiry. [MAT 1020](#) fulfills the Quantitative Literacy requirement. [PH 2000](#) will count in the General Education, Liberal Studies Experience.

Major Requirements (76 Hours)

Not including 15 semester hours already counted in General Education Requirements, above

Successful completion of [VTN 1030](#) [with a minimum grade of “C” (2.0)] and [VTN 1040](#) required for major declaration.

2.0 cumulative GPA required for graduation. 2.5 major GPA is required for graduation. Major GPA calculation will include all courses taken in the major discipline plus any other courses under Major Requirements. Minimum of 18 semester hours of courses taken to fulfill major requirements must be courses offered by Appalachian.

Veterinary Technology Core Requirements (53 Hours)

- [VTN 1030 - Introduction to Veterinary Nursing \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 1040 - Animal Behavior and Handling \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2010 - Animal Anatomy \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2020 - Animal Physiology \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2030 - Small Companion Animal Nursing \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2050 - Veterinary Surgical Nursing \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2060 - Veterinary Clinical Pathology I \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2090 - Large, Laboratory, and Exotic Animal Nursing \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 2998 - Clinical Externship \(1-3\)](#) **Students must complete a minimum of six semester hours of [VTN 2998](#). Externship registration is to be planned and approved in consultation with the Externship Coordinator.
- [VTN 3010 - Introduction to Veterinary Practice Management \(2\)](#)
- [VTN 3020 - Introduction to Veterinary Dentistry \(2\)](#)
- [VTN 3030 - Principles of Veterinary Pharmacology \(2\)](#)
- [VTN 3040 - Veterinary Clinical Pathology II \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 3060 - Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging \(2\)](#)
- [VTN 3070 - Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 3080 - Professional Communication Skills in Veterinary Medicine \(2\) \[WID\]](#)
- [VTN 3100 - Introduction to Veterinary Emergency Medicine \(3\)](#)
- [VTN 4300 - Compassionate End of Life Care \(1\)](#)
- [VTN 4800 - Professional Veterinary Technology Capstone \(3\) \[CAP\]](#)

Veterinary Studies Focus Area (15 Hours)

In consultation with your advisor, choose 15 hours from one of the following Focus Areas provided below (Students must complete 45 hours of VTN coursework AND receive permission of program advisor to register for focus area coursework):

Companion Animal Focus Area (Choose 15 hours from course options below)

- VTN 4010 - Veterinary Nursing Care Plan Design: Evidence Based Practices (2)
- VTN 4020 - Physical Rehabilitation and Complementary Medicine for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4030 - Advanced Emergency and Critical Care for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4040 - Advanced Veterinary Dentistry for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4060 - Advanced Companion Animal Preventive Care for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4070 - Ultrasound Skills for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4080 - Animal Hospice and Palliative Care for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4090 - Advanced Clinical Nutrition for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4100 - Advanced Internal Medicine Topics for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (2)
- VTN 4250 - Leadership and Empowered Teams in Veterinary Medicine (2)
- VTN 4998 - Track Specific Clinical Externship (1-3) (Strongly recommended)

Practice Management Focus Area (Choose 15 hours from course options below)

- MGT 3620 - Human Resource Management (3)
- MGT 3660 - Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3)
- VTN 4110 - Veterinary Medical Ethics and Legal Issues (3)
- VTN 4120 - Principles of Veterinary Practice Management (3)
- VTN 4130 - Finance for Veterinary Practice Managers (3)
- VTN 4140 - Veterinary Client Relationship Management (3)
- VTN 4150 - Veterinary Entrepreneurship and Innovation (3)
- VTN 4250 - Leadership and Empowered Teams in Veterinary Medicine (2)

- VTN 4998 - Track Specific Clinical Externship (1-3) (Strongly recommended)

One Health Focus Area (Choose 15 hours from course options below)

- PH 3130 - Environmental Health (3)
- PH 3600 - Global Public Health (3)
- PH 4650 - Seminar in Rural Public Health (3)
- VTN 4210 - Advanced Laboratory Animal Nursing Topics for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (3)
- VTN 4220 - Advanced Large Animal Nursing Topics for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (3)
- VTN 4230 - Advanced Exotic Animal and Wildlife Nursing Topics for the Veterinary Technician/Veterinary Nurse (3)
- VTN 4240 - Veterinary Public Health (3)
- VTN 4250 - Leadership and Empowered Teams in Veterinary Medicine (2)
- VTN 4998 - Track Specific Clinical Externship (1-3) (Strongly recommended)

