

Incoming students and parents/guardians:

Hello there, and welcome to the SUNY Canton Veterinary Science Technology program! My name is Dr. Wendy Kuceyeski, and I am the program director for vet sci. I may have met some of you at open house or prospective student visit day, but if not, I look forward to meeting you in person!

Up until this spring 2022, this vaccination series was always done in the second semester of the year. The American Veterinary Medical Association (our governing body) has instituted a mandate that all students be vaccinated for rabies PRIOR to handling animals, or only handle animals that have been fully vaccinated for rabies at least two weeks or more prior to being handled by the student. Because here at SUNY we work with shelter animals, most (if not all) of the animals we take in for labs have not been vaccinated for rabies, but are vaccinated while under our care here on campus.

In order to ensure that the students will not lose any valuable hands-on training, we have implemented two policies to prevent a gap in learning.

1. The veterinary science staff here at SUNY Canton will visit the shelters prior to the semester's start and pre-vaccinate as many animals as possible, to ensure that students who have not been vaccinated yet will be able to handle these animals for labs. We will likely do another visit partway through the semester to vaccinate any newly admitted animals.
2. We are implementing the rabies vaccine during fall semester, so by the time spring semester has begun all of the students will be vaccinated and permitted to handle any animal that arrives from the shelters. The vaccination series consists of two vaccines one week apart, followed by a titer level check 30 days later.

The campus Health Center will take care of ordering and scheduling the vaccines and the titer blood work. We will keep all students up to date regarding deadline for appointments and vaccines. Please feel free to email with any further questions. We look forward to a wonderful fall semester with our new vet tech students!