



# VETERINARY ASSISTANT

## Veterinary Assistant Certification

Handle routine animal care including feeding, assist with clinical laboratory procedures, restraints, and general treatment

Students gain valuable experience in a simulated veterinary environment. The curriculum for Veterinary Assistant includes hands-on practical work with domestic animals. Students will participate in an internship during this program. Students learn a variety of skills used in the industry, including the following:

- Veterinary medical terminology
- Low stress/Fear free handling of dogs and cats for exam, vaccines, blood draws, and medical treatments
- Understanding body language and how animals communicate
- Reviewing preventative care for cats and dogs
- Preparing animals for surgical procedures
- Identifying yeast, bacteria, and egg parasites with a microscope

### Suggested educational levels:

- English literacy (reading, writing, speaking, and listening)
- Understanding of basic algebra

### Suggested physical abilities:

- Access to transportation to and from clinical site for participation in their mandatory internship
- Be willing and able to handle domestic animals
- Capable of lifting 65 pounds
- Capable of sustained activity for 8 hours at a time

### Class Hours:

- Morning: 7:50am-10:40am Mon.-Fri.
- Afternoon: 12:05pm - 2:55pm Mon.- Fri.
- Program is 2 semesters in length, with start dates in Fall.

## Tuition and Credit Hour Calculation

### Semester 1

\$1,918.00 (Tuition)  
+ \$190.00 (Credit Hour Fee)  
**\$2,108.00**

### Semester 2

\$1,644.00 (Tuition)  
+ \$170.00 (Credit Hour Fee)  
**\$1,814.00**

*Based on Colorado Resident In-State Tuition*

## Estimated Program Costs (to be paid at Picken's payment office)

### Tuition and Credit Hour Fees:

**Semester 1:** \$2,108.00

**Semester 2:** \$1,814.00

### Required On Campus Costs:

**Program Charges:** \$500.00 (each semester)

**Student ID:** \$10.00 (each year)

**Proxy Disc:** \$15.00 (semester 1)

**CTSO Charge:** \$20.00 (each year)

**Field Trip Fees:** \$50.00 (each semester)

**Dosimetry badges:** \$50.00

**Solid Color T-Shirt:** \$25.00

### Estimated Total:

**Veterinary Assistant Certificate: \$5,067.00 (+tax)**

## Additional Relevant Costs (estimated)

### Required Off Campus Costs:

**Watch with second hand:** \$20.00-\$30.00

**Solid Color Scrubs:** \$20.00-\$50.00

### Optional Costs:

**Workbooks:** \$20.00 (plus tax)

**Credits:**  
**26**

**Length:**  
**1 year**

**Cost:**  
**\$5,067**



Cost and information revised **February 2025**  
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## Courses required for this certificate: Semester 1

### **VET 1002 Veterinary Medical Terminology** 1

Introduces the student to the structure of veterinary medical terms with emphasis on using and combining the most common prefixes, roots and suffixes. Includes terms related to major body systems, oncology, psychiatry, as well as clinical laboratory and diagnostic procedures and imaging. Class structure provides accepted pronunciation of terms and relative use in the veterinary specific setting.

### **VET 1009 Applied Comp Animal Behavior** 3

Explores the topics of companion animal behavior and learning theory through critical reviews of behavioral literature and its implications for applied techniques in behavior and training. This course provides and understanding of how animals learn, how we can improve inter-species communication to reduce fear, stress, and anxiety, and how to apply this knowledge to the everyday treatment of animals under veterinary care.

### **VET 1016 Humane Treatment and Handling** 3

Focuses on humane animal handling techniques in a veterinary clinical setting. Restraint, medication administration, and common clinical procedures routinely performed by veterinary technicians will be covered.

### **VET 1020 Office Procedures and Relations** 2

Presents commonly encountered clinical procedures with the emphasis on the role of the veterinary technician in the management of veterinary patients and records. The course also includes introduction to veterinary management software and on-line veterinary services.

### **VET 1073 Special Topics: Medical Math Applications** 3

### **VET 1082 Internship** 2

Provides students with the opportunity to supplement coursework with practical work experience related to their educational program. Students work under the immediate supervision of experienced personnel at the business location and with the direct guidance of the instructor.

## Courses required for this certificate: Semester 2

### **VET 1004 Assist Large Animal & Handling** 1

Presents commonly encountered medical and surgical conditions of common large animal species with emphasis on the role of the veterinary assistant. This course focuses on handling and specific skills necessary for the profession.

### **VET 1014 Vet Assist Lab & Clinical Procedures** 3

Covers selected areas of common laboratory and diagnostic imaging procedures performed in a veterinary hospital. Emphasis is on assisting the veterinarian and/or veterinary technician with these procedures.

### **VET 1083 Internship** 6

Provides students with the opportunity to supplement coursework with practical work experience related to their educational program. Students work under the immediate supervision of experienced personnel at the business location and with the direct guidance of the instructor.

### **VET 2023 Intro to Vet Anesthesia** 1

Examines basic principles in veterinary anesthesiology, including the role of the veterinary technician anesthetist, important concepts relating to various types of anesthesia, preparation of anesthetic equipment and machine, pre-operative patient management, and recording information during anesthesia.

### **VET 1032 Veterinary Dentistry** 1

Examines essentials in veterinary dentistry as it concerns the veterinary technician, including dental morphology, performing a dental exam, identifying common dental problems, equipment used to perform a professional dental cleaning, the proper steps to perform a professional dental cleaning, and the role of veterinary technician in client education and preventative home care.

## **VETERINARY ASSISTANT CERTIFICATE**

**Certificate Total:** Credit Hours: 26

**Certificate Length:** 2 semesters

Additional costs may apply. All books, kits & supply costs are estimated. Cost, information, and classes are subject to change. Statistics present are based on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. This certificate is eligible for Financial Aid. You may begin the Financial Aid process by completing your Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). If you have further questions, please call (303)344-4910.