

Veterinary Technology—A.S. Degree

The Veterinary Technology major is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and prepares students for careers in a wide range of animal related fields. Graduates may become certified as veterinary technicians upon successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), which is a computer-based examination offered at testing centers throughout Pennsylvania. Certified veterinary technicians are employed by veterinary practices, biomedical research facilities, zoos, wildlife rehabilitation centers, pet stores, pharmaceutical companies, universities and by government agencies. Duties include all aspects of the care and treatment of animals other than diagnosis, prognosis, prescription and surgery.

After six months of employment in a laboratory animal facility, graduates in Veterinary Technology are also eligible to take the level one certification examination that is given by the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). Successful completion of the examination certifies graduates as Assistant Laboratory Animal Technicians (ALAT). ALATs are employed by biomedical research institutions to monitor animal health, maintain records, assist research scientists and maintain animal facilities. Students directed toward laboratory animal science may begin completion of the six month work requirement during the sophomore clinical externship experience (VT229).

For information about the Pre-Veterinary Science major, refer to Allied Health Transfer majors on page 78.

Academic Policy

Starting the Program:

Students must place into **college-level** courses in English (reading and writing) and math before they are permitted to take veterinary technology courses. Students placed into any one of the following pre-college, developmental courses, will NOT be permitted to take Veterinary Technology courses until the developmental course(s) are successfully completed:

Pre-College, Developmental Courses

1. EN065 Reading and Writing Skills
2. EN075 Reading Strategies
3. EN085 Writing Strategies
4. MH080 Basic Mathematics
5. MH090 Basic Algebra

Students are required to complete and submit the following documents before starting the Program:

1. Criminal Record Clearance Form

Students with a criminal history that would prevent licensure by the Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medicine may not enroll in veterinary technology classes.

2. Verification Form

Students must demonstrate that they are immunized against rabies and tetanus and that they possess active health insurance coverage. Students should allow at least six weeks for completion of the rabies vaccination series and should assume responsibility for the cost of the series.

3. Pregnancy and Health Risk Notification and Release Form

Students must document their awareness and understanding of the risks associated with working with animals.

4. Animal-Use Release Form

Students agree to hold the College harmless for risks associated with working with animals while enrolled in the program.

Academic Expectations

Students must attain a grade of “C” or better in all veterinary technology science and mathematics courses. Any student with a final grade of “D” or “F” in any one of these courses will be required to repeat the course. Students in the Veterinary Technology major may not begin the Sophomore Clinical Externship (VT229) unless a GPA greater than 2.2 is obtained in all veterinary technology, science and mathematics courses. Dismissal from an externship site because of incompetence qualifies as a failure of the rotation.

Dismissal from the Program:

1. Students are permitted two attempts to successfully complete each math, science and VT course. A student who receives a “D” or “F” on the second attempt will be dismissed from the Program. A student who withdraws repeatedly from a course or who withdraws and subsequently receives a “D” or “F” on the second attempt may be dismissed from the Program.

2. Students who fail to maintain a 2.0 average in veterinary technology, science, and math courses incur probationary status. Students with a cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0 in veterinary technology, science and mathematics courses for two or more semesters may be dismissed from the Program.

3. Students engaged in unethical or disruptive conduct that is in violation of the Program’s Honor Code, such as but not limited to, academic dishonesty, theft and disruptive and disorderly behavior, will be dismissed from the Program. Internet and other public postings of videos and photos taken from externship sites and on-campus classes without authorization constitutes unethical conduct and is a violation of the Program’s Honor Code.

Transfer into the Program

Students who wish to change their major to Veterinary Technology from other disciplines (including Pre-Veterinary Science) may do so contingent upon their completion of no less than seven credits in college-level math and science courses such as: CH101, BIO101 and MH102. A cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or greater in these courses must be achieved on the first attempt. The grades from repeated math and science courses will not be included in the calculation of the math/science course cum.



Veterinary Technology students scrub in before surgery.

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Veterinary Technology Major (continued)

Suggested Course Sequence

| First Semester | Credits |
|---|----------------|
| VT105 Large Animal Clinical & Emergency Procedures | 3 |
| VT103 Intro to Veterinary Technology & Prct. Mgnt. | 2 |
| VT110 Animal Anatomy & Physiology I | 4 |
| EN101 Fundamentals of Composition I | 3 |
| Mathematics elective (MH102 recommended) | 3 |
| Computer Science (CS105 or CS106) | 3 |
| | 18 |
| Second Semester | |
| VT111 Animal Anatomy & Physiology II | 4 |
| VT112 Breeds and Behavior | 1 |
| VT113 Animal Nutrition | 1 |
| VT104 Parasitology | 2 |
| CH101 Fundamentals of Chemistry | 4 |
| EN102 Fundamentals of Composition II | 3 |
| PL100 Philosophy and the Human Condition | 3 |
| | 18 |
| Summer Semester | |
| History elective | 3 |
| Third Semester | |
| VT227 Animal Medicine I | 2 |
| VT217 Small Animal Clinical & Em. Procedures | 4 |
| VT212 Animal Radiology | 2 |
| VT208 Hematology | 3 |
| BI206 Microbiology for Veterinary Technicians | 3 |
| Religion Elective | 3 |
| | 17 |
| Fourth Semester | |
| VT102 Laboratory Animal Science | 3 |
| VT228 Animal Medicine II | 2 |
| VT223 Clinical Chemistry & Urinalysis | 2 |
| VT226 Animal Surgery (<i>Must be taken concurrently with VT218</i>) | 3 |
| VT218 Pharmacology/Anesthesiology | 3 |
| VT 204 Small Animal Dentistry | 1 |
| Social Science elective | 3 |
| | 17 |
| Fifth Semester | |
| VT229 Sophomore Clinical Externship | 12 |
| Total Credits | 85 |