Veterinary Human Support Certificate Program Overview

This document will provide a detailed overview of each component of the program.

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Online Modules

Prerequisites: None!

Availability: These modules are available year-round. You can purchase them anytime.

Format: Online. Self-paced.

Overview: The first step in the Veterinary Human Support Certificate is to start with the online modules. Each module is self-paced. You can start, pause, and resume as needed. They are composed of readings, presentations, videos, and quizzes. It is required to start with the module "Social Work History, Values, Ethics, and Practices." After you complete this module, you can work on the others in any order.

Modules:

- Social Work History, Values, Ethics, and Practices
- On boarding in Mental Health
- Compassion Fatigue and Conflict Management
- Ethics and Moral Stress
- Advanced Techniques for Human Engagement
- Advanced Techniques for Human Management
- Animal Related Bereavement: How to Support Broken Hearts
- The Link Between Human and Animal Violence
- Animal Assisted Interventions: An Overview

You will need to create an account on our learning management site in order to access the modules. Click here to create an account. You will use this same site to access and complete the modules you purchase. Click here to access the main log in page.

Frequently Asked Questions:

-I completed a module before I enrolled in the certificate. Do I need to retake it?
You do not need to retake the module. Anything you completed before enrolling in the certificate will still count.

-I purchased the module and do not know how to access it. What should I do?
You will access the module on the same site you purchased it. You will need to navigate to the “Home” menu tab and select “Welcome” to view your transcript. You can also access your transcript under the “Learning” menu bar.

Keystone Project

Prerequisites: The module(s) related to your project.

Availability: The application for the Keystone Project is available year round. You will need to complete the module(s) related to your project before submitting the proposal. The Veterinary Social Work team will provide feedback within 2 weeks of your proposal submission date. You do not have to submit the proposal immediately after completing the module. You are welcome to wait until you are ready.

Overview: To earn the Veterinary Human Support Certificate, participants must complete a keystone project that requires at least 250 hours of service learning. This piece of the VHS-CP requires participants to take their new knowledge and turn it into action. The keystone component is flexible and is designed to help participants develop relationships and begin the process of making their goals come into being. Keystone projects can be completed at the participant's current place of employment or in a volunteer setting, even if not in an animal setting.

Proposal Process: There is an official proposal application form. You can access this form by clicking here. In your proposal, you will need to include:

- the overall mission of the facility where the project will take place
- a licensed MSW who will be consulting on the project
- a contact person at the facility if the consulting social worker is not on-site
- the veterinary social work content area(s) your project will highlight
    - please be sure to complete the online module(s) your project highlights before submitting your proposal
- the measurable objectives of the project and how you will track the project's efficacy

At the International Veterinary Social Work Summit, you will turn in a letter of completion for your Keystone Project. You will also give a 5-minute Keystone Presentation at the VSW Oath Ceremony. See the last page of this document for more information

Frequently Asked Questions:

-How long do I have to complete my Keystone Project?
The Keystone Project needs to be completed before attending the International Veterinary Social Work Summit. The Summit is the final step in the program.

-Does the time I spend planning the Keystone Project count towards my 250hrs?
Yes! All planning counts. You can count phone hours spent reaching out to facilities, consulting, doing paper work, etc.

-I need help planning my Keystone Project. Who can help me brainstorm?
You can brainstorm ideas with the help of fellow participants as well the VSW team during supervision. You can also email vswcp@utk.edu to schedule a brainstorming session with Rebecca Poplawski.

-How do I record and track my hours for the keystone project?
You may track your hours in a way that is easiest for you. We do not require participants to submit their timesheets. All that we require is the letter of completion with a signature confirming hours completed.

Supervision Sessions

Prerequisite: All online modules

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD. Seven weeks. One 2hr session a week. We will send out an email announcing registration for the coming years session closer to time.

Format: Live via Zoom video conference.

Overview: All participants are expected to attend 7 live online supervision sessions in order to earn the Veterinary Human Support Certificate. VSW faculty and staff, guest speakers, and certificate peers will be in attendance.

Before each supervision session, the session facilitators will share emotionally charged case studies with supervision attendees. Attendees are expected to review these cases before the session and come prepared for a discussion. These cases are based on real life experiences of animal related professionals. The topic experts will guide attendees through case study analysis through discussion and reflection questions.

Participants may choose to attend supervision before submitting their Keystone Project proposals in order to discuss their options with their peer participants. Participants are encouraged, however, to complete some supervision sessions while actively engaged in Keystone Project development.

Frequently Asked Questions:

-I see that supervision is hosted yearly, do I need to attend yearly?
No, you just need to attend one group of 7 sessions.

-Can I split my 7 session up over the years?
No, you will complete all of the session in one 7-week period.

-What if I want to complete the supervision requirement this year, but the times do not work with my schedule? I would really like to attend the Intensive this year which requires completion of supervision first.

You will need to register for the sessions and then email vswcp@utk.edu informing them of your time conflict. Make up assignments will be made available as well as recordings of the session. We will work something out to meet the learning needs.

-What time is supervision hosted?
The time changes yearly depending on participant needs. Typically, supervision will be hosted on Mondays, 7-9pm (ET).

-How many people attend supervision?
We usually have 5-15 people attend in addition to 2-3 VSW team members.

-What can I expect during supervision?
Before the supervision period begins, we will email more information on what to expect to everyone registered. We will have a topic expert in attendance who help participants critically analyze case studies. Additionally, we will discuss Keystone Project questions and any general questions that participants might have.

Emotional CPR Workshop

Prerequisite: None! Though there are no prerequisites, this workshop is hosted the same week as the Veterinary Human Support Intensive. If you would like, you can reduce you trips to Knoxville by attending the ECPR Workshop and Intensive back to back.

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD.

