

The American Veterinary Medical Association Center for Veterinary Education Accreditation requires the rabies vaccine or a comprehensive mitigation plan for Veterinary Medical Technology students. Gaston College's Veterinary Medical Technology program works with the local Gaston County animal shelter to secure animals for treatment. This allows our Veterinarians and the Veterinary Medical Technology students they supervise to apply knowledge and practice a wide variety of skills required to demonstrate program learning outcome attainment and skills validation. Per Gaston County animal shelter administration, animals are not typically kept at the shelter longer than two weeks. Therefore, animals brought to the campus for treatment have not been through the 28-day seroconversion period required for unvaccinated persons to have contact with animals. As direct handling of animals is required for skills validation, which is a fundamental program requirement, an unvaccinated person would be unable to complete the Veterinary Medical Technology program. As such, the Gaston College Veterinary Medical Technology program requires students to be vaccinated against rabies to meet the American Veterinary Medical Association Center for Veterinary Education Accreditation requirement.