VETERINARY ASSISTANT & VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
2023-2024

PROGRAM:

The Veterinary Technology Associate of Science Degree Program is a two-tiered pathway that begins with the Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant. Successful completion of the first year veterinary technology program courses along with the required prerequisite courses will allow the student to earn the certificate of achievement and move on to the associate degree program. The goal of this program is to prepare students for careers within the veterinary and animal care industries. The curriculum covers husbandry, handling, and medical care for dogs, cats, horses, cows, small ruminants, birds, and small exotic pet species such as rabbits, rats, guinea pigs, and reptiles.

ADMISSION:

Students interested in applying to the Veterinary Technology program must first submit a general admissions application to Ventura College at www.venturacollege.edu/apply 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 all the requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program as space is limited in the small student cohort. Applicants must also 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.

ADMISSION DEADLINE:

For admission in the Fall 2023 semester, once all application criteria have been met, email your application to vcvettech@vcccd.edu by the mandatory deadline of 10:00am:

MONDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2023

Applicants will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance into the Veterinary Assistant certificate program by *April 24, 2023*.

Late submissions may be accepted, if space permits.

APPLICATION DOWNLOADABLE AT:
www.venturacollege.edu/veterinary

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS:

In order to ensure that prerequisites for subsequent courses are met and to allow completion of course work in six semesters, the student must adhere to the recommended program pathway posted on the following page.

Please note that each of the AG numbered veterinary technology program courses are offered only once per year in the semester as described in the program pathway. Failure to take or pass the veterinary technology courses in sequence with a 'C' grade or better will result in the student being dropped from the program. In addition all prerequisite courses must also be passed with a 'C' grade or better by the required completion date.

Faculty Lead: McKenzie Rasmussen, DVM
805.289.6499 | vcvettech@vcccd.edu
www.venturacollege.edu/veterinary

CAREER EDUCATION

PROGRAM COURSE OUTLINE:

YEAR 1: FALL = 13.5 Units

COURSE ID	TITLE	UNITS
AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	3
AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1
AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience & Handling	1.5
*MATH V44	Elementary Statistics	4
*CHEM V20	Elementary Chemistry	4
*CHEM V20L	Elementary Chemistry Lab	1

YEAR 1: SPRING = 15 Units

AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	3
AG V65	Animal Health & Disease Control	3
AG V66	Anatomy & Physiology of Animals	4
*BIO V01	Principles of Biology	3
*BIO V01L	Principles of Biology Lab	1

YEAR 1: SUMMER = 8 Units

MICRO V01	General Microbiology *(class will be taken as a cohort)*	4
*ENG V01A	English Composition	4

YEAR 2: FALL = 16 Units

AG V67	Basic Small Animal Nursing	3
AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2
AG V69	Principles of Large Animal Nursing	3
GE: AG V01	Agriculture & Society	3
GE: Area E2	Student Choice (See Course Catalog)	1
*ENG V01A	English Composition	4

YEAR 2: SPRING = 13.5 Units

AG V70	Advanced Small Animal Nursing	3
AG V71	Basic Veterinary Clinical Procedures	1.5
AG V75	Veterinary Microbiology, Parasitology, & Lab Procedures	3
GE (B, C, or E1)	Student Choice (See Course Catalog)	3
GE (B, C, or E1)	Student Choice (See Course Catalog)	3

YEAR 2: SUMMER = 7 Units

AG V95C/V96C	Veterinary Clinical Internship I or II	4
GE (B,C, or E1)	Student Choice (See Course Catalog)	3

YEAR 3: FALL = 15 Units

AG V72	Advanced Veterinary Clinical Procedures	3
AG V73	Veterinary Dentistry	3
AG V74	Intro to Laboratory Animal & Exotic Companion Animal	3
GE: AG V12	Agricultural Economics	3
*GE (B, C, or E1)	Student Choice (See Course Catalog)	3

*Pre-Requisites

TOTAL MINIMUM = 81

*If not taken in Summer, must be taken in Fall

Completion of semester 1 & 2 = Certificate of Achievement

1.) Certificate Units: **28.5** (includes 9 pre-req units) total C.o.A. units count towards A.S. major units

2.) A.S. Major Units   **52** (includes the 28.5 certificate units)

3.) GE Units: **29** (with some double-counted units)

TOTAL units for A.S. degree = 81 Minimum

I. APPLICATION CHECKLIST

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

First Steps		Complete
Apply for Admission to Ventura College	Complete the Ventura College Admissions Application online at venturacollege.edu/apply. This will give you your 900# and your VC email address	
Apply for Financial Aid*	Complete the FAFSA or CA Dream Act Application online by visiting **FAFSA.gov** or **CalDreamAct.org** **NOTICE:** Be advised, not all programs offered by Ventura College qualify you for federal or state financial aid.	
Contact a Local Veterinary Practice to Schedule an Observation Experience and Share the Application Letter (attached) with the Veterinary Practice Location	Complete a minimum eight (8) hours of observation experience and discuss the topics listed in the Essay Section of the application with a veterinarian or veterinary technician during your observation experience. Acceptable locations include: ▪ small animal veterinary general or referral hospital, ▪ large animal veterinary general or referral hospital, OR ▪ animal shelter with full veterinary facility	
Send for Transcripts		
Unopened Official Transcripts Note: VCCCD students can submit unofficial transcripts. High school students can submit current transcripts with conditional acceptance.	Required for all coursework. Submit electronically to Admissions and Records via a verified sender such as Parchment or the National Student Clearinghouse. Visit venturacollege.edu/transcripts for more information.	
Final Steps		
Meet with a Counselor Have all official transcripts or proof of current enrollment in required courses with you for this meeting **OR** verify with Admissions and Records that official transcripts are on record at the college prior to your counseling appointment.	Schedule an appointment and meet with one of the counselors that specialize in the veterinary technology program. Check one: ☐ Maria de la luz Flores ☐ Beatriz Zizumbo	Appointment Date
Submit Online Veterinary Technology Program Application	Submit the Online Veterinary Technology Program Application once all of the items above and all sections of the application have been completed. The application includes the following sections: I. Application Checklist II. Student Information and Certification III. Observation Form IV. Essay Questions	

