



November 14, 2022

Dr. McKenzie Rasmussen-Hagerty
Ventura College
4667 Telegraph Rd
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Dr. Rasmussen-Hagerty:

Congratulations! At its November 3-6, 2022 meeting, the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) **granted Initial accreditation** to the Ventura College veterinary technology program after deliberation of the report of evaluation from the August 24-25, 2022 site visit and post site visit response. Accreditation is effective August 25, 2022.

A final copy of the report of evaluation is included and also uploaded under the DOCUMENTS area in the CVTEA Accreditation Portal by Armature (Armature). A copy will be sent to college administration as indicated in the near future. Included below is a summary of critical and major deficiencies with details regarding future reporting requirements.

After consideration of the documentation provided, the Committee has determined that continued reporting is required on the following deficiencies (see chart(s) below):

Critical deficiency(ies): 1a,2,3,4,5,6,7 and a NEW CONCERN (noted below)
Major deficiency(ies): 1,3,4,5,7 (noted below)

The next report will be due Fall 2023 (September 15, 2022). A reminder will be sent out approximately 2 months prior to the due dates. The next full accreditation site visit is scheduled for 2027.

For your information, the Program will be assessed an annual accreditation fee beginning in year 2024. This fee is assessed to recover 50% of the annual direct and indirect costs of accreditation over and above site visit expenses. The current fee is \$1,860; however, this fee is adjusted annually based on actual costs. Invoices are typically sent out in September of each year.

Per the *Policies and Procedures of the AVMA CVTEA*, documentation of progress toward compliance with critical and major deficiencies must be included in the program's report to CVTEA. Insufficient progress toward meeting deficiencies may be considered cause for change in the program's accreditation status.

If there are any changes that impact critical or major deficiencies that the CVTEA previously determined do not require continued reporting, the program must report this change.

Congratulations on achieving Initial accreditation. On behalf of the evaluation committee, thank you for the courtesy and hospitality shown during the site visit. If you have any questions, or if staff may be of assistance in the preparation of your next report, please do not hesitate to contact staff (Julie Horvath; jhorvath@avma.org).

Sincerely,



Kelly Foltz
NAS, CVT, LVT, VTS LECD

Ms. Kelly Foltz, BA, LVT, VTS (ECC), CVTEA Chair

AVMA Center for Veterinary Medical Accreditation

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CC: Kimberly Hoffmans, RN, EdD, President (khoffmans@vcccd.edu)

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CRITICAL DEFICIENCY (IES)

Critical deficiencies apply to situations that clearly result in a program's inability to meet a Standard, and/or subject students, faculty, or others to unacceptable levels of risk. Documentation of significant progress toward compliance with each critical deficiency must be achieved by the time of the program's next report to CVTEA. Lack of compliance may be considered cause for a change in the program's accreditation status.

It is critical that:

#	Critical Deficiency Description	Deficiency status (Met, Unmet with continued reporting)
1.	All facilities used in Program instruction be compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and other safety considerations with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Documentation of radiation monitoring of students during externships b. Carpet and fabric chair surfaces which are not impervious to pathogens and cannot be sanitized in areas where laboratory activities are occurring c. Elimination of food and drinks in laboratory areas d. Protective lab coat requirements for students when handling urine, microbiology, or fecal specimens e. Proper identification of housed animals (4e, 5a) 	1b, 1c, 1d, 1e - Met; 11/2022 1a is unmet; submit documentation that dosimeter badges have been acquired and are being used by students.
2.	Evidence be provided that the comprehensive rabies mitigation protocol addresses all required elements as described in the Statement on Safety, Appendix A. (4e)	Unmet; report on the initiatives to address the 45 day hold for vaccinated animals in the mitigation protocol.
3.	IACUC-approved protocols be in place for all animal activities and evidence of access to a dedicated surgical facility be provided. (5a)	Unmet; the signatures of Ms. Ashcraft and Ms. Schieltz were noted; however, CVTEA is requesting evidence of approval such as meeting minutes or some other form of documentation indicating approval by IACUC members. Regarding the surgery room video, please clarify the use of the computer located in this room. In addition, is the computer/keyboard covered during periods of non-use?
4.	Documentation be provided that qualifications of applicants include an aptitude, interest, and understanding of a career in veterinary technology. (7b)	Unmet; report on any updates regarding this deficiency.
5.	Students complete the curriculum. (10a)	Unmet; report on the number of students who have completed the curriculum.

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It is critical that:

6.	Evidence exist that all required skills have been performed by all students and have been evaluated by Program personnel using standardized criteria. (10e)	Unmet; submit one example of a completed student skills assessment with name redacted.
7.	Outcomes be assessed using performance of graduates on the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), Program-specific surveys of graduates and their employers, and feedback from the advisory committee, and an analysis of the results of those assessments be used for continued Program improvement. (11a, 11b)	Unmet; when available, submit examples of completed graduate and employer surveys, VTNE score reports, and a summary of how outcomes data and advisory committee feedback are being used for program improvement.
NEW CONCERN	CVTEA noticed what appears to be fiberboard topped stools in the new laboratory area. Based on historical perspective this product is considered to be a safety concern as the fiberboard is not impervious to liquids or pathogens and cannot be properly sanitized.	A report on the status of the lab stools is requested with the next report to the CVTEA. Photographic or video images will be needed to further assess what the program is using for seating in the laboratory room.

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MAJOR DEFICIENCY (IES)

Major deficiencies apply to situations that jeopardize the ability of the program to meet a Standard. Progress toward meeting each major deficiency must be demonstrated on an annual or biennial basis. Documentation of steps taken toward compliance with major deficiencies is required. Lack of compliance within the assigned five- or six-year period, prior to the next scheduled complete evaluation, may be considered cause for a change in the program's accreditation status.

It is required that:

#	Major Deficiency Description	Deficiency status (Met, Unmet with continued reporting)
1.	All facilities used for primary learning emulate contemporary veterinary facilities and provide an environment conducive to learning and in the achievement of the educational goals. (4a, 4b)	Unmet; provide an update on any changes to facilities.
2.	Identification of personnel making entries in logbooks and a unique bottle numbering system for controlled substance products be implemented to emulate best veterinary practice standards. (4f)	Met; 11/2022
3.	The Program have adequate space for storage (4h)	Unmet: report on any changes or expansion of storage space.

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It is required that:

4.	IACUC approved animal care and use protocols contain all information required by AWA guidelines including, but may not be limited to: a. Comprehensive description of procedures b. Frequency and limitations on the numbers of procedures to be performed c. Numbers of animals (5a)	Unmet; submit evidence that updated protocols have been approved by the IACUC.
5.	Resources for instruction with cats be enhanced. (5b)	Unmet; plans appear appropriate. Report on newly secured cat resources and submit copies of any new memoranda of understanding. With regard to the student kitten foster program, the program must be mindful to mitigate rabies exposure for unvaccinated students. Clarify if students will be allowed to foster kittens prior to receiving rabies vaccinations, students and kittens.
6.	The responsibility, authority, and support necessary for the program director to manage the program successfully be documented in a written job description that also defines the position of the director within the institutional hierarchy. (9d)	Met; 11/2022
7.	The Program comply with VTNE reporting requirements as soon as three years of data is available. (11c)	Not applicable until 3 full years of VTNE data is available.