

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.

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.

Program Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this program, graduates will be prepared to:

- Demonstrate effective client communication skills while demonstrating professional conduct and using appropriate veterinary medical terminology.

- Perform front desk duties such as using veterinary practice management software to schedule appointments, answer basic client questions, create, retrieve and file medical records, admit and discharge patients, properly obtain and record consent forms and consistently demonstrate ethical conduct.
- Identify the normal anatomy and common pathologies for each species and each body system and incorporate critical thinking skills when collecting patient data and performing patient care.
- Identify potential zoonotic diseases and appropriate isolation and disinfection procedures.
- Demonstrate knowledge of hazardous waste handling and of OSHA regulations and current drug enforcement laws.
- Perform basic procedures such as recording of vital signs and basic grooming techniques.
- Prepare patients and assist the veterinary technician or veterinarian with proper patient restraint for examination, procedures or diagnostic imaging.
- Demonstrate knowledge of basic animal behavior and the Human-Animal bond
- Provide basic nursing to sick or surgical patients.
- Perform maintenance of hospital equipment such as radiology equipment, surgical and sterilizing equipment, laboratory devices and treatment area equipment.
- Collect and prepare laboratory specimens, as well as perform basic laboratory tests.
- Prepare and administer parenteral and oral medications.
- Perform all duties within the Veterinary Assistant scope of practice.
- Appreciate diversity, differing beliefs, value systems, and individual opinions.

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

