

# Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians

## Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS) Application Information



The mission of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians (AVNT) is to advance the area of and promote excellence in the discipline of veterinary nutrition, to enhance the skills and knowledge of veterinary nutrition technicians /technologists/nurses, and promote veterinary technicians/technologists/nurses as integral members of the veterinary team.



### What is a VTS in Nutrition?

The AVNT provides a self-driven process by which veterinary technicians may become certified as veterinary technician specialists (VTS) in the field of animal nutrition, thereby increasing the competence of those practicing in the field.

Having a VTS can open more career opportunities as you will be considered a specialist in the field.

### What is a VTS Nutrition Application?

The process includes gathering clinical experience, completing continuing education, showing mastery in nutrition-focused skills, recording a case census, completing case reports, creating examination questions, and meeting other process expectations.

### How To Get Started – Prerequisites



#### Must be a CREDENTIALLED Veterinary Technician

Be a credentialed VT for at least 3 years.



#### Accumulate at least 4000 work experience hours as a credentialed VT focused on nutrition

When working as a credentialed VT accumulate hours where you focus on animal nutrition. These hours can be accumulated in the previous 5 years



#### Review the skills & expectations in your application year

During your application year you will be expected to complete multiple tasks. Ensure you have time to focus on your application package.

## Timeline

### Start of the Year – October 1

- Acknowledgement of Intent and Declaration
- Proof of credentials
- Be assigned a mentor
- Start collecting cases & package requirements

### Part 1 Due – March 15

- 4000hrs focused on nutrition in the previous 5 years.
- 40 hours of RACE or equivalent CE
- Foundation & Advanced Skills mastery attested.

**If Part 1 passes, continue with Part 2**

### Due September 1

- Letter of Reference (2)

### Part 2 Due – September 30

- Case Census (40-60)
- Case Studies (5)
- Comprehensive List
- Create examination questions (3)

### June of the following year

- Those whose application package deemed acceptable take a certifying examination

## Contact Us

[avnt.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:avnt.secretary@gmail.com)  [nutritiontechs.com/](http://nutritiontechs.com/)



# Foundation & Advanced Skills

Skills in the foundation and advanced list are ones that you have mastered as a credentialed and registered technician, veterinary technologist, or veterinary nurse in the previous 5 years from March 15th of Part 1 submission.

For example, if part 1 is submitted on March 15, 2025, skills can be included when they are mastered between March 15, 2020 - March 15, 2025.

## Mastery of Skills

**Mastery** is defined as completing a skill numerous times, over time, where you develop to be fully capable of completing the task without coaching. The mastery of the task involves being able to describe all the steps with such accuracy and understanding that you would be considered competent to train others to complete the task effectively.

Mastering skills on multiple species is ideal. If one species is the focus in your practice, at least 10% of mastered skills must be from a second species.

- **90% of skills from each list to be attested to as mastered**
- **70% of mastered skills from each list to be included in the case census**

## Foundation Skills – Summary

**\*Foundation skills include but are not limited to:**

- Perform a nutritional assessment: Physical exam, BCS, MCS, weight, nutrition history
- Calculate energy requirements, ideal body condition, and daily feeding requirements (cups and grams)
- Correlate how a nutrition recommendation may be influenced by common diagnostic results
- Perform sample collection, handling, or in-house diagnostics and assessment.
- Collaborate with a veterinarian to develop and implement a nutrition plan
- Educate clients
- Follow up with the client following a nutrition recommendation.

## Advanced Skills – Summary

**\*Advanced skills include but are not limited to:**

- Calculate more advanced nutrition equations
- Recognize the identifiers of nutritional imbalances.
- Participate in cases of at least two species that utilize diagnostic testing for general gastrointestinal function.
- Be involved in diagnostic testing and sample handling that requires appropriate fasting protocols, and/or dosing, and the correct timing of medications.
- Identify a patient at risk of a metabolic or endocrine disorder due to malnourishment.
- Assist in the placement, place, and/or manage at least two tube types
- Educate clients about feeding tube indications, benefits, and at-home client management
- Nutritionally manage more advanced nutrition cases
- Be involved in a case where the patient is administered a form of parenteral nutrition.

## Comprehensive Skills

- Questions that require the applicant to show their work. Includes but not limited to calculations, lists, case examples

## Other Components

### Case Census\*

During the application year, collect 40-60 cases where you used your nutrition skills

### Case Study\*

From the case census choose five cases to showcase your nutrition knowledge.

### Examination Questions\*

Create 3 potential examination questions

### Letters of Reference\*

You will be required to have two letters of references submitted

### Continuing Education\*

- You are required to submit 40 or more hours of RACE-certified or equivalent continuing education
- Must be included in the previous 3 years.

\* denotes this is not a complete list of expectations for the application. For a full list, please see the AVNT website.