Required Cognate Courses (23 Hours)

Biology (Choose one 8 Hour sequence)

- BIO 1201 - Biology in Society I (3)
 - BIO 1202 - Biology in Society II (3)
 - BIO 1203 - Biology in Society Laboratory (2)
- or
- BIO 1801 - Biological Concepts I (4)
 - BIO 1802 - Biological Concepts II (4)

Chemistry (8 Hours)

- CHE 1101 - Introductory Chemistry I (3)
 - CHE 1110 - Introductory Chemistry Laboratory I (1)
 - CHE 1102 - Introductory Chemistry II (3)
 - CHE 1120 - Introductory Chemistry Laboratory II (1)
- or
- CHE 1051 - Chemistry of Life I (3)
 - CHE 1053 - Chemistry of Life Laboratory I (1)

CHE 1052 - Chemistry of Life II (3)
CHE 1054 - Chemistry of Life Laboratory II (1)

Mathematics (4 Hours)

- [MAT 1020 - College Algebra with Applications \(4\)](#)

Public Health (3 Hours)

- [PH 2000 - Introduction to Public Health \(3\) \[GenEd: SS\]](#)

Total Required (120 Hours)

There are three distinct concentration areas included in the 4000 level of the B.S. program to allow graduates to obtain the valuable knowledge and skills for robust and engaging employment in the veterinary profession. The three tracks are Practice Management, Companion Animal, and One Health. In consultation with your advisor, students may choose 15 hours from one of the focus areas that most aligns with your interests and goals.

Transfer students from AVMA accredited programs are eligible for transfer credits and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please visit the Transfer Admissions and Engagement Department for more information:

- <https://transfer.appstate.edu/>

Other frequently asked questions may be answered on our website.

- <https://rri.appstate.edu/vet-tech/faq>

Classroom Policies

Attendance Policy

Appalachian State University Policy (refer to the Class Attendance Section of Academic Regulations)

- <http://bulletin.appstate.edu/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=43>

Veterinary Technology Policy

- The VTN Program is an online program with both synchronous and asynchronous course work. Attendance will be evaluated in all courses. The attendance policy for individual courses within the program will be provided in the course syllabus at the beginning of every semester. Lecture courses attendance policy (See below)
 - VTN 2998 (Clinical Externship) is the hands-on portion of the program and attendance will be accounted for as it would for a traditional employment. Students will be expected to show up on time and ready to work at their scheduled clinical rotation. Significant absences may result in a failing grade.

- Excessive absences and/or or excessive tardies may result in a meeting with the Program Directors. Students will be responsible for engaging with their instructor as soon as an absence is anticipated. Students should send notice of a possible prolonged absence to the Program Directors.
- **Fall and Spring Semester Lecture Course Attendance Policy:**
 - Significant Absences: Two total missed synchronous Zoom meetings or two missed assignments and/or quizzes in asynchronous courses. When this occurs, students will be required to meet with the faculty member. If there is no response, the student will be referred to the Appalachian State University Early Intervention Team (EIT).
 - Excessive Absences: 3 or more total missed synchronous Zoom meetings or three or more missed assignments and/or quizzes in asynchronous courses. When this occurs, students will be referred to EIT.
- **Summer Courses:**
 - Significant Absences: 1 total missed synchronous Zoom meetings or one missed assignment and/or quiz in asynchronous courses. When this occurs, students will be required to meet with the faculty member. If no response, student will be referred to EIT.
 - Excessive Absences: 2 or more total missed synchronous Zoom meetings or two or more missed assignments and/or quizzes in asynchronous courses. When this occurs, students will be referred to EIT.

- All exams will be proctored virtually and attendance is required. More information will be provided in the individual course syllabus.
- **For hospitalization, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances, the student should contact the Program Director AND the [Office of the Dean of Students](#).**

- **FAQ: <https://casemanagement.appstate.edu/pagesmith/14>**

- **To Report an Absence to the Office of the Dean of Students:**
 - [Office of the Dean of Students information page](#)
 - [Online Form](#)

Makeup assignments

- Late assignments will be accepted for extenuating circumstances with a deduction when proper communication is conducted following the student handbook. All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. If submitted late for extenuating circumstances a 50% deduction will be taken from the total points. No assignment will be accepted after 7 days past the due date and a zero will be given.

