



Veterinary Assistant

Does your passion for helping others include our four-legged friends? If you enjoy being around animals and want to make sure they are healthy, happy and well-cared for, you may be interested in a career as a veterinary assistant.

Veterinary assistants are dedicated to aiding domestic animals of every shape and size. They are responsible for feeding and bathing animals, administering medication as prescribed by the veterinarian and helping the veterinary team with animal nursing.



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Veterinary Assistant Course Outline

Career Prep Sequence

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CAT 150	Anatomy, Physiology, and Terminology*	55			3.5
CSK 100	Study Skills*	15			1.0
CCB 100	Computer Basics*		15		0.5
CMF 95	Math Fundamentals*	20			1.0
CHS 100	CPR & First Aid*	10	5		0.5
Career Prep Sequence Total		100	20		6.5

*Successful completion of CSK 100, CAT 150, CCB 100, CMF 95, and CHS 100 is required prior to externship.

Professional Sequence I

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 125	Comparative Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology	45			3.0
VTA 130	Clinical Lab Procedures and Pathology	15	60		3.0
Professional Sequence I Total		60	60		6.0

Professional Sequence II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 150	Animal Life Stages, Nutrition, and Husbandry	45			3.0
VTA 160	Animal Nursing and Diagnostic Imaging	15	60		3.0
Professional Sequence II Total		60	60		6.0

Professional Sequence III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 110	Office Procedures	15			1.0
VTA 165	Pharmacology and Principles of Anesthesia	45			3.0
VTA 170	Aseptic Technique and Surgical Assisting	15	45		2.5
Professional Sequence III Total		75	45		6.5

Externship

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 275	Externship			240	5.0
Externship Total				240	5.0
PROGRAM TOTALS		295	185	240	30.0

What You Will Learn

As a veterinary assistant student, you will learn important skills that will prepare you for an entry-level position, from animal emergency medicine and lab procedures to nursing skills and more, with a special emphasis on small animal techniques.

Pima Medical Institute's Veterinary Assistant program will instruct you how to properly clean and disinfect cages and work areas, sterilize lab and surgical equipment, provide routine post-operative care, administer medication orally or topically and prepare samples for lab examination, under supervision.

Job Outlook

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers is projected to grow 14 percent from 2020 to 2030, faster than the average for all occupations.[†]

Employment

Veterinary assistants can find work in a wide range of environments, such as private veterinary clinics, animal hospitals and animal shelters. Some animal hospitals and shelters operate 24 hours a day, which may make rotating shifts available.

[†]Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers, on the Internet at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinary-assistants-and-laboratory-animal-caretakers.htm> (visited October 05, 2021).



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