

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN - ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE (AAS)

Description

The Veterinary Technician Associate of Applied Science is designed to prepare students to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination to become certified veterinary technicians. The program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities as a program for educating veterinary technicians.

The program provides education in subjects such as animal husbandry, nursing, nutrition, animal handling, parasitology, hematology, microbiology, radiology, pharmacology, anesthesiology, dental prophylaxis, surgical assisting, and office procedures. It includes practicums designed to provide practical, hands-on experience to build on skills learned in the classroom.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Perform comprehensive veterinary technician medical processes and apply critical thinking skills for optimal patient care.
2. Utilize therapeutic and professional communication skills to achieve patient outcomes in collaboration with veterinary health care team members and clients.
3. Apply principles of professionalism and confidentiality within the veterinary client/patient relationship.
4. Implement ethical and legal standards as they apply to veterinary medical practice.
5. Practice current concepts of infection control and occupational safety.
6. Utilize knowledge of facility policies and procedures.

Entrance Requirements

Academic Entrance Requirements

Required:

- High school diploma or GED
- The following prerequisite courses must be completed with a C grade or higher before applying to the program:
 - BI 101 General Biology: Cells & Genes or BI 221 Principles of Biology: Cells
 - CH 104 Introduction to Chemistry I or CH 221 General Chemistry I
 - WR 121Z Composition I
 - COMM 218Z Interpersonal Communication
 - Minimum placement Math Level 18 or complete MTH 095 Intermediate Algebra or MTH 111Z Precalculus I: Functions or higher
- 40 hours of observation in a veterinary clinic

Other Entrance Requirements

Required:

- Refer to the current [program admissions handbook](#) for a detailed description of admission requirements. Students must complete 40 hours of observation in a veterinary clinic, the program application,

and must submit any required documentation as part of their application packet. Admission packets are available on the [Veterinary Technician page](#). Applications are accepted biennially during Spring term for admission to the program the following Fall term.

- Students must be 18 years of age or older before starting the program.
- Once admitted into the program, students need to complete the following before Fall term:
 - 10-panel urine drug screen
 - Criminal history check
 - Documentation of immunizations
 - Tdap vaccine
 - Required: Pre-exposure rabies vaccination- Students need to provide proof of the completed 2 dose vaccination series or proof of adequate protection documented by a serologic test.

Additional Program Costs (Beyond Standard Tuition/Fees and Textbooks)

Material Costs

Required:

- Criminal history check, drug screening, immunization verification: \$120
- In some cases, immunization cost for tetanus and rabies: \$100 to \$1000
- Supplies, such as scrubs, lab jacket, coveralls, farm boots, stethoscope, thermometer, bandage scissors, wrist watch, name badge, calculator, laptop or tablet computer: \$500 to \$1200
- Transportation costs: variable

Enrollment Fees

- Student lab fee, per term: \$300

Course Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Prerequisite Courses		
BI 101 or BI 221	General Biology: Cells & Genes Principles of Biology: Cells	4-5
CH 104 or CH 221	Introduction to Chemistry I General Chemistry I	5
COMM 218Z	Interpersonal Communication	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4
Math skill level: Minimum placement Math Level 18 or complete MTH 095 Intermediate Algebra or MTH 111Z (or higher).		
40 hours of observation in a veterinary clinic		
Core Courses		
VT 101	Intro to Veterinary Technician	3
VT 102	Veterinary Terminology	3
VT 103	Animal Hospital and Office Procedures	3
VT 108	Small Animal Nursing	4
VT 110	Parasitology and Pathology	4

VT 111	Hematology and Urinalysis	4
VT 112	Advanced Small Animal Nursing	4
VT 113	Exotic and Lab Animal Medicine	3
VT 114	Pharmaceutical Math	3
VT 116	Pharmacology	4
VT 117	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology I	5
VT 118	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology II	4
VT 200	Radiation Safety	2
VT 201	Anesthesiology and Surgery Techniques	4
VT 202	Surgical Nursing and Dentistry	4
VT 203	Large Animal Nursing	4
VT 204	Diagnostic Imaging	3
VT 206	Small Animal Diseases	4
VT 208	Animal Nutrition	2
VT 209	Large Animal Diseases	3
VT 212	Veterinary Microbiology	4
VT 280	Clinical Practicum I	9
VT 281	Clinical Practicum II	5
360 hours on-site at veterinary practices		
Total Credits		105-106

Advising Notes

Students are admitted to the Veterinary Technician program through a selective admission process. Admission to the program is competitive and enrollment is limited. Program courses must be taken in sequence.

Students are strongly recommended to attend a [program information session](#) to learn about the College's [Veterinary Technician program](#) and admission requirements prior to application submission. Currently, a cohort begins every other Fall term.

This program is intended for students seeking employment as veterinary technicians. These courses are not intended as preparation for a doctor of veterinary medicine degree. (See [Pre-Medicine](#), [Pre-Dentistry](#), [Pre-Veterinary AAOT](#)). Some courses may transfer to other veterinary technician programs. Please contact your transfer institution for more information.

A pre-exposure Rabies vaccine is required to attend the Veterinary Technician Program. Students need to provide proof of the completed 2 dose vaccination series or proof of adequate protection documented by a serologic test.

Performance Standards

- Academic Requirements:
 - Students must earn a C or higher in each prerequisite course.
 - All Veterinary Technician courses must be completed with a C or higher to qualify for continuation in the program.
 - Students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA to earn a COCC certificate or degree.
- Additional Requirements

- Students must enroll full-time in all courses listed for each term.
- All Veterinary Technician coursework must be successfully completed prior to entering the clinical practicum courses.

Sample Plan

First Year

Fall		Credits
BI 101 or BI 221	General Biology: Cells & Genes or Principles of Biology: Cells	4-5
CH 104 or CH 221	Introduction to Chemistry I or General Chemistry I	5
Math courses as needed to meet prerequisite skill level		
COMM 218Z	Interpersonal Communication	4
WR 121Z	Composition I	4
40 hours of observation in a veterinary clinic		
Credits		17-18

Second Year

Fall		Credits
VT 101	Intro to Veterinary Technician	3
VT 102	Veterinary Terminology	3
VT 103	Animal Hospital and Office Procedures	3
VT 117	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology I	5
Credits		14

Winter

VT 108	Small Animal Nursing	4
VT 110	Parasitology and Pathology	4
VT 114	Pharmaceutical Math	3
VT 118	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology II	4
Credits		15

Spring

VT 111	Hematology and Urinalysis	4
VT 112	Advanced Small Animal Nursing	4
VT 113	Exotic and Lab Animal Medicine	3
VT 116	Pharmacology	4
Credits		15

Third Year

Fall		Credits
VT 200	Radiation Safety	2
VT 201	Anesthesiology and Surgery Techniques	4
VT 203	Large Animal Nursing	4
VT 209	Large Animal Diseases	3
VT 212	Veterinary Microbiology	4
Credits		17
Winter		Credits
VT 202	Surgical Nursing and Dentistry	4
VT 204	Diagnostic Imaging	3
VT 206	Small Animal Diseases	4
VT 208	Animal Nutrition	2
Credits		13
Spring		Credits
VT 280	Clinical Practicum I	9

VT 281	Clinical Practicum II	5
360 hours on-site at veterinary practices		
Credits		14
Total Credits		105-106