

Postgraduate Veterinary Social Work Certificate Program Overview

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

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Online Modules

Prerequisite: None

Availability: Year round, self-paced.

Overview: The first step in the VSW-CP is to start a module. They have all been approved by the National Association of Social Workers for continuing education credit. Each module is composed of readings, presentations, videos, and quizzes. They are self-paced and can be paused and resumed as needed.

Modules:

- **Animal Assisted Interventions**
- **Compassion Fatigue Management**
- **Animal Related Bereavement: Implications for Social Work Practice**
- **The Link: Violence Towards People and Animals**

Create an account: <https://tennessee.csod.com/selfreg/register.aspx?c=vsw>

After creating an account, access modules anytime here:
<https://tennessee.csod.com/client/Tennessee/default.aspx>

Frequently Asked Questions:

-How much does each module cost?

See the pricing chart

-How long does each module take?

The modules have all been approved for 9-21.5 NASW CE credits. How long the module actually takes will depend on how quickly you read and move through the quizzes.

-I completed a module before I enrolled in the certificate, do I need to retake the module?

No. Anything completed before enrolling in the program still counts once enrolled.

-When I go to launch the module, nothing pops up, what is happening?

This is most commonly experienced because of pop-up blocker settings of a web browser. How to turn off pop-up blocker depends on which web browser is being

used. Google is a great resources for locating instructions on how to turn off pop-up blocker.

-Do I have to start my Keystone Project, attend supervision, and attend the workshops is the same year I start the modules?

No, you have up to 5-6 years to complete the program requirements.

Keystone Project

Prerequisite: Completion of module(s) related to VSW content area(s) highlighted by project

Availability: Year round

Overview: To earn the Veterinary Social Work Certificate, participants must complete a keystone project that requires at least 250 hours of service learning. This piece of the VSW-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 professional 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.

When writing your proposal, please include

- the overall mission of the facility where the project will take place
- a veterinarian who will be consulting on the project
 - if you are a veterinarian, please have a licensed MSW consult
- a contact person at the facility if the consulting veterinarian 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

Submit proposal here: <https://goo.gl/forms/6lc7tesP9djeFISl3>

At the International Veterinary Social Work Summit, you would 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 with your veterinarian, 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 for assistance.

-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 time sheets. All that we require is the letter of completion outlines above.

Supervision

Prerequisite: Module related to supervision topic

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD

Overview: All participants will attend 8 online supervision sessions in order to earn the Veterinary Social Work Certificate. The 4 VSW topic areas will have 2 supervision sessions dedicated to the topic that are designed to provide discussion and allow for supervisory questions to be answered. VSW faculty and staff will be in attendance for these sessions as well as topic experts. There will be discussion boards and homework throughout the supervision period.

Times and dates of supervision sessions vary to accommodate the schedule needs of our participants. Participants do not have to attend all 8 sessions in one year. Each VSW topic area has 2 sessions dedicated to it. As long as participants complete the 2 sessions per topic in the same year then they can spread out the other topics.

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.

*It is required to attend AAI Supervision and the AAI Workshop in the same calendar year, however, it is not required to attend the VSW Intensive in the same year as completing the other 3 supervision topic areas.

Frequently Asked Questions

-How much does supervision cost?

See pricing chart

-What date/time is supervision hosted?

TBD

-How many people attend supervision?

We usually have 15-25 people attend each session in addition to 2-3 VSW team members.

-Is supervision NASW approved?

No

-What can I expect during supervision?

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.

AAI Workshop

Prerequisites: AAI Module and AAI Supervision. It is important to attend AAI Supervision and the AAI Workshop in the same calendar year.

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD. Typically 2 or 3 days depending.

NASW Approved? Yes

The AAI Workshop is hosted via video conference once a year. In order to attend, one must complete the AAI module and AAI supervision requirements.

A general description: The AAI Workshop serves as the culmination of the AAI learning experience. Students will leave the session proficient in program design, implementation, and evaluations. Students will leave the session with a clear program or conceptual idea for their professional trajectory.

