

# Canine and Feline Nutrition Certificate Program Testimonies

“I researched dog nutrition courses for some time before coming across this course. I emailed Amer before I enrolled with questions, and he responded very quickly with detailed answers. Amer was also very open to all types of dog nutrition which was what I was looking for in a course. He was unbiased and everything was explained fully and where to reference the information needed. The course itself was extremely thorough, starting with the basics and working up to recipe formulation. I especially enjoyed the clinical studies and feel confident to be able to offer therapeutic diets for sick dogs. Amer responded quickly to questions, and he also was available for zoom meetings for more in depth answers. I highly recommend this course for thorough dog and cat nutrition education”.

Janette Gallagher Caboolture, Australia

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“I would highly recommend the Canine & Feline Nutrition Certification Program to anyone who wants to learn more about pet nutrition. This program more than exceeded my expectations. Here is everything I loved about this program:

It’s a science-based program. It’s very well structured and flows really well. Each section builds upon everything you learned in previous sections.

I liked that there was a quiz and an assessment each week. The assessments got more challenging each week but I loved it because it really helped ensure you understood the material.

The support you get from the professor, Dr. Amer, is outstanding! Not only does he have a very in-depth knowledge of animal nutrition, he is also incredibly helpful. He was always available if you had questions or needed help. He responds very quickly and offers to get on a video call if you need more help. I had a lot of questions throughout the program but Dr. Amer was incredibly patient, kind, and helpful and I really appreciated his support.

I was wondering how this program would work as an online program but it was a great experience. I loved the PowerPoint presentations with audio, the reading material, and the outstanding support from Dr. Amer.

This program has been so rewarding to me and honestly one of the best courses I’ve ever taken. I was so fascinated by everything I learned each week. I especially loved learning about clinical nutrition where we learned about dietary management of a variety of disorders in cats and dogs – this section covered disorders such as diabetes, liver disease, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease, obesity, chronic kidney failure, urolithiasis, skin disorders, etc.

I’m already putting everything I learned to good use with my senior rescue cats as well as helping other people with their pet nutrition questions. I’ll also be using everything I learned in the non-profit organization I founded for animals. I’m so grateful that I found this course and decided to enroll in it. It’s been life-changing and has pointed me in a whole new direction!

Mindy Falzarano

Steamboat Springs, CO”

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“Before this course, I had already finished two other related certificates of the same field.

Yet, I will have to say, I still benefit a lot from the Canine and Feline Nutrition Certificate offered by SIU. First of all, the curriculum is well structured that it is more than enough to guild you from basic pet nutrition knowledge to in-depth evaluations of nutritional issues, medical conditions and care, homemade diet and so on. The wide-ranged topics are covered by PowerPoints with audio and reading materials that you would get a comprehensive look into the matters. Moreover, the assignments set aim at consolidating what you have learnt, followed by quizzes to assess your learning. What I want to stress is that the professor is always there to answer your enquiry and assist your progress of study which is a very valuable asset. As a working pet nutritionist, this course has given me even a stronger fundamental and a boarder horizon of diverse concepts. I gained much more research based information and practical knowledge to educate my clients and to help their pets during consultation. All in all, I would recommend this course to anyone who would like to take pet nutrition as a profession. Considered the comprehensiveness, this course is especially suitable for those who can commit and dedicate time studying.”

Walter

Hong Kong

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“I would like to express my utmost satisfaction with the certification in canine and feline nutrition that I completed at the University of Southern Illinois. This training has been incredibly beneficial for me. First and foremost, I want to highlight that the program was incredibly comprehensive and based on scientific literature. I was impressed by the rigor and quality of the information provided. Every aspect of canine and feline nutrition was covered in detail, and I gained a deep understanding of the specific nutritional needs of each species. I am grateful for the exceptional support I received from the professor during the training. He was attentive and responsive to all my questions, providing clear and detailed answers. His availability and willingness to help greatly facilitated my learning and bolstered my confidence in my knowledge of animal nutrition.

I highly recommend this certification to anyone looking to deepen their understanding of animal nutrition. The program's emphasis on scientific literature, coupled with the professor's support, ensures a solid foundation for informed and professional practice in the field of canine and feline nutrition. Overall, my experience with the certification program at the University of Southern Illinois surpassed my expectations. It has equipped me with valuable knowledge and skills that will enable me to make a positive impact on the health and well-being of dogs and cats through proper nutrition”.

