

CVTS Standard Explanations & FAQ Pages

1. Standard: All technician members of the CVTS must remain eligible to represent their category for the entire length of their term. (i.e., if representing a VTS Academy, the person must remain a member of that Academy; if a non-VTS member, the person must not pursue a VTS during their term).

Q- Does this also include the NAVTA board appointee?

A - No, the board appointee acts as a liaison and is not a voting member. Their credentialing status is not relevant.

2. Standard: Form an Organizing Committee (OC) which will be responsible for the development of the Academy. An Organizing Committee shall be no less than 10 members and no more than 12 members.

Q - 10 OC members might be difficult to sustain; can the OC be less than 10 members?

A - If 10 OC qualifying members can't be found and sustained during the petitioning process the proposed academy may not be sustainable.

3. Standard: Exceptionally qualified specialists are defined as individuals who produce scholarly work within the specialty area. Examples of scholarly work must include a combination of teaching, lecturing, peer-reviewed work, research, or consulting.

Q - What are some examples of "exceptionally qualified specialists"? Could the CVTS provide a more specific definition of exceptionally qualified?

A – We could not document all current and future possibilities. Being overly restrictive or specific could exclude future legitimate possibilities.

4. Standard: OC members need to demonstrate a dedication to continuing education through publications, speaking at schools and conferences, and organization of learning activities.

Q – Will specific requirements be published?

A - No, this could be different for each specialty type. The CVTS wants to see that the proposed specialty and its OC are actively participating in educational events.

5. Standard: OC members and VTS applicants must be graduates of an AVMA accredited program and/or credentialed.

Q - Shouldn't OC members and VTS applicants be required to be credentialed and to remain credentialed?

A – Credentialing is not available in all states. We cannot require those living in states with no credentialing options to obtain credentials, however, we can, and do, mandate educational requirements for all members as graduation from an AVMA or equivalent accredited veterinary technician program. Those members living in states with credentialing must maintain their credentialing.

6. Standard: Organizing Committee members are required to pass the certification examination.

Q – If the OC members are experts in their field, why do they need to take the exam?

A – Awarding a credential status to an individual who has not taken and passed a credentialing exam, while setting requirements for others to take a credentialing exam, is not an acceptable practice for a credentialing body practice such as an Academy.

Q – Can the OC members take the same exam they helped to create for Academy applicants, or will a different exam need to be created?

A - Creating the exam is a long, involved process involving the OC members and Diplomates of supporting veterinary colleges. The OC members may take the same exam created for the Academy applicants.

Q – Are OC members of the existing Academies required to take the Academy credentialing exam?

A – No, this applies to petitioning OC members of proposed Academies moving forward from the 2018 standards.

7. Standard: Of the members of CVTS, 8 will be voting members.

Q – Why are there only 8 Academy voting members on CVTS?

A - The voting members of the CVTS are representing ALL Veterinary Technician Specialists, NOT only those in their Academy. All Academies are represented, just not all representatives are voting members. The voting members are on a rotation schedule to ensure equal representation.

8. Standard: Be veterinary technicians who have graduated from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) accredited education

program AND/OR are credentialed as veterinary technicians/nurses by a recognized credentialing body in the United States, Canada or other country.

Q- Why is this worded and/or? Shouldn't it be just and?

A - The intent of the wording was to include all states, even those that do not maintain a credentialing process and even those individuals currently practicing as a credentialed VT that achieved their credentialing status without graduating from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), or state accredited education program. All individuals must maintain credentials in the state they are practicing if applicable.

9. Q – Will the CVTS develop a standard form for provisional Academies to use when applying for full recognition?

A – Yes, the updated form is now available on the website

10. Q - An application fee may be required and must accompany the petition to NAVTA. What is the fee? What will it be used for?

A – No there is no fee, currently. This is not a new option and was in the previous guidelines. This in the guidelines to allow a fee to be required in the future should it become necessary.

11. Q - Shouldn't the entire CVTS review all petitions submitted rather than a subcommittee?

A - No, all CVTS members reviewing all petitions would create a conflict of interest. The Advisory subcommittee members should not review, comment on or vote on petitions of pending academies they mentor. The Petition Appeals subcommittee members should not have reviewed, commented on, been involved in the discussion of the petition during the initial review, or voted on any petition that was rejected by the Petition Review subcommittee. The subcommittee structure was designed to eliminate conflicts of interest.

12. Q - Will the subcommittee members be the same for each petition?

A - No, subcommittee members will be appointed specifically to each potential Academy submitting a letter of intent.

13. Q – Can NAVTA help Academies with exam software, insurance, statistician, etc.?

A – CVTS has begun investigation into these issues. NAVTA can consider this in the future, however, this is outside the scope of these guidelines.

14. Q - Could NAVTA have one insurance company that all the specialties could utilize and have their own policy through as a group to ensure consistent coverage?

A - CVTS has begun investigation into this possibility. NAVTA can consider this in the future, however, this is outside the scope of these guidelines.

15. Q - Could NAVTA assist academies with trademarking?

A - CVTS has begun investigation into this possibility. NAVTA can consider this in the future, however, this is outside the scope of these guidelines.

16. Q - There does not appear to be any protections or guidance on how to alleviate individuals from obtaining multiple VTS credentials within the same time or overlap from receiving, or applying for, a different VTS credential. If an applicant signs an affidavit for one academy stating they work 70% or greater of their time in one specialty for the last 3-5 years, it seems unethical to be able to apply for a different specialty.

A - Falsely representing experience or work history is grounds for an Academy not to accept applications. The same is true for OC members and a petition will be rejected if false information of any kind is submitted.

17. Q – What is the difference between full & provisional recognition?

A - Currently there is little difference. NAVTA and CVTS are currently exploring options to reward those Academies that have achieved full recognition.

FAQs Update from CVTS

1. The Advisory Committee to CVTS has researched the many different ways VTS designate dual or triple specialties. The consensus recommended by the Advisory Committee and adopted by CVTS are as follows:

First Last CVT, VTS (specialty), (specialty), (specialty)

- CVT is utilized for this example but obvious RVT, LVT, LVMT or whichever initial is indicated should be utilized.
- If the specialties are from the same Academy then they would be included in the same parenthesis. For example, if dual specialties in small animal internal medicine and oncology (both from AIMVT) then they would be listed in the same parenthesis. VTS (SAIM, Oncology)
- Specialties should be listed in order with the first specialty in the first parenthesis
- A comma should be used between the parenthesis

2. The Advisory Committee to CVTS has researched the many different ways Academies designate the different membership categories. The consensus recommended by the Advisory Committee and adopted by CVTS are as follows:

First Last CVT, VTS (specialty) membership category

- VTS (specialty) Emeritus
- VTS (specialty) Honorary member
- VTS (specialty) Deputy

Emeritus definition is - a person retired from professional life but permitted to retain as an honorary title the rank of the last office held.

Deputy definition is - formerly utilized way to designate the VTS title as a member of an Academy through an alternate pathway. This alternate pathway has since been removed following the new CVTS guidelines.

3. Use of VNS instead of VTS is recommended for all foreign members of an Academy when their designated title is Veterinary Nurse. Adoption of the VN title is recommend for the applicable sections of academies constitution and by-laws where indicated and should be considered for addition to academy names.
4. Use of "VTS candidate" should be discouraged for applicants of any academy. At this time there is no approved language for the applicant with an approved application waiting to sit the examination. This information can be used in context but not as part of their credentialing.

These are **recommendations only** but please consider adopting this standardized formatting moving forward. Thank you for your consideration.