Online Classroom Etiquette & Expectations

Failure to adhere to proper Zoom etiquette may result in points deducted from your grade as determined by the instructor and may also result in meeting with faculty and administration. As a rule of thumb, if you wouldn't do it in an in-person class, don't do it in the Zoom lecture. Please talk to your instructor first if you have questions.

- Log onto your zoom and AsU Learn 10 minutes before class starts to ensure time to problem shoot any technical issues before class starts. If these occur, directly communicate with your instructor (ex. email).
- Mute your microphone if you aren't talking to limit background noise. Unmute and identify yourself (it is hard to tell who is talking) when talking/asking questions/answering questions and then put on mute to prevent feedback. When your microphone is not muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers.
- Turn on video and ensure the entire face is visible. Camera should be on at all times except for on break. Keep the camera focused at eye level and be centered in your frame.
- Be mindful of your background lighting. If you are sitting in front of a window, you may be completely darkened by the light coming through the window. Your overhead light also might need to be turned off or dimmed as well. Please feel free to blur your background or use an appropriate filter for your background.
- Use your preferred name on your Zoom Screen
- Be on time and prepared.

- If you need to step away from the computer for an extended period of time, please send a brief private chat to the instructor informing them of your need to step away.
- Only post chat messages relevant to the lessons
- Remain engaged in the lecture and class activities the entire time.
 - Limit distractions as much as possible. It is recommended that students turn off notifications or minimize running apps and mute phones.
 - Try to log online to our class meeting from a quiet, distraction-free environment.
 - Zooming while driving or doing errands is not acceptable.
 - Avoid multitasking such as homework assignments, emails, text messaging, side conversations.
- Have a plan for taking notes (paper and pencil, digital notepad, Word/Pages doc). Jot down questions as you listen to lectures to either ask the instructor or email them questions later.

ONLINE EXPECTATIONS

1. Check your University email daily for Announcements and other communications.
2. Log into AsULearn every day before your scheduled class time.
3. Be in your “Virtual” Zoom Classroom during your scheduled time. You should not be at work during these times or have any other scheduled events/appointments. Work schedules will not be considered as a reason to miss class.
4. When you enter the Zoom classroom, type a greeting (*Hello!*) in the Chat box. When you leave the Zoom classroom, type a farewell (*Goodbye!*).
5. Every class has “outside hours” that include homework, reading assignments, projects, and studying for quizzes, just as they would on campus. Plan on allocating an average of 1-2 hours per credit hours per week, in addition to class time.
6. Check in the Instructor tab in AsULearn for the office hours and contact information for your instructor. This may include email, Google Hangouts, Zoom, or other channels.
7. It is your responsibility to communicate directly with your instructor on absences, late attendance, having to leave early, and make up quizzes or lab skills.
8. Communication needs to be timely. If you are going to miss assignments for unforeseen circumstances, email prior to the day of class. Last-minute communication should be limited to emergencies and illnesses. *Failure to plan is not considered an emergency.*
14. Email etiquette: Every email should have an address (who you are writing to), body with correct basic punctuation and grammar, and a signature. Be

appropriate in your email communications (as if you were in a job communicating with an employer or client).

15. Reach out with questions – it's our #1 job to support you in your success. It's *your* job to take the initiative to ask for help! **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES. THE EARLIER WE CAN HELP THE BETTER YOU WILL DO.**

Faculty & Staff Communication Expectations

The VTN Program encourages you to contact and get to know your instructors. They are here to help you. We ask you to please be aware of the following guidelines:

1. Faculty and Staff will generally be available via email during business hours Monday-Friday, except for University Holidays. In most circumstances, students can expect a reply within one business day.
2. Virtual Office Hours for individual faculty will be posted on AsULearn.
3. Please use your App State email when corresponding with faculty.
4. Please check the course site or syllabus prior to emailing with a question regarding class.
5. Faculty and Staff will have the desired method of contact listed in their individual course syllabus.

Netiquette

“Netiquette” is the term used to describe rules of courtesy in using electronic communication. These rules are intended to help use the medium effectively and considerately. The ideas below are intended to help with electronic class discussion. When communicating in an online course you are addressing a group of people. The following guidelines will help you to communicate effectively.

