August 2023

NOTICE OF UPDATE TO THE
AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AVMA)
COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES (CVTEA)*
ACCREDITATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (P&P) MANUAL
Effective August 1, 2023

The AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA)* has released an updated publication of the Accreditation Policies and Procedures (P&P) Manual of the AVMA CVTEA effective August 1, 2023 which are summarized below.

CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS OF ACCREDITATION

Changes to Standard sections 4a, 5b, 5e. Changes move content from Appendix C (Off-Campus Clinical Instruction) into the Standard and do not represent new criteria. Further, Appendix C has been discontinued.

4a. All aspects of the physical facilities used for primary learning must provide an environment conducive to learning and the achievement of the educational goals. Classrooms, teaching laboratories, and other teaching spaces shall be clean, maintained in good repair, adequate in number, appropriate in capacity, and provided with sufficient equipment to meet the instructional need and the number of students enrolled.

5b. Adequate numbers of common domestic and laboratory animal species are required to provide the necessary quantity and quality of clinical instruction to meet curriculum requirements without overuse of the animals or violation of AWA requirements for humane use and care. (see Use of Animals in Veterinary Technology Teaching Programs Appendix). Off-campus providers of instructional support must meet objective requirements set by the program with respect to animal resources.

5e. Off-campus providers of instructional support must meet objective requirements set by the program with respect to the physical facilities, staff, and available equipment. A memorandum of understanding or contractual arrangement, with appropriate exit strategies, must be established with all off-campus sites including, but not limited to, primary learning sites and veterinary practical experiences (externships/preceptorship), as outlined in Standard 10d, externship, preceptorship, and distance learning sites. (see Off-Campus Clinical Instruction Appendix)

Changes to Standard 7 – Admissions (7b and 7c). All changes are editorial only for clarity.

7b. Applicants must have a high school diploma or its equivalent. Consideration of the qualifications of applicants for admission must include aptitude for, and interest in, and an understanding of a career in veterinary technology.

7c. Consideration of the qualifications of applicants for admission must include aptitude for, an interest in, and an understanding of a career in veterinary technology. The CVTEA recognizes that some institutions must perform under open admissions policies that prohibit selective entry into veterinary technician education programs. However, The development and consistent application of selective admissions standards may be helpful in admitting more qualified students, reducing attrition, and producing graduates who are most likely to succeed, and therefore should be implemented.
Changes to Standard 8 – Students (8e). Proposed changes intended to strengthen the Standard.

8e. The program must promote a learning environment that values diversity, equity, and inclusion, and belonging.

**CHANGES TO EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES LIST**

Programs must either own, or have access to, required equipment. Programs are expected to comply with changes in required equipment within one year of the announced change.

**Restraint Equipment**
- Added “mechanical” to clarify the type of twitch equipment. The piece of equipment remains required.

**Laboratory Equipment**
- Amended “hand tally cell counter” from required to recommended.
- The Committee clarified that use of electronic smartphone apps will meet the requirement for the differential cell counter.

**Radiographic Imaging Equipment**
- Consolidated personal protective equipment (PPE) items for brevity.
- Removed the following equipment items:
  - Automatic film processor
  - Film
  - Hand dark room and developing equipment
  - High speed/rare earth screens
- Amended “cassette holders” to “cassette or plate holders”. The item remains required.
- Amended “radiation safety badges” to “radiation dosimeter badges”. The item remains required.
- Amended “Radiographic machine-fixed” to “Radiographic digital machine-fixed”. The item remains required. Note that a portable x-ray machine mounted to a stand will not meet the criteria.
- Amended “Radiographic viewer” to “Radiographic viewer (Digital)” and changed from recommended to required.
- Amended “Radiographic machine-dental” to “Radiographic digital machine-dental”. The item remains required.

**Clinical Equipment**
- Added “Laryngoscope” as a required piece of equipment
- Amended “Tonometer” to “Tonometer (Digital)”. The item remains required.
CHANGES TO ESSENTIAL AND RECOMMENDED SKILLS LIST
The Committee cyclically reviewed Sections 3 (Nursing), 6 (Laboratory Procedures), and 9 (Avian, .

Section 3-Nursing
- Amended “apply mechanical twitch (horses/ponies/donkeys/mules)* [GROUP]” by adding “mechanical”. The skill remains required and hands-on.
- Removed the word “objective” from “Demonstrate the ability to obtain objective patient data”
- Changed “assess hydration status” from recommended to required. The skill remains hands-on.
- Added “assess pain status using standardized/contemporary pain scale*” as a required, hands-on skill.
- Moved “perform ocular diagnostic tests (including tonometry, fluorescein staining and Schirmer tear test)*” from the Therapeutics section to Patient Assessment section for relevance of category.
- Added “otic” to “administer topical medications (including otic and ophthalmic)*”. The skill remains required and hands-on.
- Reaffirmed that the skill “gastric intubation (dog or cat)* [GROUP]” remains status quo as required and hands-on.

Section 6-Laboratory Procedures
- Added lateral flow tests as an acceptable option to “perform serologic test* (e.g. ELISA, slide/card agglutination, lateral flow tests)
- Amended “culture bacteria and perform sensitivity tests*” to a GROUP skill. The skill remains required and hands-on.

No changes were made to Section 9 – Avian, Exotic, Small Mammals

CHANGES TO OTHER SECTIONS OF THE P&P
- Change made to Item H – Substantive Change Reporting within Section VIII (Standard Operating Procedures). Added that programs must report within 30 calendar days if a program’s three-year pass rate is below 50% (Standard 11d).
- Updated the AVMA CVTEA Conflict of Interest Policy (Section III)

REMINDER – ACCREDITATION FEES
Invoices for the 2024 AVMA CVTEA Annual Accreditation Fee will be posted in the AVMA CVTEA Online Accreditation System by Armature https://cvtea.avma.org/ under the DOCUMENTS tab by October 2023. The fee for 2024 is not yet determined. Payments will be due no later than April 15, 2024, or programs may be subject to a $500 penalty fee and Administrative Probation with a penalty fee up to double the annual accreditation fee.