

Appendix 7: Pregnancy

Here at VTSU, our goal is to provide you with the best educational experience possible. Along every step of your program, we have made extraordinary efforts to keep you safe and limit your exposure to possible hazards. In keeping with this high standard for safety, we feel it necessary to address the issue of student pregnancy.

Many of the chemicals we handle daily within the veterinary world pose many potential threats to unborn babies in nearly every stage of pregnancy. While the safety protocols and procedures here at VTSU rival the highest standards in the industry, there still remains the potential for harm for a pregnant person and their unborn baby.

The choice to declare your pregnancy is voluntary. Students who are, or become, pregnant should notify the program director. In addition to those mentioned above, veterinary medicine has with it many inherent dangers for the developing fetus. Hazards such as inhalation of anesthetic gases, exposure to radiation, exposure to chemotherapeutic agents, trauma by a horse or cow or an animal bite or scratch are just a few of the hazards which are inherently more dangerous to the pregnant individual and the fetus. The pregnant student is advised to seek advice and counsel from their attending physician concerning continuing the Veterinary Technology Program at VTSU.

Upon notification of pregnancy by the student, the following guidelines will be followed:

- ❖ Upon declaration of pregnancy by the student, general program policies will be reviewed in detail in order to provide the student with a complete understanding of their status in the program, whether they are able to complete the program during their pregnancy or after pregnancy leave
- ❖ The pregnant student must follow the established program policies and meet the same clinical and educational criteria as all other students before graduation and recommendation for the veterinary registration examinations.
- ❖ If the student chooses to leave the program while pregnant, they will be eligible for reinstatement into the program upon completion of pregnancy leave. The student must re-enroll in the courses from which they dropped due to pregnancy leave. If the student does not re-enter the program at the earliest possible date after completion of pregnancy leave, they will have to apply for the program under the standard application procedure, should they wish to enter the program at a later date.

If the student remains in the Veterinary Technology Program during pregnancy, they accept full responsibility for this decision and relieve Vermont State University, its faculty, and veterinary clinical/practicum affiliates of any responsibilities in case of adverse effects.

The pregnant student may wish to meet with each instructor and lab assistants to discuss the need to make any adjustments in lab participation requirements. This may include some or all of the following courses:

- Applied Lab Methods
- Animal Care and Restraint
- Veterinary Technology Externships
- Animal Diseases
- Zoology
- Introduction to Animal Care I & II
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Laboratory Techniques I & II
- Veterinary Clinical Techniques I & II

- Objectives for a laboratory or course exercise should will not be waived, however, reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate pregnant student’s safety needs.
- In the event that such accommodations cannot be made and objectives cannot be reasonably met, the student will receive an Incomplete (“I” grade) in the course, and will receive *written* specifications on when and how objectives or time requirements are to be completed. Or, if the drop date for the semester has not yet passed, the student can withdraw from the course and complete it at a later date.
- The instructor may determine and document in writing how the objectives of the course may be safely completed in an alternative manner.

There are two copies of this form; please keep this copy for your records.

Pregnancy Signature Page

Once you have read and understood the above information regarding the issue of pregnancy while enrolled in the Veterinary Technology Program, please complete the section below, remembering to sign it. Detach the section and return to Program Technicians

. The above information is for you to keep as you complete the program. Please feel free to contact us at any point, should you have any questions.

I/We have read the above information and understand the importance of following the above listed steps to create the safest environment, should I/we become pregnant during my/our completion of VTSU's Veterinary Technology Program.

I/We understand that it is my/our responsibility to report the pregnancy to the Program Director, as well as to any instructors or assistants of any classes that utilize potential biohazards so that any changes can be made in my/our course/lab participation.

I/We also understand that it is also my/our responsibility to maintain an awareness of what may be potentially hazardous and to approach instructors/assistants if I/we am/are unsure.

It will be my/our responsibility to discuss with my/our physician, using the attached Physician Visit Checklist for Pregnancy, the potential risks to my/our unborn child and me/us, thus making the decision to complete the program while pregnant or to return at a later date.

I/We accept the responsibility of understanding precautions necessary to decrease my/our risk and exposure, should I/we decide to continue my educational progress in the Veterinary Technology Program while pregnant and will not hold VTSU or its employees liable for any complications.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

Please return to Program Director
Pregnancy Signature Page

Once you have read and understood the above information regarding the issue of pregnancy while enrolled in the Veterinary Technology Program, please complete the section below, remembering to sign it. Sign the section below and **KEEP** for your records. The above information is for you to keep as you complete the program. Please feel free to contact us at any point, should you have any questions.

I/We have read the above information and understand the importance of following the above listed steps to create the safest environment, should I/we become pregnant during completion of VTSU's Veterinary Technology Program.

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 Signature

 Printed Name

 Date

There are two copies of this form; please keep this copy for your records, should you become pregnant during the program.

Vermont State University
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Physician Visit Checklist for Pregnancy

My/Our physician has discussed the following with me/us concerning potential risks to myself/ourselves and the fetus:

1. Exposure to anesthetic gases
2. Exposure to the rabies vaccine (both pre- and post-exposure)
3. Exposure to teratogens including cytotoxic compounds, chemical agents, sterilizing agents, cleaning agents, preserving agents and fixing agents
4. Exposure to hormones (e.g., prostaglandins and progesterones)
5. Exposure to ionizing radiation and other sources of radioactive materials
6. Exposure to zoonotic diseases including, but not limited to, leptospirosis, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, brucellosis, cat scratch disease, fungal diseases, psittacosis, rabies, Lyme disease, tuberculosis, West Nile virus
7. Traumatic injury including, but not limited to, bites, kicks, scratches, possible electrical hazard exposure from equipment

I/We have discussed with my/our physician that I/we understand as a Veterinary Technology student have inherent risks in my/our profession; and I/we accept the responsibility of understanding precautions necessary to decrease my/our risk and exposure as I/we complete my educational process in the Veterinary Technology Program.

Student Signature

Date

Physician's name (print): _____

Hospital, clinic, or address: _____

City, State _____

Please keep for your records

Please return to Program Director, should you become pregnant during the program
Vermont State University
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Physician Visit Checklist for Pregnancy

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Date

Physician's name (print): _____

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