Format: Live, in Knoxville, TN

Overview: The Emotional CPR Workshop is a 2-day event hosted live in Knoxville. This event is open to both VHSCP students and non-VHSC individuals. eCPR is an educational program designed to teach anyone to assist another person through an emotional crisis by three simple steps of C=Connecting, P=emPowering, and R=Revitalizing. The Connecting section of eCPR involves deepening listening skills. The emPowering section helps people better understand how to feel empowered themselves as well as to assist others to feel more hopeful and engaged in life. In the Revitalizating section people re-engage in relationships with their loved ones or their support system, and they resume or begin routines that support health and wellness. This final step reinforces the person's sense of mastery and accomplishment, further energizing the healing process. eCPR is based on principles shared by a number of support approaches: trauma-informed care, recovery components, instilling hope, counseling after disasters, and cultural and social attunement. It was developed with input from a diverse cadre of recognized leaders from across the U.S., who themselves have learned how to recover and grow from emotional crises. They have wisdom by the grace of first-hand experience.

Workshop Goals:

1) Provide training for veterinarians and animal professionals to help others through emotional crises with increased efficacy and without self-harm.

2) Develop a group of DVM's and animal professionals who, having been trained in ECPR, are willing and prepared to reduce stigma about mental illness in the profession by telling "their own stories" of adversity and healing.

Frequently Asked Questions:

-Can I bring a co-worker to this training? They are not in the certificate, but this training interests them.

Yes! This workshop is open to all. The content is tailored towards animal related professionals though.

-How often is this workshop hosted?

This workshop is hosted once a year. You only have to attend once.

-Is food provided?

Yes, we offer breakfast, lunch, and a light snack each day. We can cater for omnivores, vegetarians, vegans, and gluten free.

-What should I wear? What should I bring?

Wear comfortable clothing good for sitting. Bring something to take notes with.

-Will there be a block of rooms available?

We will look into reserving a block of rooms at a nearby hotel for participants to book.

-Where is the workshop hosted?

UT Veterinary Medical Center-2407 River Dr.-Knoxville, TN 37996

-Can I attend the Veterinary Human Support Intensive right after the ECPR Workshop?

Sure! You are welcome to do this. As long as you complete the prereqs for the Intensive. This is a good way to reduce trips to Knoxville. You do not have to attend both in one trip though.

-I attended the Emotional CPR Workshop before enrolling in the certificate. Does that count towards the certificate?

If you already attended the ECPR training, you do not need to attend again.

-I attended an Emotional CPR Workshop hosted by someone else. Does that count?

If you attended an Emotional CPR Workshop hosted by someone else, email us at vswcp@utk.edu and let us know.

Veterinary Human Support Intensive

Prerequisite: Completion of ALL modules AND completion of supervision

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD.

Format: Live, in Knoxville, TN

Overview: The 5-day Intensive is designed to integrate knowledge obtained in all of the online modules and supervision sessions. Through the techniques of observing, reflecting, and experiencing, the intensive will guide the participants through the process of "putting it all together" and practicing the skills.

Frequently Asked Questions:

-Will food be provided?

Yes, we offer breakfast, lunch, and a light snack each day. We can cater for omnivores, vegetarians, vegans, and gluten free.

-Will there be a block of rooms available?

We will look into reserving a block of rooms at a nearby hotel for participants to book.

-Can I attend the Veterinary Human Support Intensive right after the ECPR Workshop?

Sure! You are welcome to do this. As long as you complete the prereqs for the Intensive. This is a good way to reduce trips to Knoxville. You do not have to attend both in one trip though.

-Where is the workshop hosted?

UT Veterinary Medical Center-2407 River Dr.-Knoxville, TN 37996

-What should I wear?

Dress comfortable!

-What should I bring?

Bring your laptop or a device that connects to the internet. Also bring a pen and paper.

International Veterinary Social Work Summit

Prerequisite: This is the final step in the VHS-CP. All modules, supervision, ECPR Workshop, VHS Intensive, and the Keystone Project MUST be completed before taking the oath at the Summit.

Availability: October, every other year (2020, 2022, 2024,...)

Format: Live, in Knoxville, TN

Overview: The International Veterinary Social Work Summit is a 3-day event hosted in Knoxville. Each summit has a theme. The theme for the 2020 6th IVSWS is "Animals and Poverty." During the 3 days, presenters from all over the word from various professions are invited to speak. Topics covered by presenters include the theme of the summit, animal assisted interventions, compassion fatigue management, animal related grief and bereavement, and the link between human and animal violence. Presentations range from 30-90 minutes. Table topics, wellness activities, and work groups also occur throughout the 3 days.

VHS-CP participants are not required to present during the summit. At some point during the summit, VHS-CP members will all gather for the Oath Ceremony. Shortly before the ceremony, graduates will turn in their Keystone Project letter of completion. They will also give a short 5 minute presentation on their Keystone Project. After the presentations, the oath will be recited.

Keystone Project Letter of Completion

In the letter of completion, please include

- date
- hours completed
- summary of service learning activities
- consulting social workers signature
- your signature

Keystone Presentation

Criteria:

- Presentations will consist of five slides
- Each slide will be set to automatically transition after one minute

Content:

- Where the Keystone Project was completed and how you got your foot in the door
- Area of VSW that the project focused on and goals of the project
- Barriers that arose and how those barriers were overcome
- Most rewarding experience
- Results of Keystone Project

Frequently Asked Questions

-I am not ready to take the oath yet, but can I attend this years Summit?

Yes! You are welcome to come to all of the Summits. Attendance at the Summit won't count until you are ready to complete the certificate and take the oath.

-Will there be a block of rooms available?

We will reserve a block of rooms at a nearby hotel. Participants can choose to book there but they are not required.