



**Inter American University of Puerto Rico**  
Guayama Campus  
Department of Animal and Agricultural Sciences  
Veterinary Program

**POLICY FOR PREGNANT STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE VETERINARY  
TECHNICIAN PROGRAM**

Due to the variety of activities in which the teaching is carried out and how the practice of the veterinary technician is exercised, the student is exposed to many risks and dangers. These dangers and risks face them in clinical experiences, laboratories and field trips. The students of this program may be exposed to injuries such as bites or cuts, diseases such as rabies and toxoplasmosis, ionizing radiation, gases produced by anesthesia and chemical substances, and drugs that can cause harm. Some of these dangers and risks are not even detected. The trips to the countryside in order to visit farms expose the veterinary technician to other problems that may affect their health. In many cases they must work for long hours under the sun; this may lead them to suffer from a sunstroke or dehydration. In these trips, students are exposed to bites of arthropod ectoparasites such as ticks and mosquitoes that can transmit diseases such as dengue and chikungunya.

The risk potential is higher for pregnant students. This document aims to establish a clear policy to minimize risks during pregnancy. **However, it is important to emphasize that the pregnant student must comply with the same program requirements as the rest of the students.** The decision to notify about pregnancy is voluntary. If the student decides to notify her pregnancy, she will personally notify the program director, who will then coordinate an orientation to explain to the student the risks and dangers to which she will be exposed that may affect her or the fetus while completing the requirements of the Veterinary Technician Program. It is also recommended to notify the professors of the courses she is taking. The following protocol will be followed:

1. The student will inform her obstetrician about her pregnancy and discuss with her the risks and dangers to which she will be exposed in the courses she is taking. If the student decides to continue studying, she must provide a document signed by an obstetrician, with a license from Puerto Rico, specifying that she can continue with her program of study. She will also sign a release of responsibility that will be provided by the institution.
2. After receiving authorization from her doctor to continue studies, she must meet with her professors to assess which tasks represent a greater risk considering the time of pregnancy.

3. If the doctor and/or professor understand that the activities or requirements of the course or program represent an exposure that may affect the student or the fetus, a plan will be established that includes possible options or alternate forms, if any, so she can complete them. For this, the content of the course and its relationship with the other program courses will be evaluated.
4. If there are no alternate forms, the student may: apply for withdrawal from the Veterinary Technician program and resume their studies at a later date or withdraw from the courses whose activities represent a risk or danger. The student must understand that this will delay the graduation date.

#### Release of Responsibility

I, (name and surname) \_\_\_\_\_ with identification number \_\_\_\_\_ pregnant student of the Veterinary Technician Program, knowing that I can be exposed to diseases and dangers due to the activities and procedures that were carried out as part of the courses and after having been informed about all the risks and dangers to which I will expose myself or expose the fetus by \_\_\_\_\_:

#### UNDERSTAND

1. What are the risks and dangers to which I expose myself and my baby during the activities, procedures and other course or program tasks if I wish to continue studying.
2. The consequences of me or my baby being affected by exposure to biological, physical and chemical agents to which I will be exposed.
3. That I can contract an illness related to the tasks I do and that it may affect my pregnancy.
4. The effects on my health and my pregnancy of contracting an illness or suffering an accident. That the disease can be transmitted to other people or the baby.
5. My responsibility for the payment of medical, hospital or any other expenses related to the exposure of biological, physical and chemical agents in the activities, tasks and procedures that I will carry out as part of my study program if I decide to continue studying.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date