1. Don't share confidential information.
2. Use the subject line to identify the content of the message.
3. Stay up-to-date on forum postings by reading them regularly.
4. Always comply with copyright by citing your references when posting online content.
5. Use individual email for messages to individuals rather than tying up the group list.
6. Do not forward emails or discussion forum postings without asking permission from the original author.
7. Avoid using all capital letters in your text. This is considered 'shouting' in the online classroom.
8. Aim for clarity and readability in your text.

9. Use proper English and remember to spell check.
10. If you do not understand the assignment's directions or the posts of your classmates don't be afraid to ask for clarification.
11. The online classroom is a community of learners. Participate actively in the community and reach out to your classmates with a helping hand.

Grading Policies

In order to remain in the VTN Program, students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) and earn a minimum grade of "C" (2.0) in [VTN 1030](#).

Grading Scale

The VTN Program follows the Appalachian State University grading scale.

A	93-100 %
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

Grading Disputes/Resolutions and Appeals

- Students who believe that the course grade is arbitrary or inaccurate, must first discuss concerns with the faculty member.
- If unable to resolve, the student may then discuss concerns with the Program Director. At this point if there is a lack of resolution, the University Appeal Procedure should be followed. Policies can be found here: [Student Grievance and Appeal Policies and Procedures](#).

Clinical Policies and Requirements

Professionalism

- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times while they are enrolled as a student in the VTN Program. This will include both online behavior in courses, and in-person behavior in clinical rotations.
 - If a student has a complaint regarding grades or classroom activity, they should first try to resolve the complaint with the faculty/staff member. If this does not end in resolution of the complaint the complaint should be brought to the attention of the Assistant Program Director and/or Program Director.
 - If a student has a complaint concerning another student, they should first try to resolve the complaint with the other student. If this does not end in resolution, the complaint should be brought to the attention of a faculty/staff member of the program. Trying to resolve the complaint by talking to uninvolved classmates will not resolve the complaint.
 - Students are expected to treat all persons and animals with courtesy, compassion, and respect.
 - Students are expected to be in proper uniform during their clinical rotations.

Social Media Policy

- No animals from a clinical site should have their image taken or posted on a personal social media site.

Dress Code Policy

Appalachian State University Veterinary Technology (VTN) students are required to apply the dress code policy to clinical sites as indicated below. It is important that the students wear the appropriate uniform. Please contact the Clinical Coordinator with any questions.

When participating in clinical externships, please be aware that you are representing yourself, Appalachian State University, and your clinical site. Please be courteous and respectful.

Attire - Professional attire appropriate for the field helps to protect the student and demonstrate professionalism.

- Scrub top and pants
- App State ID card & lanyard
- Scrub jacket/Lab coat
- No jeans allowed
- All pants must be hemmed and not drag on the floor
- No shorts allowed (pants must come down to the ankle)
- No crop top (tummy revealing) shirts
- Uniforms are clean
- Solid colored T-shirt or turtleneck may be worn underneath scrub top
- No undergarments may show from outside of uniform (including boxer shorts)

Shoes - Footwear appropriate for clinical settings helps avoid potential injury to the student.

- Closed-toe, non-fabric shoes or sneakers
- No slip soles
- No Crocs, clogs, or sandals

Hair and Nails - Maintaining appropriate hair and nail practices decreases the potential transmission of disease or infection via fomites or harmful microorganisms.

- Students should wash hair regularly, especially after work in the clinical setting
- Shoulder length or longer hair should be tied or pinned back
- Fingernails kept short and clean
 - Nails should not be visible over the palm of hand
- No acrylic nails

Fragrances — Students should refrain from the use of fragrances to avoid causing additional fear, anxiety, and stress in feline patients.

Jewelry - Safe jewelry-wearing practices must be followed to avoid potential injury to the student.

- One finger ring or combination of engagement and wedding ring per hand
 - Silicon bands are highly recommended
- An analog wristwatch with a sweeping second hand is required

- Only small piercing jewelry may be worn
 - No hoops in either face or ear piercings

Clinical sites may have their own dress code requirements. All students are required to comply with their clinical site policies and requirements. In the event of a conflict between this dress code and those at a student's clinical site or if a student has questions concerning the requirements please contact your Clinical Coordinator.

