

THE COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES

The Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) met on November 5 – 7, 2020 and April 22 – 24, 2021 by an online modality. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Kelly Black, and Tracy Blais, BS, CVT, MEd served as vice chair.

Accreditation of Veterinary Technology Programs

Within the above meeting timeframe, the CVTEA reviewed and granted re-accreditation to 16 veterinary technology programs and granted initial accreditation to seven new veterinary technology programs. No programs had accreditation withdrawn during this timeframe; however, two programs requested voluntary closure and were placed on voluntary terminal accreditation. In addition, the CVTEA reviewed a total of 67 annual reports, 57 biennial reports and 30 interim reports. There is a total of nine veterinary technology programs that are undergoing the initial accreditation application process.

CVTEA Accreditation Site Visits

The CVTEA completed a total of 19 site visits in 2020. Originally, 26 site visits were scheduled; however, several were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the CVTEA shifted its site visit modality to an online format, developed virtual site visit guidelines, and implemented a COVID-19 policy.

The CVTEA allows a maximum of 50 site visits annually, unless approved by the CVTEA. Each site visit is approximately two days in length. Each site team is composed of a total of four members including the site 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 April 2021 and is available on 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. This policy is scheduled for publication in the July 2021 *Accreditation Policies and Procedures of the AVMA CVTEA*.

CVTEA Accreditation Statistics

There is currently a total of 214 AVMA CVTEA-accredited veterinary technology programs. which are classified as follows: 167 at Full Accreditation, 40 at Initial Accreditation, five 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 2019 - 2020 academic year, there were approximately 5,743 graduates. Of this amount, 5,410 graduated with an Associate degree and 333 graduated with a bachelor's degree. There are approximately 34,677 enrolled veterinary technology/nursing students. Of this amount, approximately 1,936 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 *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>

The CVTEA continues its process of developing an enhanced accreditation model towards its goal of achieving Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognition.

Activities Report

A CVTEA internal working group was created at the April 2021 CVTEA meeting and charged with exploring long term recommendations to address the “activities” portion of the CVTEA charge. The CVTEA Chair and Vice-Chair completed one-on-one information gathering sessions with primary professional stakeholders from the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators, and the Registered Veterinary Technologists and Technicians of Canada (RVTTTC). In addition, representatives from the Veterinary Innovation Council (VIC) were interviewed. The CVTEA working group is in the process of identifying recommendations to address the ‘activities’ portion of the CVTEA charge.

On behalf of the CVTEA, Dr. Kelly Black, and Tracy Blais, BS, CVT, Med attended the AVMA/NAVTA Leadership Committee meeting during the 2021 online Veterinary Leadership Meeting. In addition, CVTEA member Kelly Foltz, BA, LVT, VTS (ECC) continues to represent CVTEA on the AVMA Veterinary Technician Utilization Working Group. Dr. Jennifer Asher, and Sharon Johnston RVT, VTS (Anesthesia) serve on the VTNE Committee on behalf of CVTEA.