

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Office of Veterinary Science Technology

VETERINARY SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY STUDENT HANDBOOK

Academic Year 2026–2027

Michael J. Grant Campus • Brentwood, New York

AVMA CVTEA–Accredited Program

This handbook is provided to all VST students and is subject to updates. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with its contents and with any revisions communicated by the Program.

IMPORTANT: This handbook supplements the College Catalog, Student Code of Conduct, and College Student Handbook. VST-specific policies take precedence for program matters. Students must comply with all policies to remain in good standing and progress through the program.

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Welcome to the Veterinary Science Technology Program

Welcome to the Veterinary Science Technology (VST) Program at Suffolk County Community College. This handbook is your guide to the policies, procedures, expectations, and resources specific to our AVMA-accredited program. It is designed to help you succeed academically, develop professional skills, and participate safely in all hands-on learning experiences with animals.

Our program prepares you for a career as a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT). Success requires dedication, professionalism, compassion for animals, strong academic performance, and strict adherence to safety and ethical standards. The policies in this handbook exist to protect you, your classmates, our animal patients, the College, and the integrity of the veterinary profession.

Key Program Contacts

Role	Name / Contact
VST Program Coordinator / Assistant Academic Chair	Dr. William Phelps, DVM 631-851-6303 phelpsw@sunysuffolk.edu
Senior Office Assistant (VST Office)	Angelique Maletta 631-851-6946 maletta@sunysuffolk.edu
VST Office / General Inquiries	631-851-6710 reardos@sunysuffolk.edu
Animal Caretaker	Kimberly Meola 631-851-6305 meolak@sunysuffolk.edu

CRITICAL: All students MUST have proof of required immunizations (especially rabies and MMR) on file with Health Services BEFORE the start of classes. You will NOT be permitted to attend classes or handle animals without complete documentation.

Veterinary Technician's Oath

"I solemnly dedicate myself to aiding animals and society by providing excellent care and services for animals, by alleviating animal suffering, and by promoting public health. I accept my obligations to practice my profession conscientiously and with sensitivity, adhering to the profession's Code of Ethics, and furthering my knowledge and competence through a commitment to lifelong learning."

This oath reflects the core values of compassion, professionalism, ethics, and continuous learning that every VST student is expected to embody from day one.

Admissions Requirements

Minimum requirements to be considered for admission into the VST Program:

High School Applicants

- High school math and science (biology and chemistry with laboratories) average of 75.
- Minimum grade of 70% on both Biology and Chemistry Regents examinations.
- Mathematics sequence through Algebra 2/Trigonometry or equivalent successfully completed.
- Applicants requiring placement testing must place out of all remedial courses.
- All requirements for admission should be completed within five years.

College Applicants

- Minimum grade of C in each prerequisite course (CHE 100, BIO 101, and MAT 007).
- Applicants requiring placement testing must place out of all remedial courses.
- All requirements for admission should be completed within ten years.

Application Deadline: January 15 of the year of entry.

Suffolk County Farm and Education Center

350 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, NY 11980 | Phone: 631-852-4600

Directions — Long Island Expressway (I-495)

Traveling East: Exit 67 (Yaphank Avenue). Turn right at the light. Travel 1/4 mile to the green sign on the right. Turn right into the farm entrance. Park in the lot on the left.

Traveling West: Exit 67 (Yaphank Avenue). Turn left at the end of the exit. Travel 1/4 mile to the green sign on the right. Turn right into the entrance. Park in the lot on the left.

Directions — Sunrise Highway (Route 27)

Exit 57N — Horseblock Road, Yaphank. Bear right onto County Road 21 (Yaphank Road). Travel 1 mile over the LIRR tracks and look for the green sign on the left. Turn left onto the first roadway after the overpass. Proceed to the parking lot on the left.

Directions — North Shore (Route 25 or 25A)

Take Rocky Point–Yaphank Road (CR 21) or Mill Road south approximately 4 miles to Yaphank Center. Pass the firehouse on the left, travel 1 mile to the stop sign. Turn right and travel 1/2 mile (over the LIE) to the green sign on the right. Turn right onto the entrance road and proceed to the parking lot on the left.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY: It is the student's responsibility to make ALL arrangements for transportation to and from the Farm and any off-campus internship or field sites.

Health Services & Student Immunizations

A Health Services Office is located at each of the College's three campuses, staffed by registered nurses available for consultation on personal health matters. The College has access to a consulting physician as needed and promotes preventive health practices through educational programs.

