

SPC St. Petersburg College

Veterinary Technology

Veterinary Technology Program

Letter to Mentor

Main Office

Location: 12376 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:00AM to 4:00PM and Friday 8:00AM to 2:00PM

Phone : 727-302-6711

Contact Information

Tricia Gorham

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Mentors for Veterinary Technology Distance Students:

As a mentor for our student in the Distance Education Program you will be interested in this information, and should review it carefully with your student as soon as possible.

For laboratory courses in the Program the student will be learning skills in the workplace.

1. Affiliation agreement (AA) must be on file with the college prior to students having skills signed off or logging hours. The clinical site can to see if your clinical site has a current AA on file with the clinical coordinator.
2. If the clinical site does not have a current AA on file, please see the AA agreement and instructions to assist student in completion of this requirement.
3. We have included a sign you are able to post in your hospital so clients know that you host St Petersburg College students.
4. Students will come to you with a variety of documents those may include skills list, project list as well as time sheets that will need to signed.
5. Mentors must be a credentialed veterinary technician or DVM

6. A student may have multiple supervisors (either DVM or credentialed technician), and one must be present any time the student is performing skills for a clinical mentorship.
7. Supervisors sign Skill Verification forms which state that they observed the student as they performed each task.
8. Mentorship supervisors act as coaches and must be present to ensure the safety of the patient and personnel. They are not involved in evaluation of skills; this is done by St Pete College instructors
9. Mentors may obtain a complete list of all clinical skills and equipment requirements from the AVMA. [Required clinical equipment](#) and [Essential Clinical Skills](#)
10. St Pete College students enrolled after May of 2023 are required to be vaccinated for rabies however they may sign a waiver. The clinical site will be notified of any student signing waiver and then provided with the comprehensive mitigation plan that must be followed to ensure the safety of that student.
11. Student enrolled prior to May of 2023 may not be vaccinated for rabies, clinical sites can obtain the [Rabies Comprehensive Mitigation Plan](#) to be implemented to protect students from potential exposure to Rabies. The student will notify the clinical site of their rabies vaccination status.
12. Each Clinical Mentorship site must adhere to animal use guidelines that are described in detail in the [IACUC Protocols](#). It is essential to our program's accreditation that students observe these guidelines when completing their clinical skills. Each clinical site must acknowledge animal care and use guidelines and agree to adhere to them.
13. You and the student should review the skill list prior to the start of the semester and identify any skills that cannot be learned in your hospital. The student is responsible for finding other hospitals or veterinarians who will agree to teach the skills you cannot do. We appreciate any help you can provide them in making introductions to colleagues.
14. Occasionally you may encounter a skill on a skills list that you do not presently perform in you hospital, or that is performed in a way that is different than the way taught in the course. This is all part of our student's learning process. The potential benefits to you and your practice include new skills, knowledge and problem-solving abilities for your staff.

Mentors are VITAL to the success of our students and we appreciate all support the clinical site provide to our program and the students. At anytime you would like to discuss progress or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

Tricia Gorham MA, CVT

School of Veterinary Technology

Distance Education Program