Learning objectives:

- To be proficient in AAI program design, implementation, and evaluation using the logic model
- To recognize the challenges of developing AAI programs and working directly with clients
- To understand the ethical considerations of the use of animals in AAI
- To navigate potential adverse events regarding AAI
- To be competent in creating and conducting an animal-assisted therapy session

Frequently Asked Questions

-How much is the AAI Workshop?

See pricing chart

-When is the AAI Workshop?

Dates TBD

-Why is it important that I attend AAI supervision and the AAI workshop in the same year?

The AAI Workshop builds from the AAI supervision sessions. During supervision, participants will begin discussing AAI practice and their dream AAI program. That conversation will continue at the AAI Workshop.

Veterinary Social Work Intensive

Prerequisites:

**-3 Modules-Compassion Fatigue Management, The Link: Violence Towards People and Animals, Animal Related bereavement: Implications for Social Work Practice.
-3 Supervision topic areas-Compassion Fatigue Management, The Link, Animal Related Grief and Bereavement**

Availability: Once a year, dates TBD, Via Video Conference

NASW Approved? Yes

Program Description:

The 5-day Veterinary Social Work Intensive is designed to integrate knowledge obtained in three online modules and supervision sessions in the veterinary social work training program: 1) Animal Related Bereavement: Implications for Social Work Practice, 2) Compassion Fatigue Management, and 3) The Link: Violence Towards Humans and Animals. Through the techniques of observing, reflecting, and experiencing, the intensive will guide the participant through the process of “putting it all together” and practicing the skills required for veterinary social work.

Program Objectives:

At the conclusion of this intensive participants will be able to:

- **Learners will examine their personal animal-related values, ethics, and triggers**
- **Demonstrate through role play the skills of intervening in animal abuse cases with clients and with the legal system**
- **Describe at least 3 animal related issues that are emotionally and socially challenging to animal related professionals**
- **Design an end of life care management plan with clients which includes euthanasia, body disposition, and memorialization**
- **Learner can contrast roles and responsibilities among at least 3 community stakeholders that have a part in addressing the link between human and animal violence. (eg Animal control officers, domestic violence shelters, district attorney's office).**

- **Select effective interventions to utilize for animal related end-of-life and treatment-decision making discussions for individual and group approaches.**
- **Apply ethical constructs to facilitate animal related end-of-life and treatment-decision making discussions between clients and animal related professionals**
- **Identify 5 emotional, cognitive, and physical regulation techniques**
- **Recognize and resolve human-animal related ethical challenges**

Frequently Asked Questions

-How much is the Veterinary Social Work Intensive?

See pricing chart

-When is the Veterinary Social Work Intensive?

Hosted once a year, Dates TBD

International Veterinary Social Work Summit

Prerequisites:

- **Modules:**
 - **Animal Assisted Interventions**
 - **Animal Related Bereavement: Implications for Social Work Practice**
 - **Compassion Fatigue Management**
 - **The Link: Violence Towards People and Animals**
- **Supervision Topics:**
 - **Animal Assisted Interventions**
 - **Animal Related Bereavement: Implications for Social Work Practice**
 - **Compassion Fatigue Management**
 - **The Link: Violence Towards People and Animals**
- **Animal Assisted interventions Workshop**
- **Veterinary Social Work Intensive**
- **250hr Keystone Project**

Availability: Everyone other October (2018, 2020, 2022, ect.)

The International Veterinary Social Work Summit is a 3-day event. Location TBD. Each summit has a theme. The theme for the 2018 5th IVSWS is “Animals and Poverty.” During the 3 days, presenters from all over the world 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.

VSW-CP participants are not required to present during the summit. One evening, VSW-CP members will all gather for the Veterinary Social Work Oath Ceremony. During the ceremony, graduates will turn in their Keystone Project letter of completion. They will also give a 5 minute presentation on their Keystone Project. After the presentations, the oath will be recited. After the oath, dinner will be provided to all of those in attendance. Veterinary Social Work Certificate graduates, family, and friends are invited to attend.

Keystone Project Letter of Completion

In the letter of completion, please include

- **date**
- **hours completed**
- **summary of service learning activities**
- **consulting veterinarians 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

-How much does the International Veterinary Social Work Summit Cost?

See pricing chart