All accidents and illnesses occurring on campus must be reported immediately to the campus nurse. For off-campus activities (farm, internships, field trips), report incidents to your instructor AND the Health Services Office (Captree Commons, Room 105 on the Grant Campus).

All VST students must comply with New York State Public Health Law and program-specific requirements. Proof of required immunizations must be on file with the Michael J. Grant Campus Health Services Office prior to the start of classes. You will NOT be permitted to register for or attend classes without complete documentation.

Required Immunization Against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

In accordance with NYS Public Health Law Section 2165, students born on or after January 1, 1957, enrolled for 6 or more semester hours must provide acceptable written proof of immunity. Submit proof to Health Services in order to register.

Required Acknowledgement of Meningococcal Disease Information

Per NYS Public Health Law Section 2167, students must acknowledge receipt of information about meningococcal disease and vaccination and indicate vaccination status within the past five years or a decision not to vaccinate. Failure to submit the acknowledgement will prevent registration.

Tetanus Vaccine — Required

VST students are required to have received a tetanus vaccine or Td/Tdap booster within 10 years prior to enrollment. Proof must be on file with Health Services.

Student Rabies Vaccination — Required

Based on AVMA recommendations, all new and continuing VST students are **REQUIRED** to receive the two-dose rabies vaccine (RabAvert). Rabies is fatal for both animals and humans. This vaccination is essential to safeguard student health and to enable completion of all hands-on AVMA Essential Skills required for graduation.

Students without rabies vaccination may not be able to handle certain animals used for skills practice or to use SUNY Suffolk internship sites that receive animals not fully protected from rabies per AVMA guidelines. There is no guarantee that an unvaccinated student can meet all program requirements and graduate.

The College offers the vaccine series at the Grant Campus in August (cost appears on the Fall tuition bill as the Vet Tech Program Fee). Students may also obtain it from their own provider and submit proof for reimbursement. Proof of rabies immunization must be on file before classes begin.

Immunization Exemptions (Medical and Religious)

Medical exemptions require a physician's written certification that immunizations may be detrimental to health (use the College's Medical Exemption Form). Religious exemptions are available for genuine and sincere religious beliefs contrary to immunization; the process is rigorous. Information and forms are available on the College website. Even with an approved exemption, students must understand potential limitations on animal handling and program completion.

VST Program Policies

Incident Reporting

The program takes great care to avoid mishaps, but scratches and bite wounds can occur. Students who suffer any incident (accident, injury, health incident including exposure to hazardous material, bloodborne pathogens, or infectious agents, or any unexpected issue that disrupts instruction) during class activities—including off-campus sites, the farm, or field trips—must report immediately to their instructor **AND** the Health Services Office (Captree Commons, Room 105).

Allergies

Students with allergies to any animals must inform the Program Coordinator immediately. Students should seriously consider their suitability for working with or near animals and obtain physician authorization before commencing or continuing in the program. Provide documentation to the VST Program Coordinator.

Pregnancy

Certain elements of the VST program (working with animals, radiographic techniques, inhalant anesthesia) can potentially place a pregnant student or fetus at risk. Students who are pregnant or become pregnant must speak with their physician to determine the feasibility of continuing and provide documentation to the Program Coordinator.

Dress Code (Professional Appearance Required)

All students must behave and dress in an appropriate, professional manner at all times. In laboratory classes, special protective clothing is required: scrubs, coveralls, boots, and closed-toed rubber-soled shoes (non-scuffing). Sneakers are NOT approved for the farm.

Additional requirements: Hair neat and pulled back for safety. Jewelry kept to a minimum. Nails short and neat. Heavily scented perfume, cologne, shampoo, or deodorant must be avoided (may cause adverse behavioral changes in animals). No hats or caps during indoor laboratory sessions or internships unless required by the facility.

For internships, students must determine the facility's dress code prior to the first day. Failure to conform to the laboratory dress code may result in grade reduction, prohibition from participation, or being marked absent. Failure to conform to safety guidelines may result in removal from a course.

Required Equipment (Purchase Prior to Second Semester)

Stethoscope, digital thermometer, bandage scissors, and a watch with a second-hand sweep (or equivalent digital second display). These tools are essential for academic work and for your future career as an LVT.

Aggressive Animals and Fear–Anxiety–Stress (FAS)

All dogs and cats used in the program are examined by the attending veterinarian prior to student handling. Animals displaying aggression, fear biting, head shyness, or other tendencies that pose risk will be returned to the shelter. Animals may act unpredictably—use care at all times.

