

## Narrative

### Registered Veterinary Technology Associate in Science Degree

#### Program Goals and Objectives

Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) classes are open only to students enrolled in the RVT program by the application and enrollment procedure. Students completing the program prerequisites, the general education requirements and the required courses (46 specified units) receive an Associate in Science Degree in Registered Veterinary Technology. Students completing the RVT program will acquire both practical knowledge and skills to sit for both State and National board exams becoming "Registered" Veterinary Technicians. There is an increasing gap in job openings and qualified RVTs and Certified Veterinary Assistants (CVAs) needed to meet those needs.

While starting salary in the region of licensed technologists average only \$36,650, there are opportunities for career advancements and salary with specialties in advanced radiology, emergency and critical care, and veterinary dentistry.

Completing the associate in science in registered veterinary technology will prepare students for veterinary technician positions for those seeking immediate employment.

#### Catalog Description

The Veterinary Technology major provides the student with the skills and knowledge necessary for employment as a Veterinary Technician in many different capacities and settings. The program also prepares the student to sit for the national and state board exams qualifying them to become Registered Veterinary Technicians. The curriculum integrates lecture classes with hands-on lab classes and outside clinical experiences, and meets or exceeds all American Veterinary Medical Association standards. Students are given ample opportunity to work with a wide variety of domestic and exotic animals both on campus and through mentorships at various local veterinary clinics, ranches and farms. The coursework is separated into three categories: prerequisites, general education and advanced classes. Prior to being permitted to enroll in advanced level classes, students must complete all prerequisites and submit an application to the Program Director. Students must earn at least a "C" in all categories of classes. The coursework in the advanced course section can be completed in two years, (including summer sessions).

#### The Program Student Learning Outcomes

Students completing the Associate in Science in Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) will be able to:

- Be proficient in the Essential Tasks as required by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- Develop the ability to assess and respond appropriately to routine and emergency medical conditions
- Gain an understanding of the role of the Registered Veterinary Technician (veterinary nurse) as part of the veterinary team.
- Possess the knowledge, skills and abilities to pass state and national board exams.

## Program Requirements

The course requirements for the Associate in Science in Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) include the following courses.

**Program: *Associate in Science in Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT)***

### Requirements

| Requirements                         | Dept. Number   | Title  | Units         | Sequence      |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------|---------------|
| Prerequisite Courses<br>(18 units)   | ENGL M01A/M01AH  | English Composition/Honors                       | 4             |               |
|                                      | MATH M03   | Intermediate Algebra                             | 5             |               |
|                                      | BIOL M01   | Introduction to Biology                          | 4             |               |
|                                      | MICR M01   | General Microbiology                             | 5             |               |
| Required Core Complete<br>(46 units) | EATM M27   | Animal Ethical & Legal Issues                    | 2             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M100  | Orientation to Veterinary Science                | 1             | Yr. 1, Summer |
|                                      | EATM M101  | Introduction to Animal Science                   | 3             | Yr. 1, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M108  | Animal Care Experience                           | 1             | Yr. 1, Summer |
|                                      | EATM M109  | Veterinary Field Work                            | 3             | Yr. 2, Summer |
|                                      | EATM M110  | Animal Nursing I                                 | 2             | Yr. 1, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M110L   | Animal Nursing I Laboratory                      | 1             | Yr. 1, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M112  | Animal Nursing II                                | 2             | Yr. 2, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M112L   | Animal Nursing II Laboratory                     | 1             | Yr. 2, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M114  | Clinical Procedures in Animal Care I             | 2             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M114L   | Clinical Procedures in Animal Care I Laboratory  | 1             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M116  | Clinical Procedures in Animal Care II            | 2             | Yr. 2, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M116L   | Clinical Procedures in Animal Care II Laboratory | 1             | Yr. 2, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M118  | Veterinary Clinical Pathology                    | 2             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M118L   | Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory         | 1             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M119  | Veterinary Radiography                           | 2             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M119L   | Veterinary Radiography Laboratory                | 1             | Yr. 1 Spring  |
|                                      | EATM M120  | Anatomy and Physiology of Animals                | 3             | Yr. 1, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M120L   | Anatomy and Physiology of Animals Laboratory     | 1             | Yr. 1, Fall   |
|                                      | EATM M121L   | Large Animal Nursing Laboratory                  | 2             | Yr. 2, Fall   |
| EATM M124                            | Laboratory Animal Care                                 | 2  | Yr. 2, Fall   |               |
| EATM M124L                           | Laboratory Animal Care Laboratory                      | 1  | Yr. 2, Fall   |               |
| EATM M125                            | Clinical Experience for Veterinary Technicians         | 3  | Yr. 2, Spring |               |
| EATM M180                            | Animal Health and Safety for the Veterinary Technician | 3  | Yr. 1, Fall   |               |
| EATM M190                            | Animal Nutrition                                       | 3  | Yr. 1 Spring  |               |