Clinicals & Essential Skills

- Clinical Rotations
 - Clinical Externships (VTN 2998) will occur at approved veterinary clinical affiliate sites in the students' region. During these rotations, students will participate in the day-to-day running of the facility while completing their hands-on essential skills. Students will report to a DVM/VMD and/or Credentialed Veterinary Technician that is a graduate of an AVMA accredited program within the clinical site, and the programs Clinical Coordinator. If a student would like to request the approval of a specific clinical site close to them, the student will need to reach out to the Clinical Coordinator a minimum of six (6) months before the start of their Clinical Externship.
- Essential Skills
 - Students are required to complete all required essential skills provided by the AVMA-CVTEA. All didactic skills will be completed during the students' online courses. All psychomotor skills will be completed during the students' clinical rotations.
 - <https://www.avma.org/education/center-for-veterinary-accreditation/committee-veterinary-technician-education-activities/cvtea-accreditation-policies-and-procedures-appendix-h>

Required Supplies & Equipment List

- Stethoscope
 - Requirements: Dual bells for multiple species
 - Recommend: 3M Littmann Classic III Stethoscope
- Uniform (refer to Dress Code p. 31)
- Bandage scissors
 - Recommend: Size-6 inches; Stainless steel
- Computer

- Webcam
- Small notebook (recommended)
- Pen - black & blue
- Sharpie - black
- Pocket calculator (recommended)
- Nurse Tool Belt (recommended)

Health, Immunization and Safety Policies

Appalachian State University Student Liability Plan

Appalachian State University requires professional and general liability coverage for all students enrolled in internship, field experience, practicum, clinical, and student teaching. Therefore, the University has assisted by locating a cost-effective policy for students to purchase for this purpose. The premium for this coverage is charged to each student's account upon enrollment in the internship, field experience, practicum, clinical, or student teaching course.

If the student is enrolled in a course not designated as an Internship (INT), Practicum (PRA), Field Experience (FLD), Clinical (CLN) or Student Teaching (ST), but the course has an experiential component embedded in the curriculum with students applying their skills on-site in a manner similar to internships, such courses will also carry the insurance requirement. The premium for this coverage is charged to each student's account upon enrollment.

Upon enrollment in Clinical Externships (VTN 2998, VTN 4998), students will be entered into the Internship Inventory. Please read more on the website:

<https://careers.appstate.edu/insurance>

Aggressive Animal Policy

- Students who are on their clinical rotations can refuse to work with an aggressive animal with whom they feel their skills are not honed enough to properly and safely interact. The student should inform their clinical externship supervisor/preceptor (DVM or credentialed veterinary technician) when faced with an animal displaying aggressive behaviors. The clinical externship supervisor and/or the program Clinical Coordinator (on an as-needed basis) will instruct the student on how to proceed.

Bite & Scratch Policy

- Students who are on their clinical rotations who receive a bite/scratch from an animal and/or any injury will need to inform their clinical externship supervisor and the program Clinical Coordinator. Students should follow the following outline of how to handle these situations:
 - Student informs clinical externship supervisor of bite/scratch/injury.
 - Student and clinical externship supervisor perform the necessary first aid required to obtain a handle on the injury.
 - Call emergency services (911) if necessary
 - Wash the injured area with soap and water for a minimum of 15 minutes
 - Bandage the injured area lightly as needed
 - Students are advised to seek the services of a physician or qualified medical professional for any wounds that break skin
 - Once the injury has been handled, the student is required to report this information to the Clinical Coordinator and complete an Appalachian State University Incident Report within 24 hours.
 - <https://veoci.com/v/p/form/gbp9hb993zd5?c=194273>

Occupational Health Policies

Introduction

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff is a paramount concern of the Appalachian State University Veterinary Technology program. This statement is being provided to inform students enrolled in the Veterinary Technology program about occupational health and safety concerns they may encounter in live animal handling courses (clinical externships). All students who enroll in any live animal handling course (VTN 2998, VTN 3998, VTN 4998) are required to read, understand, and adhere to all departmental safety rules and requirements before and during any work in any animal healthcare and/or veterinary clinical setting. All students shall wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the activities in accordance with the policies of the veterinary clinical site and the instructor of record. Students should immediately report any accident or injury to both their clinical site supervisor and their instructor(s). The safety precautions in place are to be followed by all students as they significantly minimize health and safety risks for everyone participating in live animal handling activities.

