



Veterinary Technician

Veterinary technicians are dedicated healthcare professionals who nurture the health and well-being of animals through specialized knowledge of animal behavior and care, surgical assisting, laboratory testing and nursing procedures.

Working in the field of veterinary medicine is rewarding for people who love animals. Veterinary technicians provide advanced nursing and care for hospitalized animals and work closely with veterinarians in the areas of surgery, lab procedures and radiography. Veterinary technicians must work independently and be able to respond quickly in emergencies. They may work in clinics, hospitals, laboratories, ranches, zoos or other professional veterinary settings.



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Veterinary Technician Course Outline

Semester I

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CCB 115	Computer Basics	15			1.0
VTA 127	Comparative Veterinary Anatomy, Physiology, and Terminology	60			4.0
VTA 130	Clinical Lab Procedures and Pathology	15	60		3.0
VTA 132	Clinical Proficiency		30		1.0
VTA 165	Pharmacology and Principles of Anesthesia	45			3.0
Semester I Total		135	90		12.0

Semester II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
MT 100	Math Fundamentals	30			2.0
VTA 110	Office Procedures	15			1.0
VTA 133	Clinical Proficiency		30		1.0
VTA 150	Animal Life Stages, Nutrition, and Husbandry	45			3.0
VTA 160	Animal Nursing and Diagnostic Imaging	15	60		3.0
VTA 170	Aseptic Technique and Surgical Assisting	15	45		2.5
Semester II Total		120	135		12.5

Semester III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CCM 111	Communications	45			3.0
MTH 129	Math Applications	45			3.0
PSY 102	Introduction to Psychology	30			2.0
SCI 120	Foundations in Biology and Chemistry	60			4.0
VTT 176	Introduction to Veterinary Technology	25			1.5
VTT 242	Dentistry Techniques	15	15		1.5
Semester III Total		220	15		15.0

Semester IV

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTT 222	Food and Fiber Animal	45	10		3.0
VTT 224	Diagnostic Imaging for Veterinary Technicians	15	15		1.5
VTT 226	Small Animal Nursing	15	60		3.0
VTT 232	Laboratory Animal Science	20	15		1.5
VTT 236	Anatomy and Physiology for Veterinary Technicians	30	30		3.0
VTT 239	Laboratory Procedures for Veterinary Technicians	30	45		3.5
Semester IV Total		155	175		15.5

Semester V

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTT 244	Pharmacology for Veterinary Technicians	45			3.0
VTT 246	Surgical Nursing for Veterinary Technicians	30	40		3.0
VTT 252	Exotic Animal Medicine and Nursing	15	15		1.5
VTT 254	Equine Medicine and Nursing	45	15		3.5
VTT 256	Emergency Procedures	30	10		2.0
VTT 273	Clinical Proficiency		45		1.5
Semester V Total		165	125		14.5

Externship and Seminar

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTT 262	Veterinary Technician Seminar	15			1.0
VTT 292	Externship			240	5.0
Externship and Seminar Total		15		240	6.0
PROGRAM TOTALS		810	540	240	75.5

What You Will Learn

Pima Medical Institute's Veterinary Technician program will prepare you for success in this rewarding field. You'll learn medical terminology, anatomy and physiology, office management, examination techniques, and radiologic, dental and surgical procedures as they relate to veterinary care.

In addition, you will spend time honing your skills in equine, livestock and lab animal medicine, and handling birds, reptiles and some exotic mammals. And, the first sequence of courses will be taught in a hybrid learning system – a unique mix of online and classroom work.

Once you graduate, you will have earned an associate of applied science degree and gained the skills and knowledge needed to complete the board exam and become a professional veterinary technician.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is projected to grow 15 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment is expected to grow as veterinarians continue to utilize technicians and technologists to do general care and lab work on household pets.[†]

The availability of advanced veterinary services, such as preventive dental care and surgical procedures, may provide opportunities for veterinary professionals specializing in those areas. Biomedical facilities, diagnostic laboratories, wildlife facilities, humane societies and animal control facilities may provide more jobs for veterinary technicians.

Employment

Veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, biomedical facilities, diagnostic laboratories, wildlife facilities, humane societies and animal control facilities may provide jobs for veterinary technicians.

Certification

The majority of states have regulations that provide for technician credentialing (certification, licensure or registration). Candidates are typically tested for competency through an examination regulated by the state board of veterinary medical examiners. Most states require candidates to pass the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) before being issued a license to practice.

[†]Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Veterinary Technologists and Technicians, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinary-technologists-and-technicians.htm> (visited October 05, 2021).

The Veterinary Technician Program has been granted initial accreditation by the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.



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- Hands-on training
- Financial aid if qualified
- Career planning services