

Veterinary Assistant

Program

Veterinary Assistant

Degree Type

Certificate

The Veterinary Assistant certificate provides training in veterinary health and handling of a variety of domestic and exotic species. It focuses on tasks for assisting the Veterinary Technician and Veterinarian. Veterinary Assistants care for animals in veterinary hospitals, animal shelters, and laboratories. They help to maintain a clean and safe work environment and perform various tasks under the supervision of veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and scientists. This certificate covers the essential knowledge and job skills a veterinary assistant needs, including lab tests, nutrition, critical care, animal husbandry, surgical assistance, and patient monitoring. Students experience hands-on learning in the classroom and during the required internship. Veterinary Assistants do not diagnose animal illnesses, prescribe treatment, or perform surgery. This certificate introduces students to the field of veterinary medicine; it is not a veterinary technician program, nor is it intended to provide admission to a college of veterinary medicine. The Veterinary Assistant certificate is approved by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), thereby enabling graduates to sit for the examination to earn "Approved Vet Assistant" status. For more information on NAVTA, visit www.navta.net.

Admission Requirements

Students must:

1. Submit an application for the program.
2. Meet college requirements for admission.
3. Possess a high school diploma or GED and submit official transcripts to WMCC.
4. Attend a mandatory information session prior to the beginning of classes.

Applications are not complete until all the above-mentioned documents have been received. Seats for this certificate are limited, so it is recommended that students apply in the spring to increase the chance of securing a place in the program.

Upon admission, students receive a packet of program information with details regarding program requirements.

Once admitted, the following is required:

- Proof of a physical examination with current tetanus immunization
- Proof of health insurance
- Criminal background check and drug screening
- Attendance at a program information session
- Attendance at college orientation
- Purchase of course materials

All students enrolled in the Veterinary Assistant program must maintain a C or above in all courses and have a 90% or better attendance record. They must also comply with the program's stated standard of professionalism.

Fall Semester: First Eight Weeks

Course Number	Title	Lecture	Lab	Credits
VETA101W	Introduction to Veterinary Assisting	1	2	2
VETA103W	Veterinary Assistant Small Animal Nursing I	2	2	3
VETA105W	Veterinary Assistant Office Procedures and Practice Management	1	2	2
Sub-Total Credits		4	6	7

Fall Semester: Second Eight Weeks

Course Number	Title	Lecture	Lab	Credits
VETA107W	Veterinary Assistant Small Animal Nursing II	2	2	3
VETA109W	Veterinary Assistant Laboratory and Diagnostic Skills	2	2	3
Sub-Total Credits		4	4	6

Spring Semester

Course Number	Title	Lecture	Lab	Credits
VETA111W	Veterinary Assistant Clinical	0	8	4
VETA113W	Veterinary Assistant Clinical Seminar	2	0	2
Sub-Total Credits		2	8	6
Total Credits				19