Instructors will review handling techniques and signs of FAS. If a student encounters an animal in elevated FAS, immediately notify VST staff and do not engage the animal further. This protects everyone and supports ethical, low-stress handling practices.

Smoking, Vaping, and Inhaled Substances

The VST Program complies with the College's Tobacco-Free Policy (Board Policy D.12). Smoking and the use of all tobacco and tobacco-derived products—including cigarettes, cigars, hookah products, smokeless tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and vaping devices—are prohibited on all College property, indoors and outdoors, and in College-owned or leased vehicles.

Students must report to all laboratory, farm, classroom, and internship experiences free from odors associated with smoked or inhaled substances, including tobacco, marijuana, vaping products, or other

inhaled substances. Such odors may be offensive to patients, classmates, and site personnel; may interfere with animal behavior and the learning environment; and may raise concerns regarding fitness for clinical participation.

Students who report to laboratory, farm, or internship experiences with the odor of smoked or inhaled substances, or who use such products in violation of College or site policy, may be dismissed from that experience, receive a failed laboratory or clinical day, and be referred under the Student Code of Conduct. Repeated or serious violations may result in a course grade of F and/or dismissal from the VST Program. Cessation resources are available through Campus Health Services.

VST Program Policy on Recording and AI Smart Glasses

1. The use of AI Smart Glasses, smart eyewear, or any devices with recording, communication, internet connectivity, or AI-assisted capabilities is **strictly prohibited** during all VST program activities, including:

- Classroom instruction, skills laboratories, simulations, clinical and internship experiences, and field trips.
- Examinations, proctored quizzes, and skills performance evaluations.
- Any activity involving confidential course materials, proprietary institutional information, or protected client and animal information.

2. Students **may not wear or use** AI Smart Glasses, smart eyewear, or similar devices capable of recording audio or video, capturing images, transmitting or receiving information, accessing the internet, displaying information, communicating with another individual or AI platform, or providing AI-assisted responses during any VST Program activity. This restriction includes all animal treatment areas (e.g., Room 105) and the Animal Care Facility.

3. Accommodation and Prescription Eyewear Management

- Standard prescription eyeglasses worn for vision correction are permitted during VST activities, provided they do not contain embedded recording, communication, or AI-enabled technology.
- Students who require prescription smart eyewear (e.g., corrective smart lenses) for daily use must notify the VST Program Coordinator and arrange for an approved accommodation through the College's Disability Services office—such as substituting standard, non-smart prescription glasses during examinations and clinicals—prior to the first assessment or clinical rotation.

4. Faculty Observation and Intervention. If faculty observe conduct inconsistent with academic integrity or program rules—including unauthorized transmission, visible behaviors and indicators of active recording, or explicit use of prohibited communication features—the faculty member may:

- Require the student to temporarily store the device in a secure, designated location away from the assessment or clinical area.
- Temporarily suspend the student's participation in the specific activity pending review.
- Initiate the institutional academic integrity or Code of Conduct process.

5. Clinical and Internship Privacy Compliance. The use of AI Smart Glasses or unauthorized recording devices in clinical, laboratory, or internship settings severely violates client privacy, site policies, and applicable data protection standards. Unauthorized use in these settings will result in immediate removal from the clinical or internship site and may lead to course failure and further disciplinary action.

6. Prohibition on Recording Live Animals and Facilities. Students are strictly prohibited from photographing, videotaping, audio recording, livestreaming, or otherwise capturing, transmitting, or distributing any image, video, audio, or electronic recording of live animals being cared for, treated, housed, or handled within the VST Program.

- This prohibition applies unconditionally to all areas of the animal care facility, including treatment, x-ray/imaging, surgical, examination, and laboratory areas.
- This restriction applies regardless of the device used, including cell phones, cameras, tablets, computers, smartwatches, or any other electronic device.

Any violation of this recording restriction is treated as a major infraction of the VST Program policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Code of Conduct

All students are bound by the SCCC Student Code of Conduct:

sunysuffolk.edu/legalaffairs/documents/f7studentcodeofconduct.pdf

VST Program Performance Standards

Performance standards are necessary for a competent veterinary health technician. These standards protect the technician, other healthcare team members, and animal patients. All students must meet the following safety and technical standards with or without reasonable accommodations, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students seeking accommodations should contact Disability Services as early as possible.

