

**Course Code:** VTT 113

**Course Title:** Introduction to Veterinary Technology

**Department:** Allied Health

**Effective Date:** Summer 2026

**PCS Code:** 1.2 - Occupational/Technical Instruction

**CIP Code:** 01.8301

**Repeatability:** 0

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### Credit Hours

**Catalog Notation:** 1-0-1

**Credit Hour Distribution:**

Lecture: 1

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

**Total: 1**

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### General Course Information

#### Catalog Description

Introduction to veterinary technology profession including: overview of profession, veterinary medical terminology, veterinary healthcare team, receptionist team, veterinary technician team, veterinary ethics and legal issues, compassion fatigue, burnout, suicide awareness, medical records, communication, human-animal bond and euthanasia, and safety.

#### General Course Objectives

The student will:

- learn veterinary medical terminology;
- apply communication skills to enhance relationships with clients and coworkers;
- utilize various techniques to provide good customer service;
- be informed about the various job opportunities available to the veterinary technician; and
- appreciate the responsibilities of the veterinary technician as a professional animal health care provider.

#### Minimum Placement Levels

| English                  | Reading                  | Math                     |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Placement out of ENG 099 | Placement out of CCS 099 | Placement out of MAT 072 |

#### Prerequisites

Concurrent enrollment in VTT 110, VTT 114, VTT 116, and VTT 119

Admission into the Veterinary Technology program

#### Methods of Evaluation

2-4 objective exams; 4-6 quizzes; 5-8 discussion forums.

## Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Front Office Management for the Veterinary Team, Prendergast, Heather

Veterinary Medical Terminology, 978-0323612074

## Course Content

### General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.

### Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

| Course Segment                                                               | Learning Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Introduction to Course and Veterinary Technology; Professional Organizations | 1. Explain topics relevant to the veterinary technician.<br>2. Discuss the history of the profession.<br>3. Name important veterinary organizations and describe their roles in the education and credentialing of technicians.                                                                                                                                            | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Introduction to Veterinary Medical Terminology                               | 1. Describe the construction, meaning, and pronunciation of medical terms.<br>2. Explain the proper rules of word construction and word analysis.<br>3. Define medical words based on an understanding of their component parts.                                                                                                                                           | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Veterinary Medical Terminology - Body Structure and Organization             | 1. Summarize basic chemistry terms, including atomic structure and molecular bonds.<br>2. Explain general body structure and organization.<br>3. Describe functional relationships of body tissues and organs.                                                                                                                                                             | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Veterinary Medical Terminology - Systems                                     | 1. Recognize, correctly pronounce, and appropriately use common medical terms related to the following: musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, neurologic, eye, ear, alimentary, urinary, reproductive, endocrine, and integumentary systems.                                                                                                                       | 3             | 0         | 0              |
| The Veterinary Healthcare Team                                               | 1. Define various positions within a veterinary practice.<br>2. Identify courses of study to enhance the education of each position.<br>3. Identify how the members of the veterinary team work together to accomplish the common goals.<br>4. Define staff etiquette.                                                                                                     | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| The Receptionist Team                                                        | 1. Describe effective phone techniques.<br>2. Describe how to control telephone conversations with clients.<br>3. Identify techniques for handling multiple phone lines.<br>4. Identify techniques used to turn a phone call into an appointment.<br>5. Define the liability associated with giving medical advice over the phone.                                         | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| The Veterinary Technician Team                                               | 1. Identify common diseases and vaccinations.<br>2. Define diagnostic equipment and procedures.<br>3. Explain the importance of pre-anesthetic procedures.<br>4. Define basic nutrition needs of puppies and kittens.<br>5. Differentiate therapeutic diets based on characteristics.<br>6. Define common emergencies.<br>7. Describe the most common diseases of animals. | 1             | 0         | 0              |

| Course Segment                                     | Learning Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| Veterinary Ethics and Legal Issues                 | 1. Differentiate between ethics and law.<br>2. Discuss ethical dilemmas common in veterinary practice, applying the vet tech code of ethics.<br>3. Identify a veterinary practice act.<br>4. Compare methods used to prevent malpractice and negligence.                                                                                                                                                        | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Compassion Fatigue, Burnout, and Suicide Awareness | 1. Differentiate between compassion fatigue and burnout.<br>2. Identify what causes compassion fatigue and burnout.<br>3. Discuss how to manage compassion fatigue and burnout.<br>4. Identify and achieve becoming positively unbalanced.<br>5. Assess the success of resolving burnout/compassion fatigue.<br>6. Describe how to be proactive regarding suicide and approach someone you are concerned about. | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Client Communication                               | 1. Describe the importance of written client materials.<br>2. Describe the importance of professional verbal skills.<br>3. List methods used to communicate in a positive professional manner.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Human-Animal Bond and Euthanasia                   | 1. Discuss aspects of the human-animal bond.<br>2. List and describe the elements of grief and the role of veterinary professionals in grief counseling.<br>3. Discuss the impact of euthanasia and client grief on members of the veterinary health care team.<br>4. Discuss the legal and ethical issues related to euthanasia.<br>5. List and describe the common methods of euthanasia in small animals.    | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Medical Records                                    | 1. Explain methods used to file records.<br>2. Identify a completed medical record.<br>3. Explain how to purge medical records.<br>4. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of computerized medical records.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 1             | 0         | 0              |
| Safety in the Veterinary Practice                  | 1. Recognize the importance of workplace safety for the employee and employer.<br>2. Recognize the information on a Safety Data Sheet.<br>3. Identify common hazards in the veterinary practice.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1             | 0         | 0              |

**Total Contact Hours**

| Lecture Hours | Lab Hours | Clinical Hours |
|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| 15            | 0         | 0              |