

Associate in Science in Veterinary Technology

Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

The Associate in Science in Veterinary Technology 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 a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT). Through the integration of hands-on experiential learning and curriculum designed to meet all American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) standards, students will be engaged in various aspects of veterinary medicine and technology. Graduates 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 first year of courses within the Veterinary Technology degree program can be applied towards earning a Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant, allowing students to seek initial, entry level employment in the field of veterinary technology while completing the Associate degree requirements.

Registered Veterinary Technicians are integral to the animal health care team that work 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.

Veterinary technicians are highly skilled assistants to veterinarians and researchers, and are critical to the veterinary field, with access to career opportunities that continue to experience high demand and strong growth.

Students who complete this degree will be prepared for careers as veterinary technicians, and will be qualified to sit for both national and state board exams to become a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT). 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 degree program the student will be able to:

1. Describe and implement the steps necessary to maintain hospital records including medical, drug, surgery, laboratory, and radiology logs.
2. 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. Perform basic 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, accurately record the results of a physical exam using appropriate medical terminology and assist the veterinarian in the performance of veterinary procedures and surgery.
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.
8. Apply the principles of pharmacology, radiology, and dentistry to the practice of veterinary medicine.
9. Perform all of the skills on the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Task List.
10. Apply the knowledge, skills and abilities gained to successfully pass state and national board exams for veterinary technology.

Item 2. Catalog Description

The Associate in Science in Veterinary Technology 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 a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT). Through the integration of hands-on experiential learning and curriculum designed to meet all American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) standards, students will be engaged in various aspects of veterinary medicine and technology. Graduates 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 first year of courses within the Veterinary Technology degree program can be applied towards earning a Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant, allowing students to seek initial, entry level employment in the field of veterinary technology while completing the Associate degree requirements.

Registered Veterinary Technicians are integral to the animal health care team that work 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. 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 degree program the student will be able to:

11. Describe and implement the steps necessary to maintain hospital records including medical, drug, surgery, laboratory, and radiology logs.
12. Demonstrate effective and professional communication skills in the performance of veterinary office procedures.
13. Demonstrate proper restraint techniques on various animal species commonly seen in veterinary medicine.
14. Perform basic veterinary laboratory procedures used in veterinary medicine and clinical settings.
15. Perform appropriate steps to acquire vital signs in various species seen in veterinary medicine, accurately record the results of a physical exam using appropriate medical terminology and assist the veterinarian in the performance of veterinary procedures and surgery.
16. Demonstrate appropriate sanitation and sterility practices necessary in a veterinary hospital.
17. Recognize essential components of preventative care plans for domestic species of animals.
18. Apply the principles of pharmacology, radiology, and dentistry to the practice of veterinary medicine.
19. Perform all of the skills on the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Task List.
20. Apply the knowledge, skills and abilities gained to successfully pass state and national board exams for veterinary technology.

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)	MATH V44	Elementary Statistics	4	Yr 1, Fall
	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
	MICR V01	General Microbiology	4	Yr 2, Fall
	AG V67	Basic Principles of Small Animal Nursing	3	Yr 2, Fall
	AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	2	Yr 2, Fall
	AG V69	Principles of Large Animal Nursing	3	Yr 2, Fall
	AG V70	Advanced Principles of Small Animal Nursing	3	Yr 2, Spring
	AG V71	Basic Veterinary Clinical Procedures	2	Yr 2, Spring
	AG V75	Veterinary Microbiology, Parasitology, and Laboratory Procedures	3	Yr 2, Spring
	AG V72	Advanced Veterinary Clinical Procedures	4	Yr 3, Fall
	AG V73	Veterinary Dentistry	2	Yr 3, Fall
	AG V74	Introduction to Laboratory Animal and Exotic Companion Animal Medicine	3	Yr 3, Fall
AG V76	Veterinary Internship	4	Yr 2, Summer	

Pre-Requisites Total: 9 units

Required Core Total: 53 units

Required GE Total: 19 units (Excludes double counted units)

TOTAL UNITS: 81 units

Proposed Sequence:

- **Semester 1, Fall = 15 units**
 - MATH V44 (GE D2)
 - CHEM V01A (GE A2)
 - CHEM V01AL
 - AG V61
 - AG V62
 - AG V63
- **Semester 2, Spring = 14 Units**
 - BIO V01(GE A1)
 - BIO V01L
 - AG V64
 - AG V65
 - AG V66
- **Semester 3, Fall = 16 units**
 - ENG V01A (GE D1)
 - MICR V01
 - AG V67
 - AG V68
 - AG V69
- **Semester 4, Spring = 15 Units**
 - GE (B, C or E1)
 - GE (B, C or E1)
 - AG V70
 - AG V71
 - AG V75
- **Semester 5, Summer = 12 units**
 - GE (B, C or E1)
 - GE (B, C or E1)
 - AG V76
- **Semester 6, Fall = 13 units**
 - GE (B, C or E1)
 - GE (E2)
 - AG V72
 - AG V73
 - AG V74

Item 4. Master Planning

At the moment, there are no community colleges within Ventura County or the region offering an Associate in Science degree in Veterinary Technology. 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 such as Ohana Pet Hospital, specialty veterinary hospitals, rescues such as the National Dog Search Foundation, large animal veterinary practices, livestock facilities, and various government entities (Ventura County Animal Services, Department of Fish & Game). In addition to strategic community partnerships, Ventura College is formalizing plans to utilize the East Campus facility to host classes and partner with Ohana Pet Hospital's Santa Paula location 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
AG V67	Basic Principles of Small Animal Nursing			1	16-20
AG V68	Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging			1	16-20
AG V69	Principles of Large Animal Nursing			1	16-20
AG V70	Advanced Principles of Small Animal Nursing			1	16-20
AG V71	Basic Veterinary Clinical Procedures			1	16-20
AG V75	Veterinary Microbiology, Parasitology, and Laboratory Procedures			1	16-20
AG V72	Advanced Veterinary Clinical Procedures			1	16-20
AG V73	Veterinary Dentistry			1	16-20
AG V74	Introduction to Laboratory Animal and Exotic Companion Animal Medicine			1	16-20
AG V76	Veterinary Internship			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?

Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assistant, which 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 offered elsewhere in the region is 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.

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.