

VETERINARY ASSISTANT

Gain essential skills for a veterinary assisting career: master animal restraint, routine animal husbandry (feeding & care), and hands-on clinical lab procedures and treatments. The program features extensive practical work in a simulated clinic, fear free certifications, and a mandatory off-site clinical internship for real-world experience.

Medical Exams & Treatments | Fear Free Animal Restraint | Clinical Labs
Small, Large, & Exotic Animals | Nursing & Surgery | Radiology & Dentistry

Suggested Abilities

- ▶ 8th grade English reading, writing, speaking, and listening
- ▶ Understand basic algebra
- ▶ Lift 50 pounds
- ▶ Sustained activity for 8 hours at a time
- ▶ Access to transportation
- ▶ Willing to handle small and large animals

Prerequisites

- ▶ Successfully pass entrance exam or provide acceptable documentation of reading level
- ▶ *High School Students: Meet with counselor for eligibility requirements*

Class Hours

- ▶ Morning: 8:40am - 11:30am, Mon. - Fri.
- ▶ Afternoon: 12:10pm - 3:00pm, Mon. - Fri.

SEMESTER 1

VET 1002 Veterinary Medical Terminology

1 credit

Introduces veterinary medical terminology: common prefixes, roots, suffixes; covers body systems, oncology, psychiatry, labs, diagnostics, imaging; teaches pronunciation and clinical usage.

VET 1009 Applied Comp Animal Behavior

3 credits

Companion animal behavior and learning theory to enhance interspecies communication, reduce fear and stress, and apply evidence-based training in veterinary care.

VET 1003 Vet Assist Restraint and Handling

2 credits

Introduces students to basic animal care skills and clinical procedures common to a veterinary assistant in practice. Laboratories provide practice in restraint, grooming and physical exam techniques.

BIO 1006 Basic Anatomy and Physiology

4 credits

Basic knowledge of body structures and function, and provides a foundation for understanding deviations from normal and disease conditions.

VET 1020 Office Procedures and Relations

2 credits

Common clinical procedures, focusing on the veterinary technician's role in patient care and record management, plus an introduction to veterinary management software and online veterinary services.

VET 1075 Special Topics: Medical Math Applications

3 credits

Medical math applications for veterinary assistants

VET 1082 Internship

2 credits

Allows students to gain practical, supervised work experience related to their program, working at the business under experienced staff and guided directly by their instructor.

SEMESTER 2

VET 1004 Assist Large Animal & Handling

1 credit

Covers common medical and surgical conditions in large animal species, emphasizing the veterinary assistant's role and essential handling and technical skills required for the profession.

VET 1014 Vet Assist Lab & Clinical Procedures

3 credits

Covers essential laboratory and diagnostic imaging procedures in a veterinary hospital, emphasizing support roles for veterinarians and veterinary technicians in performing and assisting with these tasks.

VET 1083 Internship

6 credits

Allows students to gain practical, supervised work experience related to their program, working under experienced staff at the business and receiving direct instructor guidance.

VET 1017 Vet Assist Surgery & Nursing

2 credits

Introduces surgical assisting of the veterinarian and/or the veterinary technician, including basic knowledge of surgical instruments and surgery room hygiene. It also introduces basic nursing care of animal patients including safety concerns and nursing procedures.

VET 1078 Seminar Workshop

1 credit

Seminar workshops for veterinary assistants

Veterinary Assistant Certificate

1 Year

30 Credit Hours



Information Revised MAR '26. Information subject to change. Course listings have been paraphrased on this flyer, for full course info please see Pickens Catalog. This certificate is eligible for Financial Aid. If you have further questions, please call (303)344-4910.