Physical Requirements

- Walking and/or standing for sustained periods of time.
- Frequently carrying and/or lifting from floor to waist level up to 50 pounds.
- Using hands and arms to handle, install, position, and move materials.
- Handling, positioning, and restraining live animals.

Sensory Abilities

- Vision: Ability to see details at close range and make observations and assessments necessary in animal care; use diagnostic equipment (microscope, thermometer, refractometer, and similar instruments).
- Hearing: Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs; auscultatory sounds, monitor alarms, emergency signals, and cries for help; hear warning sounds from animals and humans of impending danger or injury.
- Touch: Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and nursing duties; perform palpation during physical exams; administer oral, IM, SQ, and IV medications; insert and remove tubes; perform wound care; collect samples from live animals.
- Smell: Ability to detect the presence of animal odors or drainage and the presence of smoke.

Emotional and Behavioral Abilities

- Amenable to learning safe handling, restraint, and work with domestic or exotic animals that may be sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive.
- Willingness to assist with or perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting, including euthanasia.
- Capacity to read, hear, understand, and promptly execute complex verbal and written instructions given in English; ability to accept constructive criticism.
- Emotional stability when performing duties in animal life-and-death situations or other stressful situations, using sound judgment and ethical behavior.
- Ability to respond promptly, appropriately, and rationally during emergencies.

This is a medical program that demands professional behavior from students and faculty at all times—on campus, at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center, and at any internship site.

Student Fitness for Clinical Practice

Students must demonstrate appropriate alertness and readiness to provide safe patient care at all times while participating in laboratory, classroom, and clinical activities. Students who demonstrate weariness or fatigue resulting from sleep deprivation that negatively impacts clinical judgment may compromise patient safety. Such students will receive a counseling form, which may result in a failed clinical or laboratory day.

Any student who appears to be impaired by alcohol, drugs, or other substances, as determined at the sole discretion of the clinical or instructional faculty, will be immediately dismissed from the lab, classroom, or clinical area. Such an incident may result in a course grade of F and/or dismissal from the VST Program.

Academic Policies & Graduation Requirements

Progression and Grading

Students must achieve a minimum grade of C or better in all VST courses. Failure to achieve these grades will prevent progression to the next sequential VST courses. Due to seat limitations, students requesting to repeat a class are not guaranteed a seat. A total of two unsuccessful attempts (D+, D, F, FN, or W) in any VST course will result in dismissal from the VST Program. Once entered into the VST curriculum, students have a maximum of four years to complete the sequence.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credits must be received prior to the student's start in the VST Program. If not, they must appear on the student's transcript during the first semester of study in the Program for the student to be eligible to continue. Not all courses from other colleges are eligible for transfer to the SCCC VST Program. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and follow through on course substitutions or waivers and to monitor the Degree Works report via the MySCCC portal.

Graduation Requirements (College and VST-Specific)

- Attain a cumulative GPA of not less than 2.0.
- Attain a GPA of not less than 2.0 in the major field of study.
- Satisfactorily complete any developmental courses into which placed.
- Complete the 64 credits required in the VST curriculum.
- Complete at least 30 resident credit hours of required coursework offered by SCCC (excludes advanced placement, challenge exams, CLEP, portfolio, and all transfer credit).
- Not use extra credits from courses already taken in lieu of any individual course requirement.
- Pay or satisfactorily adjust all college fees and meet all other obligations.
- File an Application for Graduation in the campus Registrar's Office (deadlines: December 1 for January; April 1 for June; July 1 for August).
- VST-specific: Pass ALL VST courses with C or better; successfully complete all skills on each Student Essential and Recommended Skills Task List for the respective courses; complete the VST Program within four years.

VST Program Curriculum by Semester

A.A.S. Day-Only VST Program — 64 Credits Total

The courses listed constitute the major courses required for graduation. Students must pass all VST courses with C or better and complete all Essential Skills for each course. An asterisk (*) indicates that the course requires student-provided transportation to off-campus experiences.