Mélanie Ratté, Quebec, Canada

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Thank you very much. I really enjoyed completing this certificate program and it will definitely help me with my career. i also recommended it to my coworkers, because the course provided me with so much useful information.

What I enjoyed the most were the calculations of the homemade diets. There could be even more of these exercises in the program.

I also liked that the program started with the basics about digestion and nutrients and then went into the details of the nutritional requirements for cats and dogs. It was easy to follow and to understand. I also have to admit that I liked the time limits on the quizzes. Without the time limits, I probably wouldn't have learned as efficiently as I did.

Julie Albrecht  
Nestlé/Purina  
Application Group-Wet Product Specialist

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I would highly recommend the Canine and Feline Nutrition certificate program to anyone who is interested in obtaining a solid foundation in pet nutrition. This program did an outstanding job of preparing me to assess nutrient needs of cats and dogs at various life stages and health conditions and help them to meet those needs through a variety of food options. The information was presented in a well-organized progression where concepts taught in previous lessons were reinforced and expanded upon in subsequent lessons and skills were honed throughout the program. The information was easy to understand with lots of good examples to illustrate key points and calculations. The self-paced, online delivery of the courses allowed for a great deal of flexibility, but still kept me on track to finish in a timely manner. The weekly assignments and quizzes provided me with the opportunity to learn the information presented in the narrated Power Point slides and reading chapters from the textbooks. I found the instructor feedback on those assignments to be incredibly helpful and it was provided very promptly. The final assignment to prepare homemade pet diets was fun but challenging and did a great job of making me review and apply many of the concepts that I learned throughout the program. In addition to learning a lot, I now also have exceptional resources that I can refer back to as I continue to work with pets and their people to achieve optimal nutrition and health. Thanks for a great program! It was exactly what I was hoping for to be able to add cat and dog nutrition to my human nutrition practice.

Laura Brieser-Smith, MPH, RD, EP-C  
Westminster, CO

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"The course has been extremely valuable to me, and I have learned a lot. Canine nutrition has been always of my interest, and I have read a lot in this subject for both canines and humans and how diet affects the well-being of both. But this class has been outstanding for me. It helped me to move to a next level-it gave me a very solid understanding of dogs and cats digestive systems, micro and macronutrients functions and assumptions for clinical nutrition. I highly recommend this class to anybody who wants to learn more and especially my peers, who own pet stores offering pet diets. I Since many of our customers depend on my advice, I feel I am on the position to give them a very solid advice on what to feed to their pets and I feel well equipped to help my own ageing pets with better diet appropriate for their conditions".

Joanna Bronowicka

President & Owner, Well Bred  
[www.wellbredonline.com](http://www.wellbredonline.com)  
Morristown NJ

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I began the SIU online Companion Pet Nutrition course with no preconceived expectation as to course content, and quickly became immersed in a well structured program. The lessons are logically sequenced, facilitating an ease of learning throughout the course. Although questions about material, assignments or processes were mostly infrequent (due to the simplified program layout), expedited professional responses limited delay in course progression. Upon completion of the curriculum, I have gained confidence in my ability to prepare pet food diets for a variety of nutritional needs.

Otis Elmore  
Kingwood, TX 77346

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"The program is unique and beneficial in that it provides Hands-On opportunity so that what is learned can be applied. The organization and flow of the courses is logical and builds upon itself effectively. It is easy to use the materials and being able to refer back to course materials will be extremely useful in professional work. The instructor is beyond knowledgeable and able to answer questions that textbooks and other materials are unable to directly answer, which is very rare to find in the field of companion animal nutrition. I was able to get answers to some questions that I have had for years."

Savannah Welna  
Spokane WA

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I had some trepidation when I signed up for the Companion Animal Nutrition course. I have a BFA and MA in music, and am employed in the performing arts, so I don't have an extensive background in chemistry and anatomy. However, Dr. AbuGhazaleh has organized this course very well and was always extremely helpful when I had questions about the material. From a class organization standpoint, the material started off with the basics of dog and cat physiology and nutritional needs, then progressed to more advanced topics, such as nutritional needs for pets with serious illnesses. I found the pace was perfect, the extra reading material quite informative, and the slides and Dr. AbuGbazaleh's comprehensive narration and explanations extremely helpful. Even though I don't have an animal science background, I feel that I was able to acquire valuable information that I'll be able to use for the health and benefit of my pets. I thoroughly enjoyed the class and would highly recommend it to anyone interested in obtaining a more comprehensive knowledge of canine and feline nutrition.

