



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.



Trusted. Respected. Preferred.

Veterinary Assistant Course Outline

Career Prep Sequence

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
CSK 100	Study Skills*	15			1.0
CAT 150	Anatomy, Physiology, and Terminology*	55			3.5
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 115	Veterinary Anatomy, Physiology, and Terminology	50			3.0
VTA 120	Clinical Laboratory Procedures	22			1.0
VTA 135	Sequence I Clinical Applications		48		1.5
Professional Sequence I Total		72	48		5.5

Professional Sequence II

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 140	Office Procedures	15			1.0
VTA 145	Animal Life Stages, Nutrition, and Husbandry	40			2.5
VTA 155	Animal Nursing and Radiography	17			1.0
VTA 175	Sequence II Clinical Applications		48		1.5
Professional Sequence II Total		72	48		6.0

Professional Sequence III

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 180	Pharmacology	55			3.5
VTA 190	Aseptic Technique and Surgical Assisting	17			1.0
VTA 195	Sequence III Clinical Applications		48		1.5
Professional Sequence III Total		72	48		6.0

Externship

Course #	Course	Theory	Lab	Extern	Credits
VTA 275	Externship			240	5.0
Externship Total				240	5.0

Program Totals	316	164	240	29.0
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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 19 percent from 2023 to 2033, much 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 January 11, 2025).



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