First Semester — 16 Credits

Course	Title	Cr
CHE 120	Introduction to General and Organic Biochemistry	4
ENG 101	Standard Freshman Composition	3
COL 101	College Seminar	1
VST 104	Success in Veterinary Science Technology	1
*VST 101	Introduction to Animal Technology	2
VST 103	Anatomy and Physiology of Domesticated Animals	5

Second Semester — 15 Credits

Course	Title	Cr
COM 101	Introduction to Human Communication	3
MAT 111	Algebra II or higher	4
PE Elective	Physical Education Elective	1
*VST 111	Farm Animal Nursing	3
VST 116	Small Animal Nursing I	2
VST 114	Veterinary Practice Management	2

Third Semester — 17 Credits

Course	Title	Cr
VST 201	Laboratory Animal Technology	3
VST 202	Clinical Laboratory Techniques I	3
*VST 203	Animal Clinic Internship I	3
VST 205	Pharmacy and Pharmacology	3
VST 207	Small Animal Nursing II	2
VST 209	Diagnostic Imaging	3

Fourth Semester — 16 Credits

Course	Title	Cr
ENG 102	Introduction to Literature	3
Diversity / SS	Diversity Social Science Elective	3
VST 212	Clinical Laboratory Techniques II	3
*VST 213	Animal Clinic Internship II	3
VST 216	Small Animal Nursing III	4

Note: Physical education is required for students who take the majority of their credits as full-time students (12 or more credits per semester).

Course Outlines, Materials & Student Responsibilities

Course Outlines

Course outlines are distributed on the first day of class by the lecture instructor. They serve as a contract between instructor and student, detailing coverage (lecture and laboratory), grading policy, objectives, expected outcomes, requirements, and additional needs. Students are fully responsible for knowing and complying with all information in the course outline.

Course Materials and Cumulative Knowledge

Students are expected to retain knowledge gained in all VST courses. Instructors may test on material from any prior course at any point in the program, regardless of whether that instructor originally covered it. For example, dairy cattle breeds taught in VST 101 may be tested in VST 111 without review. Anatomy from VST 103 is foundational for VST 116, VST 209, and clinical courses. Students are accountable for cumulative mastery.

VST Program Faculty & Staff

Leadership and Full-Time Faculty/Staff

- **Dr. William Phelps, DVM** — Assistant Academic Chair, Health Careers & Physical Education; VST Program Coordinator (631-851-6303 | phelpsw@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Dennis Dougherty, DVM** — Assistant Professor (631-851-6496 | doughed@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Margaret Kelly, M.S.Ed., B.S., LVT** — Assistant Professor (kellyma@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Cynthia Sorensen, LVT** — Professional Assistant (sorensen@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Denise Lang, LVT** — Professional Assistant (langd@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Kimberly Meola** — Animal Caretaker (631-851-6305 | meolak@sunysuffolk.edu)
- **Angelique Maletta** — Senior Office Assistant (631-851-6946 | maletta@sunysuffolk.edu)

Adjunct Instructors (DVM/VMD)

John LoPinto DVM, Katherine Iovino VMD, Cynthia Guasto DVM, Robert Blakely DVM, Denise Pancari DVM, Dennis Zawie DVM, Jennifer Lee Salerno DVM, Lisa Bianco MS, BS, AALAS, Sandra Scherrer BS, AALAS, LVT, Jennifer Rivera MS, BS, LVT, Joanne Moeller MA, BS, LVT

Professional Assistants and LVT Staff

Patricia Raff, LVT; Dale Bosner O'Connor, LVT; Jacqueline Riley, LVT; Julie Hyungsun Kim, LVT; Sierra Vighi, LVT; Kayla Marrone, LVT; Joanna Casey, LVT; Megan Slawkowski, LVT; Teresalyn Le Doux, LVT; Stephanie Russert LVT, Francesca Ardito LVT, Linda Miller LVT, Joshua Bailin LVT, Madison Nee PA, Tabbethia Haubold PA, Sharon Reardon (VST Office Assistant)

Student Email, MySCCC Portal & Resources

Students receive a college email address (typically the first four letters of the last name + first initial + last two digits of the student ID @mail.sunysuffolk.edu). This is also the MySCCC portal login. Check email frequently—important announcements and communications are sent this way. Manage email regularly to ensure delivery.

MySCCC provides access to financial aid status, registration, tuition payment, Degree Works, grades, the graduation application, personal information changes, and official transcripts. Acceptable-use policies apply (see the College website).

DVM Pathway Articulation (2+2+4)

SUNY Suffolk's VST Program has an articulation agreement with St. George's University (SGU) School of Veterinary Medicine and a pathway involving Molloy University for qualified graduates. Requirements include successful completion of the SCCC AAS/VST Program with a minimum GPA of 3.4 and no science grades lower than B. After the AAS, students complete pre-veterinary requirements at a partner school (for example, Molloy University) to earn a bachelor's degree, then apply to SGU's four-year DVM program.