**TOTAL UNITS**

**46**

PREREQUISITE COURSES: 18 units

REQUIRED CORE UNITS: 46 units

ELECTIVE UNITS: 0 units

TOTAL MAJOR REQUIREMENTS: 46 units

MC GENERAL EDUCATION: 28 units

DOUBLE COUNT: 10 units

ELECTIVES: 0 units

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**TOTAL DEGREE UNITS: 82.0 units**

## **Master Planning**

The Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) program is aligned with the college mission of empowering students to complete their goals for academic transfer and career education. Currently, there is not an RVT program in the region that prepares graduates for the Veterinary Technician licensure examination or transfer to 4-year universities for advanced degrees in the discipline. The veterinary industry partners indicate that the supply of graduates does not meet the demand for Registered Veterinary Technicians (RVTs). Additionally, there is a movement toward requiring higher degrees for RVTs as the animal healthcare agencies merge with corporations.

The college's Educational Master Plan – Enrollment Management Plan 2019 – 2020, under Strategic Direction #1B Student-Centered Curriculum, the goal stated is to “improve and expand career education programs ensuring alignment with changing labor market needs” (p. 10). This goal is consistent with the initiatives of higher education in California. One of the actions documented in the 2019 – 2020 Work Plan for the college is to implement a Veterinary Technician program in Fall 2020. In the college's Facilities Master Plan 2015 – 2025 and Exotic Animal Training & Management (EATM) Master Plan 2015, the goal is to expand and create more naturalistic habitats and modern care facilities for animals and a state-of-the-art hands-on learning environment for EATM and RVT students.

Some of the courses within the Registered Veterinary Technician program are shared with the EATM program, which allows the two groups of students to collaborate and develop interdisciplinary relationships. The RVT program complements the EATM program's philosophy of animal conservation, education, and care. The RVT program adds the animal healthcare component, which completes the EATM program's comprehensive approach to animal welfare.

Moorpark College has been approached by one of the largest corporate veterinary hospital organizations (Veterinary Centers of America) to work with them in training additional Registered Veterinary Technologists to meet the increasing need of their hospitals (92 hospitals are located in Southern California alone).

## **Enrollment and completer projections**

Based on industry needs (requests) for graduates of Registered Veterinary Technology programs (200/year of SoCA), we are prepared to enroll 50 students/year. We would expect 40 completers annually.

## **Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs**

Moorpark College's Exotic Animal Training & Management (EATM) program and America's Teaching Zoo house hundreds of animals and include a faculty and staff of veterinarians, registered veterinary technicians, animal behaviorists and wildlife education experts who currently teach in the EATM program and care for the exotic, zoo and livestock species located in their teaching laboratory.

Several existing courses for the EATM program will be also used in this new RVT program. They include:

1. EATM M01 Introduction to Animal Science
2. EATM M18 Animal Health and Safety
3. EATM M19 Animal Nutrition
4. EATM M12 Anatomy and Physiology of Animals

5. EATM M27 Animal Ethical and Legal Issues
6. EATM M01A Animal Care and Handling 1

### **Justification for need for this program in the region**

At the moment, there are no community colleges within Ventura County offering an approved degree program in Registered Veterinary Technology. There is a need to meet the demands of industry in the local communities serving the college district.

The regional labor market information (LMI) data indicates there are 80 job openings annually for Veterinary Technologists and Technicians with 10 of the openings being met by existing programs. This means there are still 70 job openings that are not being filled, so there is a gap between supply and demand of Veterinary Technicians.

According to the California Occupational Guides LMI data, in Ventura County (2016-2026), the estimated job openings are 400 with a percent change of 40%; and in Los Angeles County (2016-2026), the projected job openings are 1,550 with a percent change of 16%.

The representative from Veterinary Centers of America (VCA) had indicated there are currently 200 openings for RVTs and CVAs across the 92 southern CA hospitals/clinics that they manage. According to VCA's database of job openings, it showed current job availability in California as 123 for Veterinary Assistants, 124 for Veterinary Technicians, and 10 for Veterinary Technician Specialists. The current VCA job openings within a 60 mile radius of Moorpark College are 63 Veterinary Assistants, 89 Registered Veterinary Technicians, and 2 Veterinary Technician Specialists. These openings are an increase from the previous year. This data demonstrates an extreme labor gap in this field.

The closest community college with an RVT program is in the San Fernando Valley (Pierce College) and they have a "bottle neck" in graduating no more than 20 students per year.