Judy Hayward  
Mont Vernon,  
NH

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I have learned a lot and feel much more confident in creating my own diets, customized to the animals who will be eating them. I liked the structure of assignments and quizzes and your slides summarized the information nicely. The course was really good. I'm so glad I signed up for it!

Susanna Anthony

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*"I cannot recommend enough SIU's Companion Animal Nutrition course. From a pet parent to animal professionals or people like me, looking for a possible career change in their lives. This course was truly delightful to study. The coordinator and main Professor; Dr. Amer AbuGhazaleh not only shows a deep knowledge of the subject, but most importantly, is always available to assist in any matter, which makes the experience of an online course feel more personal and accessible. The most beneficial of the course is that the subjects actually belong to the graduate program of Animal Sciences. This said, the course is 100% based on science with no preconceptions about one way of feeding or another. It empowers the student to deeply understand the biochemistry process of digestion in the animal body, understand ingredients & nutrients, energy needs of different animals, and have preliminary idea of feed formulation. Is absolutely an impeccable course, easily presented with a flexible timeline. This course has played an important part in my decision to continue my education at Veterinary School."*

*Isabella Luders*

*São Paulo/SP- Brazil*

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The Canine and Feline Nutrition Certificate course has been a very valuable and enriching experience for me. I consider it a complete course that gives an integral overview of the nutrition of dogs and cats. From the basic concepts of nutrition to the complex illness that can affect pets, this course has shown me the importance of adequately feeding our furry friends and its impact on their wellbeing. Moreover, it has given me the tools to compare different pet foods with their benefits and drawbacks and I have learned how to formulate complete and balanced homemade diets. Also, I considered the course was well-structured. Therefore, I really recommend this course to everyone interested in the nutrition of dogs and cats.

Cristina Sotomayor Quito-Ecuador

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"I had a great experience while studying for this canine and feline nutrition program. It was quite intensive, with a lot of high quality, science-based content provided. The weekly quizzes and assignments are well made and useful to stay on track during the 6 months. I especially appreciated the assignment in which a homemade diet needed to be elaborated as it's a great way to apply the knowledge learned during

the course".

Coliine Doebelin Antibes-France

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"I appreciate having the chance to join this program. SIU provides a solid education that could give students to acquire essential knowledge of canine and feline nutrition. The course materials including PPTs and reading chapters were great help to me. I believe it's a key to learn and grow your career and I highly recommend this wonderful course to the people who are interested in companion animal nutrition".

An-Chin Cheng  
Kaohsiung City,  
Taiwan

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I would also like to thank you for your support during this course, for me it was one of the most interesting courses I have ever done, and I am very glad that I decided to enroll for this course. I have definitely broadened my knowledge skills and learned a great deal - I think this is a valuable addition to my skill set as animal nutritionist. It was also a pleasure to study at SIU. Thank you very much.

Vriendelijke groets/ Kind  
regards, Elfriede Prinsloo  
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South Africa

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When you start the program, you realize that this program is a very special education. I must say honestly that the program is not easy one. But the course contents and exams become easier once you move and understand the basics of nutrition. Let me give you a secret for this. While the topics are simple and concise, they actually contain great connections with future topics. When you start struggling with things going forward, I suggest you return to the past topics and you will meet a teacher who allows you to ask as many questions as you want. He is Dr. Amer. He is a very patient person and is like a hero. If you get stuck in a very difficult situation, he will immediately help you (ask questions, don't be afraid). It was a great experience I needed for my veterinary background and I am very grateful for that and I will continue to follow Dr. Amer and Southern Illinois University for other educational experiences.

Mehmet Gül  
Medipet Veteriner  
Klinigi Istanbul, Turkey

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"If you are looking for an introductory nutrition related course, here you are. This course is definitely one of the best choices. It is structural, starting from basic knowledge, followed by application to pets and then to various diseases. I learned so much to the extent that I not only understand what is required for my pets, but also in some way grasp how different nutrients work in the human body. The most unbelievable part is that I changed my diet after studying this course. E.g., I used to hate seaweed but now I try to accept it, in order to have a balanced diet. So, you might regret if you missed this •excellent, life-changing course"

Yu Man Fung  
Dongguan,  
Guangdong China