SGU DVM Prerequisites (or equivalent): One-year General Biology/Zoology with lab; one-year General Chemistry with lab; one semester Organic Chemistry with lab; one semester Genetics; one semester Biochemistry; one semester Physics with lab; one semester Math (Calculus, Computer Science, or Statistics); one semester English. Recommended: a minimum of 500 hours of animal experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.

Note: SCCC does not have a direct transfer articulation with Molloy for bachelor's completion. Contact Molloy University directly for details on transferring and completing the bachelor's degree.

Professional Organizations for Licensed Veterinary Technicians

Primary LVT Organizations

- **National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)** — www.navta.net
- **New York State Association of Veterinary Technicians (NYSAVT)** — www.nysavt.org

Specialty academies (examples): Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians and Nurses; Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians; Academy of Internal Medicine Veterinary Technicians; Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Anesthesia and Analgesia; Academy of Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians; Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice; and others. See NAVTA for the current list.

Additional resources: AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA); Veterinary Support Personnel Network (vsppn.org); VetMedTeam; Clinician's Brief.

VST Safety Guidelines for Students

Safety is a professional obligation, not an optional courtesy. Students are expected to protect themselves, classmates, staff, the public, and animal patients at all times.

- Follow all instructor directions immediately. If you do not understand a procedure, stop and ask before proceeding.
- Wash hands before and after animal contact and after removal of gloves. Use PPE as directed (gloves, gowns, eye protection, masks, coveralls, and boots).
- Do not eat, drink, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses in laboratory, treatment, or animal-housing areas.
- Report all bites, scratches, needle sticks, splash exposures, and near-misses immediately to the instructor and Health Services.

- Use proper lifting technique. Request assistance for animals or equipment that cannot be moved safely alone.
- Never handle an animal that is showing elevated FAS without staff direction. Do not attempt heroic restraint.
- Radiation safety: wear assigned dosimetry and lead shielding; stand behind barriers; never hold an animal during exposure unless specifically directed and protected.
- Anesthesia and controlled substances are handled only under direct faculty or licensed staff supervision and in accordance with course protocols.
- Sharps go in designated sharps containers. Do not recap needles unless a one-handed scoop technique is required and taught.
- Know the location of eyewash stations, fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, SDS information, and emergency exits in every teaching space.
- Closed-toed, non-skid footwear is required in all laboratories and at the farm. Open-toed shoes will result in dismissal from that session.
- Internship sites may impose additional safety rules. Site rules govern while you are on that site.

Failure to follow safety guidelines may result in immediate removal from the activity, a failed laboratory or clinical day, course failure, and/or dismissal from the Program.

Acknowledgement of Student Responsibilities

Academic Year 2026–2027

I acknowledge that I have received, read, and understand the Veterinary Science Technology Student Handbook. I understand that I am responsible for complying with all College and VST Program policies, including safety guidelines, immunization requirements, dress code, academic progression standards, fitness-for-practice expectations, and the smoking/vaping/inhaled-substances policy.

I understand that VST-specific policies take precedence for program matters and that failure to comply may result in grade penalties, course failure, or dismissal from the Program. I understand that this handbook may be updated and that I am responsible for revisions communicated by the Program.

I understand that I must provide my own transportation to the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center and to all off-campus internship and field sites.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

SCCC Student ID _____

Date _____

Return this signed form to the VST Office by the date announced at orientation. A copy will be retained in the student file.

Assumption of Risk and Release

Academic Year 2026–2027

I understand that participation in the Veterinary Science Technology Program involves inherent risks associated with working with live animals and in clinical and laboratory environments. These risks include, but are not limited to, bites, scratches, kicks, falls, zoonotic disease exposure (including rabies), allergic reactions, exposure to anesthetic gases, radiation, chemicals, and sharps injuries.

I voluntarily assume these risks as a condition of participation. I agree to follow all safety instructions, use required personal protective equipment, report incidents immediately, and maintain required immunizations.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, I release and hold harmless Suffolk County Community College, the County of Suffolk, their trustees, officers, employees, and agents from claims arising out of my participation, except to the extent caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct.

I have had the opportunity to ask questions and to consult a physician regarding any personal health condition that may be affected by program activities, including pregnancy, immunocompromise, and animal allergies.

Student Name (print) _____

Student Signature _____

SCCC Student ID _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature is required if the student is under 18 years of age:

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Return this signed form to the VST Office before the first laboratory session involving live animals. A copy will be retained in the student file.