Students with Medical Conditions and Pregnancy

Live animal handling courses may present hazards that are not encountered in other classes. Students are not legally required to disclose any medical condition or pregnancy to the program or University. Students who have temporary impairments/injuries, medical conditions, including but not limited to certain respiratory issues, allergies, or pregnancy, may need to seek reasonable accommodations to ensure further risk mitigation during live animal handling courses. While exposure levels to chemicals and other hazards commonly encountered in veterinary healthcare settings may pose low or no risk to an adult, they can pose a significantly higher level of risk to students with certain medical conditions or to a developing embryo or fetus. The toxicological properties of many chemicals are not well studied, and often it is not known what exposure level is acceptable for students with underlying medical issues. This is especially true for pregnant students if the chemicals are mutagenic (cause damage to chromosomes) or teratogenic (cause birth defects and/or fetal death).

Additional information on chemicals and other hazards commonly encountered in veterinary healthcare settings can be made available upon request to the program Clinical Coordinator.

Process to Seek Accommodations

Any student enrolled in or wishing to enroll in a live animal handling course that has an underlying medical condition or concern, has allergies, respiratory issues, is pregnant, nursing, or anticipates becoming pregnant while taking the live animal handling course should discuss the possible risks of exposure to chemicals and other hazards with their personal physician. If a student needs accommodation to participate in any live animal handling course, they should reach out to the [Office of Access and Equity: Disability Resources \(ODR\)](#) for assistance. ODR engages in a collaborative process and considers each individual's condition, the request, and the essential elements of Appalachian State University programs, services and activities in determining eligibility. Accommodations are determined individually and are intended to remove disability related barriers to ensure equal opportunities for participation. Accommodations may include appropriate academic adjustments, auxiliary aids/services, modifications to policies/procedures, and reasonable workplace accommodations. By following the safety precautions in all live animal handling settings, students will ensure that there is no unnecessary occupational health exposure that would cause injury to the student or others.

Additional Information about Potential Hazards:

- Ionizing radiation
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/ionizingradiation.html>

- Exposure to ionizing radiation while pregnant may increase risks of birth defects or miscarriage. Risks vary based on dosage of radiation and stage of pregnancy during exposure.
- Zoonotic infectious agents
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/infectious.html>
<http://www.nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf>
 - Veterinary professionals may encounter zoonotic bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses in professional settings. Some of these infectious agents may present specific risks to pregnant women and/or the developing fetus.
 - Organisms of concern to pregnant women include, but are not limited to, *Toxoplasma*, *Brucella*, *Salmonella*, *Cryptosporidia*, *Listeria*, *Chlamydomphila psittaci*, *Coxiella burnetii*, and Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis Virus.
 - Students who are pregnant should contact their supervising faculty and take appropriate precautions if they believe they have been in contact with a suspect or confirmed case of these infections.
- Chemicals
 - Anesthetic gasses
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/anestheticgases.html>
 - Pregnant women exposed to waste anesthetic gasses may have an increased risk of miscarriage. Decisions regarding pregnant student exposure to anesthetic gasses, including normal waste gasses during anesthetic procedures or patients recovering from anesthesia, should be made in conjunction with the student's physician.
 - Students may wear a respirator during periods of potential exposure to waste anesthetic gasses as directed by their physician.
 - Formaldehyde
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/formaldehyde.html>
 - Working with formaldehyde (and closely related formalin and glutaraldehyde) while pregnant may increase chances of miscarriage.
 - A student may wear a respirator during periods of potential exposure to formaldehyde as directed by their physician.
 - Chemotherapeutic agents
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/repro/antineoplastic.html>

- Working with certain chemotherapeutic agents during pregnancy could increase chances of fetal loss or miscarriage, fetal defects, preterm births, or learning disabilities in children exposed during pregnancy.
 - Exogenous hormones (ex. prostaglandins, oxytocin)
 - Veterinary professionals routinely work with exogenous hormones that affect reproductive organs of animals and people. Exposure to these types of compounds may increase risks for fetal loss and miscarriage.
 - Students should talk with their supervising faculty in cases where these compounds are administered to patients.
 - When working with these compounds, students should wear personal protective equipment to avoid contact.
- Where can I find more information about pregnancy and the veterinary profession?
 - [Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions: Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel](#)

Rabies Policy

Rabies Vaccination:

The Veterinary Technology Program requires that students are vaccinated for rabies with the human-approved rabies prophylaxis vaccination before handling live animals. The vaccination is to be performed either through a personal physician or the student's state health department at the sole expense of the individual student. In some cases, insurance may cover part or all of the expense; it is highly encouraged to explore individual coverage for the rabies vaccination. Students will need to provide proof of immunization prior to handling live animals. Failure to obtain this vaccination will result in an inability to enroll in clinical externship courses (VTN 2998, VTN 3998, and VTN 4998).

