



# USDA, APHIS, VS, National Veterinary Accreditation Program Newsletter

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## **Elect to Participate Process Update:**

As of January 3, 2011, **45,000** Elect to Participate (ETP) applications have been entered into VSPS. NVAP Staff has also hired an additional 3 full time temporary employees to assist with this project.

## **Background and Status Report on the Incorporation of Initial Accreditation Training (IAT) by Colleges and Schools of Veterinary Medicine (CVMs and SVMs):**

### **How did the IAT web-based course begin?**

The course is an enhancement of the Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals (EEDA) web-based course which was first offered at veterinary schools in 2002. The EEDA course focused on foreign animal diseases and the response to them. Over the years, 23 of the 28 veterinary schools in the U.S. utilized the EEDA course in their curriculums in a variety of ways. It was offered as follows:

- EEDA offered as a part of a required course
- EEDA offered as a part of an elective course
- EEDA offered as a stand-alone elective course

Some instructors required a majority of the course and some required a few select disease presentation scenarios from the course. The course was integrated into classroom instructions through a multitude of approaches.

### **When did the EEDA course incorporate the IAT material?**

The new accreditation regulation adds a new component, “initial accreditation training”, to the requirements for becoming an accredited veterinarian: (9CFR 161.1(e)(3)): *The veterinarian has completed initial accreditation training, using content provided by APHIS.* Through a cooperative agreement with Iowa State University’s Center for Food Security and Public Health (ISU CFSPH) in the fall of 2009, lessons focused specifically on veterinary accreditation issues were added to the EEDA course, and the course became IAT. This change and the requirement of an “IAT Certificate of Completion” as a prerequisite for admission to Core Orientation after July 1, 2011, were communicated by ISU CFSPH Staff to faculty at every U.S. college and school of veterinary medicine (CVM and SVM).

### **How are the veterinary schools currently incorporating IAT?**

Currently, every school has a plan to ensure that their students complete the IAT requirements and have an “IAT Certificate of Completion” to present for admission to Core Orientation after July 1, 2011. The certificate may only be earned by completing the online IAT training. The training consists of a series of lessons with 14 accompanying quizzes. All quizzes must be passed with a score of 80% or higher. There is an instructor at each school (who may not be the same as the school’s Core Orientation point of contact) who acts as the facilitator for the course and explains the IAT requirements. As with the EEDA course, there are a variety of ways this is being accomplished:

- IAT offered as a part of a required course primarily for second and third year students
- IAT offered as a part of an elective course with strong encouragement to participate
- IAT offered as a standalone elective course
- A faculty member encourages the students to complete it on their own and the faculty member monitors the students' progress usually during the summer between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year or during the 4<sup>th</sup> year.

CVM and SVM faculty work in cooperation with Core Orientation presenters and AVICs to determine when IAT and Core Orientation can best be offered.

For AVICs with a CVM or SVM in their State, please review the intranet table entitled "EEDA/IAT Summary Report" at <http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nvap/downloads/iat-core-vet-schools.pdf> . The table was prepared by Drs. Gayle Brown and Kevan Flaming at ISU CFSPH, who are responsible for developing and implementing IAT. In addition, you will soon be receiving a letter from ISU CFSPH staff with detailed IAT background material and a progress report on the CVM or SVM in your State. Those individuals seeking veterinary accreditation for the first time and who will attend Core Orientation on or after July 1, 2011, will need to present an "IAT Certificate of Completion" to be admitted to Core Orientation.

**What about students who have Core Orientation prior to July 1, 2011 but may not know that they must complete IAT if they apply for accreditation after July 1, 2011?**

All 2011 graduates, and 2012 graduates at 11 schools may fall into this category. To increase awareness of the new regulatory requirement, the ISU CFSPH staff has contacted all IAT instructors so they are aware of the change. An email has been sent to the Dean of Academic Affairs at each CVM and SVM with an example letter they can send to the fourth year veterinary students to explain the IAT and Core Orientation requirements and how to access IAT course.

**Where is the web-based IAT course available?**

Students at U.S. CVMs or SVMs will have a customized course that they can access through the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges website at <http://aavmc.org>. This course will be monitored by an instructor at their schools. All other individuals (e.g. graduates, foreign veterinary students, licensed veterinarians who have allowed their accreditation to lapse or have never been accredited) will access the training through a specific IAT course at <http://nvapiat.org> . There is no instructor for this course. AVICs will be given an enrollment key to provide access to this standalone IAT site.\*

The language in the text box below appears on the new IAT page of the NVAP website.



## Initial Accreditation Training (IAT)

Beginning July 1, 2011, all veterinarians applying for veterinary accreditation as well as those seeking to attend core orientation will need to have completed APHIS-approved IAT.

For graduate and licensed veterinarians who have already received their degrees from a U.S. or foreign school or college of veterinary medicine and who are seeking veterinary accreditation for the first time, IAT is available only through the [Area Office](#) in the state where accreditation is sought. The IAT must be completed with a passing score of 80% or higher. An "IAT Certificate of Completion" earned in the IAT web course will be required for admission to the [Core Orientation Program](#).

For students currently enrolled or matriculated in a U.S. school or college of veterinary medicine, IAT is being incorporated into the regulatory and foreign animal disease curricula at most of these institutions. Veterinary students can access the course content through the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges](#) web site. The IAT must be completed with a passing score of 80% or higher. An "IAT Certificate of Completion" earned in the IAT web course will be required for admission to the [Core Orientation program](#).

### Join our Weekly Call:

Please join the NVAP "Question and Answer Hour" every week on Thursday mornings to listen to the questions from others or ask your own. We have moved the start time to 11:00 a.m. EST to better accommodate our west coast colleagues. Kindly call in on 866-795-3893 with pass code 7905213.

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<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap>



\* It is at the IAT site <http://nvapiat.org> that we suggest most students in the Class of 2011 earn their "IAT Certificate of Completion" if they have not already done so. The ISU CFSPH staff will provide them the enrollment key directly, and therefore they will not be required to get an enrollment key from an AVIC.