VETERINARY ASSISTANT, CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

The Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant prepares students for careers within the veterinary and animal healthcare industry as veterinary assistants, animal health technicians and other allied animal health positions. Through hands-on experiential learning and curriculum designed to engage students in various aspects of veterinary assisting and technology, students will be prepared to enter the expanding animal healthcare industry as part of a team of individuals dedicated to the care of domestic animals, small and large.

The Certificate in Veterinary Assistant can be applied to the first year of study towards completion of the Associate in Science degree in Veterinary Technology. Prerequisite coursework in college-level biology, chemistry, English, and statistics is required for application to the Veterinary Assistant/Technology program (these courses are listed in Program Requirements).

Those seeking to continue on and enroll in the second-year courses to complete the Associate in Science degree in Veterinary technology must complete all courses within the Certificate program with a grade of "C" or better. Prior to being admitted to the first year of the Associate in Science degree in Veterinary Technology, students must complete all required prerequisite courses and submit a prerequisite verification form to the Veterinary Technology Program Director along with an application for the Veterinary Technology program.

Veterinary Assistants and Registered Veterinary Technicians are integral to the animal health care team that works under the supervision of veterinarians to perform various types of tasks, including veterinary laboratory procedures, surgical and anesthesia assisting, digital imaging (including X-ray technology), dental procedures, medical nursing, emergency care, and veterinary office procedures.

Students will be trained in highly sought-after skills critical to the veterinary assisting field, gaining access to career opportunities that continue to experience high demand and strong growth. Potential career options include employment in private veterinary facilities, bio-medical research institutions, regulatory agencies, livestock operations, pharmaceutical companies, zoological parks, and the animal nutrition industry.

Veterinary Assistant and Veterinary Technology Program Requirements

The Veterinary Technology Associate of Science Degree Program is two-tier pathway that begins with a Veterinary Assistant Certificate of Achievement. The program prepares students for careers within the veterinary and animal healthcare industry as veterinary technicians and qualifies them to sit for both national and state board exams to become Registered Veterinary Technicians. The first year of courses within the Veterinary Technology degree program can be applied towards earning a Certificate of Achievement (COA) in Veterinary Assistant, allowing students to seek initial, entry-level employment in the field of veterinary technology while completing the Associate degree program.

Procedures for Applying

Applications will be accepted once a year during the spring semester for admission in the subsequent fall semester. Admission is subject to available openings. The application deadline is available through the veterinary technology counselor or the Career Education Division.

Students interested in applying to the Veterinary Technology program must first submit a general admissions application to Ventura College at www.venturacollege.edu/apply (https://www.venturacollege.edu/apply-and-enroll/) prior to submitting the supplemental Veterinary Technology program application. Admission to the first year veterinary assistant certificate program is based on a random lottery process and to be considered for admission, students must meet the education requirements and complete the pre-enrollment checklist.

Meeting the requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program as space is limited in the small student cohort. Applicants must demonstrate evidence of having a high school diploma or G.E.D.

In order to continue into the second year courses of the Veterinary Technology associate degree program, students must pass all veterinary technology program courses and prerequisite courses with a grade of 'C' or better.

It is highly recommended that prospective students attend the Veterinary Technology Information Session or watch the recording of the information session to learn about the program, expectations, and selection procedures.

Admission Process

Qualified applicants will be entered into a random lottery process. Each qualified applicant, when selected must decide either to enter the class, remove her/his name from the eligibility list, or defer admission to the next academic year. A student may only defer admission once. Those applicants who are not selected due to limited openings may retain their names on the waiting list. The waiting list will be cleared when the fall semester begins and students who do not enter the class must reapply for admission for the following year.

Selected students are required to have tetanus toxoid vaccination within the past eight years prior to participating in laboratory courses that involve contact with animals.

All students admitted to the program are expected to maintain the highest personal standards of conduct consistent with the professional standards as perceived by the veterinary technology faculty and professional personnel in the agencies used as extended campus sites. Any information indicating that such standards are not maintained is subject to review by members of the veterinary technology faculty and may result in a recommendation to the college for dismissal from the program.

All students must attend the orientation meeting scheduled prior to the start of the semester and must be present on the first day of the class.

In order to continue into the Veterinary Technology degree program, all Veterinary Technology coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
PREREQUISITES		
The following prerequisite college-level courses must be completed prior to application to the Veterinary Assistant/ Technology program.		
Prerequisite Courses		
BIOL V01 & V01L	Principles of Biology and Principles of Biology Laboratory (VC GE Area A1)	3+1
CHEM V20 & V20L	Elementary Chemistry and Elementary Chemistry Laboratory (VC GE Area A2)	5
or CHEM V101	Elementary Chemistry	
ENGL V01A	English Composition (VC GE Area D1)	4
MATH V44	Elementary Statistics (VC GE Area D2)	4
or PSY V04	Introductory Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences	
Total Prerequisite Units		**17**

Course ID	Title	Units/Hours
VETERINARY ASSISTANT		
Required Courses		
AG V01	Agriculture and Society: Agriculture as the Foundation for Modern Civilization (VC GE Area C2)	3
AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	3
AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1
AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience and Handling	1.5
AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	3
AG V65	Animal Health and Disease Control	3
AG V66	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	4
AG V67	Basic Small Animal Nursing	3
AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2
One course from: VC GE Area B1, C1, or E1		3
Total Required Units		**26.5**

One-Year Plan

Year 1

Fall Semester		Units/Hours
AG V01	Agriculture and Society: Agriculture as the Foundation for Modern Civilization (VC GE Area C2)	3
AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	3
AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1
AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience and Handling	1.5
AG V66	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	4
	Units/Hours	**12.5**
Spring Semester		
AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	3
AG V65	Animal Health and Disease Control	3
AG V67	Basic Small Animal Nursing	3
AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2
One course from: VC GE Area B1, C1, or E1		3
	Units/Hours	**14**
	Total Units/Hours	**26.5**

Two-Year Plan

Year 1

Fall Semester		Units/Hours
AG V01	Agriculture and Society: Agriculture as the Foundation for Modern Civilization (VC GE Area C2)	3
AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	3
AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1
	Units/Hours	**7**
Spring Semester		
AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience and Handling	1.5
AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	3
AG V66	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	4
	Units/Hours	**8.5**
Year 2		
Fall Semester		
AG V65	Animal Health and Disease Control	3
AG V67	Basic Small Animal Nursing	3
	Units/Hours	**6**
Spring Semester		
AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2
One course from: VC GE Area B1, C1, or E1		3
	Units/Hours	**5**
	Total Units/Hours	**26.5**

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

- Describe steps necessary to maintain hospital records including medical, drug, surgery, laboratory, and radiology logs.
- Identify and demonstrate effective and professional communication skills in the performance of veterinary office procedures.
- Demonstrate proper restraint techniques on various animal species commonly seen in veterinary medicine.
- Explain and evaluate the proper techniques for performing veterinary laboratory procedures used in veterinary medicine and clinical settings.
- Perform appropriate steps to acquire vital signs in various species seen in veterinary medicine, and accurately record the results of a physical exam using appropriate medical terminology.
- Demonstrate appropriate sanitation and sterility practices necessary in a veterinary hospital.
- Recognize essential components of preventative care plans for domestic species of animals.