The rabies prophylaxis vaccination is composed of a series of two vaccinations, Day Zero and Day Seven. It is strongly advised for students to complete the rabies prophylaxis vaccination series prior to the start of the VTN Program and is required prior to the start of clinical externship courses. Proof of vaccination will be required prior to handling live animals in clinical externship courses (VTN 2998, VTN 3998, and VTN 4998). If a student has already received the pre-exposure rabies vaccine, an official lab report showing immunity by positive blood titer for rabies antibodies within the previous two (2) years must be provided.

Per CDC guidelines, individuals who received the 2-dose vaccination series require a titer check between one (1) and three (3) years following the first 2-dose vaccination. Currently, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) guidelines recommend individuals in high-risk professions, such as veterinary technicians, obtain a titer check every two (2) years to determine and maintain efficacy. Without vaccination, an individual is at risk of contracting the rabies virus infection, which is a fatal disease. Please visit this CDC web page as part of this information policy document: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/rabies.html>.

Students requesting a waiver of the rabies requirement for medical or religious reasons should contact the [Office of Access and Equity](#).

A student who declines the pre-exposure rabies vaccine or is unable to complete the vaccine series requirements and has not been granted a waiver will be able to progress through the program, but will not be able to enroll in clinical externship courses.

A minimum of 240 cumulative contact hours of practical veterinary experience is a requirement for graduation from an AVMA CVTEA accredited Veterinary Technology program.

AVMA CVTEA Rabies Policy:

The AVMA CVTEA requires compliance with the following standard to decrease the potential of human exposure to the Rabies virus:

Safety of students, program personnel, and animals must be of prime consideration. Students must be educated on rabies risk prior to working with animals. Prior to live animal use, students must be vaccinated against rabies.

Reasoning/Justification:

- Rabies is a viral disease with a close to 100% mortality rate in people or animals that contract this disease. The program's curriculum exposes students to a variety of animals in different settings for hands-on clinical experience and, in many cases, students may come in contact with animals that may have not been vaccinated against rabies or that have unknown vaccination histories.
- The AVMA (CVTEA) accrediting body requires all programs to have a policy that either includes a requirement that all students be vaccinated against rabies or implement a comprehensive rabies mitigation protocol. Our program has elected to require rabies vaccination for all students.
- By receiving the vaccine while in the program, students will be well prepared for the workforce and possibly have an advantage over other applicants who have not received the vaccine series.

Rabies in humans can be prevented either by eliminating exposures to rabid animals or by providing exposed persons with prompt local treatment of wounds combined with appropriate postexposure prophylaxis (including both passive antibody administration and active immunization with cell culture vaccines). In addition, pre-exposure

vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, and certain laboratory workers.

Benefits of pre-exposure rabies vaccination for the veterinary healthcare team:

- Pre-exposure rabies vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional treatment after rabies exposure. However, it does eliminate the need for post-exposure rabies immunoglobulin administration and decreases the number of post-exposure doses of vaccine needed. Pre-exposure prophylaxis also may provide protection if post-exposure rabies treatment is delayed or if rabies exposure is unrecognized.
- The active antibody response develops in approximately 7–10 days, and detectable rabies virus-neutralizing antibodies generally persist for several years. The duration of protection varies, so regular titers are necessary to assess the need for a booster vaccination. According to the ACIP guidelines: “Although virus neutralizing antibody levels might not definitively determine a person’s susceptibility or protection from a rabies virus exposure, titers in persons at risk for exposure are used to monitor the relative rabies immune status over time. To ensure the presence of a primed immune response over time among persons at higher than normal risk for exposure, titers should be checked periodically, with booster doses administered only as needed.”

Fully vaccinated animal - Animals that have been held for twenty-eight (28) days after their first rabies vaccine to allow for seroconversion according to the CDC. Animals previously vaccinated against rabies are considered fully vaccinated immediately after their booster vaccine is given if their booster vaccine is given on schedule.

Fully vaccinated students/staff/faculty - People are considered fully vaccinated after they have completed their initial Rabies vaccine series (2-dose series given at days 0 and 7) plus either (a) a 1-dose booster between 3 weeks and 3 years following the first vaccine in the 2-dose series or (b) a one-time titer check after 1 year and up to 3 years following the first 2-dose series.

