

Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant (credit)

Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

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 Associates in Science degree in Veterinary Technology, allowing for graduates to sit for national and state board exams to become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT).

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.

Students who complete this certificate will be prepared for careers as veterinary assistants, animal health technicians, and other allied animal health positions. 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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the certificate the student will be able to:

1. Describe steps necessary to maintain hospital records including medical, drug, surgery, laboratory, and radiology logs.
2. Identify and demonstrate effective and professional communication skills in the performance of veterinary office procedures.
3. Demonstrate proper restraint techniques on various animal species commonly seen in veterinary medicine.
4. Explain and evaluate the proper techniques for performing veterinary laboratory procedures used in veterinary medicine and clinical settings.

5. 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.
6. Demonstrate appropriate sanitation and sterility practices necessary in a veterinary hospital.
7. Recognize essential components of preventative care plans for domestic species of animals.

Item 2. Catalog Description

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 Associates in Science degree in Veterinary Technology, allowing for graduates to sit for national and state board exams to become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT).

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Item 3. Program Requirements

Certificate of Achievement: Veterinary Assistant

Requirements	Dept. Name/#	Name	Units	Sequence
Pre-Requisites (9 units)	BIO V01	Principles of Biology	3	Yr 1, Spring
	BIO V01L	Principles of Biology Lab	1	Yr 1, Spring
	CHEM V01A	General Chemistry I	3	Yr 1, Fall
	CHEM V01AL	General Chemistry I Lab	2	Yr 1, Fall
Required Core (20 units)	AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	3	Yr 1, Fall
	AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1	Yr 1, Fall
	AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience and Handling	2	Yr 1, Fall
	AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	3	Yr 1, Spring
	AG V65	Animal Health and Disease Control	3	Yr 1, Spring
	AG V66	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	4	Yr 1, Spring
	MATH V44	Elementary Statistics	4	Yr 1, Fall

Pre-Requisites Total: 9 units
Required Core Total: 18 units
TOTAL UNITS: 29 units

Proposed Sequence:

- **Semester 1, Fall = 15 units**
 - MATH V44
 - CHEM V01A
 - CHEM V01AL
 - AG V61
 - AG V62
 - AG V63

- **Semester 2, Spring = 14 Units**
 - BIO V01
 - BIO V01L
 - AG V64
 - AG V65
 - AG V66

TOTAL UNITS: 29 units

Or

- **Semester 1, Fall = 8 units**
 - CHEM V01A
 - CHEM V01AL
 - AG V61
- **Semester 2, Spring = 7 Units**
 - BIO V01
 - BIO V01L
 - AG V64
- **Semester 3, Fall = 7 units**
 - MATH V44
 - AG V62
 - AG V63
- **Semester 4, Spring = 7 Units**
 - AG V65
 - AG V66

TOTAL UNITS: 29 units

Item 4. Master Planning

At the moment, there are no community colleges within Ventura County offering a Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant. There is a need to meet the demands of an ever growing sector of the animal industry in pet healthcare and veterinary services, and Ventura College is well positioned to meet that need due to strategic alliances with local veterinary practices, specialty veterinary hospitals, rescues, and plans to utilize our East Campus facility to host classes and partner with a local veterinary hospital for use as a dedicated teaching hospital. The immediate goal of the Ventura College Veterinary Technology program is to become fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) within the first 2 years of its implementation, ensuring the courses have met the strict standards outlined by the accrediting body. With this accreditation, Ventura College will be one of only 13 fully accredited Veterinary Technician programs in California.

Through the offering of various options in veterinary technology, including the Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant and the Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology, Ventura College can fill the gap that exists in the region for educated and qualified graduates in the field of veterinary technology, contributing to the overall economic growth and development of an expanding industry with strong demand for skilled graduates.

Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

		<Year 1>		<Year 2>	
CB01: Course Department Number	CB02: Course Title	Annual # Sections	Annual Enrollment Total	Annual # Sections	Annual Enrollment Total
AG V61	Introduction to Animal Science	1	20-30	2	30-60
AG V62	Orientation to Veterinary Science	1	20-25	2	40-50
AG V63	Domestic Animal Care Experience and Handling	1	16-20	1	16-20
AG V64	Veterinary Office Procedures	1	20-25	1	20-25
AG V65	Animal Health and Disease Control	1	20-25	1	20-25
AG V66	Anatomy and Physiology of Animals	1	16-20	1	16-20

Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

- a) Do any active inventory records need to be made inactive or changed in connection with the approval of the proposed program? No.
- b) Does the program replace any existing program(s) on the college's inventory? No.
- c) What related programs are offered by the college?

AS in Veterinary Technology, for which this Certificate is stackable to the AS degree, providing the first year of coursework applicable towards completion of the AS Degree in veterinary Technology.

Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

At the moment, there are no community colleges within Ventura County offering a Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant. . Likewise, within the region, there is only one other campus within the regional consortium offering courses in veterinary technology. The Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Technology at Hancock College is offered as an alternate route for eligibility for students to sit for the licensing examination to become a Registered Veterinary Technician. The program is not accredited by either the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) or the California VMB (Veterinary Medical Board). The immediate goal of the Ventura College Veterinary Technology program is to become fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) within the first 2 years of its implementation, ensuring the courses have met the strict standards outlined by the accrediting body. With this accreditation, Ventura College will be one of only 13 fully accredited Veterinary Technician programs in California.

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