II. STUDENT INFORMATION & CERTIFICATION

Full Name:	
Previous Name(s), if any:	

Ventura College Student ID (900#)		Ventura College Email:	
Telephone (Primary)		Alternate Telephone:	
Address:			
	Street:	City:	Zip:

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN BELOW

I understand that:

1. Acceptance to Ventura College does not constitute acceptance into the Veterinary Technology program. Students must complete a VC Admissions Application as the first requirement for the Veterinary Technology application. All steps in the application checklist must be completed by the appropriate deadlines for the Veterinary Technology application to be complete and a student to be considered for admission into the program.

2. Ventura College will only contact students using their Ventura College email address. If you do not know your VC email address, log into your MyVCCCD portal and navigate to the Email box on the first page. If you need help accessing your MyVCCCD portal, please contact the Student Connect Center at (805) 289- 6420.

3. For program accreditation purposes, all Veterinary Technology program applicants must have a high school diploma or G.E.D.

4. Each AG course required for the Veterinary Technology Program is offered only once per year. In order to allow completion of course work in six semesters, the student must adhere to the prescribed schedule of courses.

5. All Veterinary Technology applicable coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

6. Acceptance to the veterinary program does not constitute eligibility for a Certificate of Achievement (CoA) in Veterinary Assistant or an Associate in Science Degree in Veterinary Technology, and that eligibility is determined by a Ventura College Academic Counselor. It is my responsibility to apply for a CoA or AS degree by the graduation and certificate petition deadline.

7. Each entering student must provide proof of current tetanus toxoid vaccination (within 8 years).

I have read the statements above and certify that all the information contained in my application is correct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant: Share this letter with the veterinary practice where you will complete your observation experience.

Dear Doctor/Veterinary Technician/Practice Manager,

Thank you for allowing our applicant to visit your practice!

This letter is to provide guidance on the clinic observation required for application to the Veterinary Technology Program at Ventura College.

As part of the application process, prospective students are required to spend a minimum of 8 hours observing the routine procedures performed in a Veterinary Clinic or Hospital. The purpose of this observation time is to ensure applicants understand the nature of veterinary medicine.

During this period, students are not asked to perform any tasks, but rather to observe the procedures listed on the attached checklist. They are not required to observe all tasks on the checklist provided, it is meant to offer guidance on the types of procedures we wish applicants to be exposed to. Please be aware that neither the applicant nor the school carries any insurance coverage during this observation time.

Thank you again for your cooperation in this academic endeavor. We appreciate your time and interest. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you have about this process or about the Ventura College Veterinary Technology Program in general.

Sincerely,

Mckenzie Rasmussen, DVM

Mckenzie Rasmussen, DVM
Lead Faculty - Veterinary Technology Program

Ventura College, East Campus
957 Faulkner Rd #106, Santa Paula, CA 93060
805-289-6206
mrasmussen@vcccd.edu

III. OBSERVATION FORM

Practice/Clinic Name: _____

Student Name: _____   Date(s) of Observation: _____

Doctor or Technician: **Place your initials next to the tasks that the student observed. Students are not required to observe all tasks.**

Nursing:

_____   Daily animal care (cage/run/stall cleaning, feeding, exercising)

_____   Daily treatments of hospitalized patients (patient treatments, ear clearing, wound care)

_____   Administration of medication via oral and injectable routes

_____   Intravenous blood draw

_____   Physical Examination

_____   Client interaction (history taking, wellness counseling)

_____   Ultrasound & radiographs (APPLICANTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO RADIATION AT ANY POINT)

Surgery:

_____   Major Surgery (abdominal or orthopedic surgery)

_____   Minor Surgery (wound debridement, abscess care)

_____   Dental COHAT

_____   Operation of gas anesthesia machine

_____   Preparation of surgical packs and equipment sterilization

Laboratory:

_____   Fecal Flotation

_____   Manual blood smear or urine sediment evaluation via microscopy

_____   Use of in-house blood testing (Snap tests, CBC, Chemistry)

Front Office Procedures:

_____   Telephone interactions

_____   Making appointments

_____   Record keeping

_____   Dispensing Prescriptions

> I certify that the applicant observed the initialed procedures and completed a minimum of eight (8) observation hours.
>
> Veterinarian/Licensed Technician Name: _____
>
> Veterinarian/Licensed Technician Signature: _____
>
> Date: _____

IV. ESSAY QUESTIONS

Write short essay answers for each of the following questions:

1. What type of personal skills should a veterinary technician possess?

2. What amount of pay or benefits are typical for a veterinary technician?

3. What are the types of tasks that a veterinary technician does throughout the course of their work day?

IV. ESSAY QUESTIONS

4.   Describe your past animal-related experiences and, why you would like to become a veterinary technician.

5.   Based on your clinic observation and or your experience in veterinary medicine, what challenges do you foresee working as a veterinary technician and how are you prepared to navigate through these challenges.

IV. ESSAY QUESTIONS

ADDITIONAL ESSAY QUESTION SPACE, IF NEEDED. NUMBER WHICH QUESTION(S) YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE ANSWERING.