Vaccination Requirement for All VTN Students:

Rabies pre-exposure or prophylactic proof of vaccination (PrEP) is required of all students prior to beginning VTN 2998 Clinical Externship. Documentation showing a student has received the vaccination is required to be provided to the Clinical Coordinator prior to the first clinical externship.

Vaccinations can be obtained from your local physician or from local pharmacies. It is highly recommended that you call first to inquire about the availability as many do not carry this vaccine in stock and it must be ordered. Additionally, Passport Health Clinics also administer the vaccine but again it is recommended to call first to ensure availability.

<https://www.passporthealthusa.com/>

CDC defines veterinary technicians as a Risk Category 3 since they interact with, or are at higher risk to interact with, mammals other than bats that could be rabid, for a period longer than three (3) years after they receive PrEP.

The following is the schedule for Rabies Vaccinations:
2 doses, days 0 and 7, plus:

- Either a one-time titer check between one (1) and three (3) years after receiving the first 2-dose vaccination

OR

- 1-dose booster between three (3) weeks and three (3) years following the first vaccine in the 2-dose vaccination

Previously vaccinated individuals:

Previous vaccination may serve as justification; however, individuals vaccinated two (2) years or more prior to entering the program must produce titer results documenting immunity. These results must be obtained within the six (6) month period prior to the first day of the first clinical externship (VTN 2998). Titer levels greater than 0.11 IU/mL are recommended by the CDC ACIP as evidence that an individual still has a detectable level of rabies virus-neutralizing antibodies. At this level, an immune-competent individual would be expected to mount a rapid response to a booster dose of rabies vaccine in the event of an exposure, precluding the need for rabies immune globulin during post-exposure prophylaxis. If a person with an occupational risk of rabies virus exposure does not have evidence of rabies virus neutralizing antibodies at a titer lower than WHO and CDC recommendations (>0.11 IU/mL), then they should receive a single booster dose of rabies vaccine. This booster must be completed prior to the first day of live animal handling in the VTN 2998 course.

****** Individual Clinical Sites may require other vaccinations**

Criminal Background Check

Background Check Policy

Criminal background checks (CBCs) are required by the VTN Program. Students must complete a CBC prior to each clinical externship placement. Students are responsible for paying the minimal fee (usually \$10-20). University typically uses Certiphi as a CBC

provider. Students entering clinical externship placements will receive an email from Certiphi at studentedition@certiphi.com and will be required to follow the instructions listed in the email to complete their Criminal Background Check prior to starting clinical externships. If you have not received an email from Certiphi within two weeks of the email notification, please check your spam first, then notify the Clinical Coordinator.

If you have received the email from Certiphi, complete your CBC within two weeks of receiving the email. If you are unable to do so, please let the Clinical Coordinator know. Based on the CBC results, students may be required to meet with the Clinical Coordinator and/or the Program Director in order to be permitted to move forward in the placement process or may not be permitted to engage in the externship. Registration for the clinical externship will not occur until the CBC is completed and concerns are addressed or resolved.

Proof of a background check is required of all students prior to enrollment in VTN 2998 (Clinical Externship). Felonies and misdemeanors particularly drug related may affect eligibility to become licensed in your state and progression in the program. Please contact the Program Directors with any questions.

There is a feature to request a background check for students as their record is submitted in the Internship Inventory. It is processed through Certiphi. More information can be found under Background Checks and Drug Panels:

<https://careers.appstate.edu/faculty-staff-internship-resources>

Student Chapter of National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)

Student Membership Information

From the NAVTA Website <https://www.navta.net/students/>

Student Chapters of NAVTA (SCNAVTA) enable students to experience the responsibilities that go along with being a member of a profession.

There are many benefits to starting a Student Chapter of NAVTA, here are just a few:

- Enables your students to become more active in the community by participating in and providing a variety of public education.

- Provides students with responsibilities allowing them to become a more professional and productive member of the veterinary team.
- Introduces incoming freshmen to the career, while at the same time forming a strong bond with mentoring senior students.
- Creates a well rounded veterinary technician/nurse.

The Appalachian State University Veterinary Technology Program has initiated a SCNAVTA. It is highly encouraged that students participate in virtual and potentially regional in person events. This is an excellent way to have a sense of belonging and build life-long friendships as well as develop professional contacts. Despite being a nationwide program, the veterinary community is small.