

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY (VTEC)

Program Mission Statement

The program provides veterinary technology students with a broad understanding of veterinary medicine and the role of animals in society. Students are instructed in the methods and knowledge of veterinary technology such that they become veterinary technicians who are strong advocates for animals, capable of compassionate and accurate animal care; professional in their actions and judgments; and have a desire for lifelong learning and self-improvement.

The primary goal of the veterinary technology program is to provide students with exceptional technical and clinical reasoning skills and knowledge in veterinary technology such that graduates will be prepared to pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and to be immediate and valuable members of a veterinary medical team. Additionally, the program aims to develop a firm foundation in both farm animal and companion animal veterinary practices. Courses in the program cover basic sciences, veterinary nursing, and veterinary practice management, with a strong focus on hands-on practical knowledge throughout the curriculum. Students gain basic knowledge and skills for the major domestic animal species (dog, cat, horse, and cow). Integration of knowledge in communication, veterinary ethical and legal issues, veterinary practice management, clinical reasoning skills, and hands-on technical skills allow students to become complete veterinary technicians, capable of providing high-quality, compassionate, and expert care to animals both small and large.

Practical learning experience is provided at the brand new Veterinary Teaching Clinic, the UNH equine facilities (<https://colsa.unh.edu/facility/equine-facilities>) and the Thomas P. Fairchild Dairy Teaching and Research Center (<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/fairchild>) and the UNH Organic Dairy Research Farm (<https://colsa.unh.edu/nhaes/odrf>). The program has a number of animal-related educational partnerships, including those with the New Hampshire SPCA (<http://www.nhspca.org>) in Stratham, N.H., the Cochecho Valley Humane Society (<http://www.cvhsionline.org>) in Dover, N.H., and the Pope Memorial SPCA (<http://www.popememorialsPCA.org>) in Concord, NH.. The veterinary technology curriculum also includes a service learning course where students provide wellness services to local pets in need.

The program is accredited by the AVMA (<https://www.avma.org/Pages/home.aspx>). Students who graduate from an accredited program are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) (<https://www.aavsb.org/vtne>) and pursue credentialing.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants to veterinary technology must present four years of college preparatory English, a minimum of three years of social sciences, a minimum of two years of satisfactory work in college preparatory mathematics (three years is strongly suggested, through Algebra 2), and three years of college prep sciences. Two of the three should be college preparatory biology and chemistry with labs. It is recommended that applicants have some experience with animals in a professional setting, and applicants should include a statement in the student application describing their experience. Successful applicants have an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on a weighted 4.0 scale as well as solid SAT/ACT scores.

Curriculum Fee

Veterinary technology: \$744¹

¹ This one-time curriculum fee is required to cover lab materials, specialized equipment maintenance, and transportation that are unique to the applied nature of the program. The curriculum fee covers the entire two-year course of study. There may be additional fees for uniforms, specific high-cost courses, and/or professional equipment. Any non-TSAS student may be assessed specific course fees, details of which are included in each semester's Time and Room Schedule. All fees are subject to change.

<https://colsa.unh.edu/thompson-school-applied-science>

Programs

- Veterinary Technology (A.A.S.) (<http://catalog.unh.edu/archives/2018-2019/undergraduate/applied-science/programs-study/veterinary-technology/veterinary-technology-aas>)

Courses

Veterinary Technology (VTEC)

VTEC 424 - Introduction to Veterinary Technology

Credits: 2

An overview of the veterinary technology field. Topics in veterinary office practice management are covered, including, appointment scheduling, inventory control, financial transactions, client communication and regulatory, legal, and ethical aspects of veterinary practice. Other topics include veterinary technician and animal science career options, professional development and domestic animal management including breed identification, terminology, and husbandry.

VTEC 497 - Veterinary Technology Work Experience

Credits: 0

Provides students supervised introductory hands-on experience in a veterinary medical facility. Students apply skills learned in animal handling and nursing, laboratory methods, client communication and practice management courses. Students are responsible for obtaining a position in an approved veterinary facility and need to complete a minimum of 80 hours of work to fulfill course requirements. Must have rabies vaccine series completed prior to the start of the semester. Open to veterinary technology students only. Prereq: AAS 449.

VTEC 565 - Pharmacology for Veterinary Technicians

Credits: 4

This course provides study in the area of veterinary medicines emphasizing classes and actions of drugs, calculating dosages, proper administration, and dispensing of drugs. Topics include general pharmacology, calculating dosages, pharmacy regulation guidelines and record keeping. Case-based learning is utilized to correlate common diseases in companion animals with associated pharmacological agents. Specifically, disease pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment options are discussed along with pertinent technician interventions and evaluations. Prereq: AAS 228, MTH 202.

VTEC 575 - Veterinary Anesthesia and Surgical Assisting

Credits: 4

Theory and practical techniques for providing safe and effective anesthesia to veterinary patients, and providing nursing care and assistance in all aspects of veterinary surgery. Veterinary dental care is covered as well. For veterinary technology majors only. Prereq: AAS 550, AAS 579, VTEC 565. Veterinary Technology majors only.

VTEC 579 - Small Animal Practicum for Veterinary Technicians

Credits: 2

An applied, companion animal care class held off-campus at the NHSPCA and/or Cocheo Valley Humane Society. Students work as a team to provide nursing care to shelter animals. Care includes patient evaluation, administration of medication and fluids, wound management, collection and analysis of diagnostic samples, and medical record keeping. Species are primarily dogs and cats but may also include other small mammals and birds. Prereq: AAS 579. Veterinary Technology majors only.

VTEC 582 - Pet Access to Wellness Services (P.A.W.S.)

Credits: 1

PAWS provides veterinary technology students a service learning opportunity. Students manage a wellness clinic for pets, developing staffing and appointment schedules and education materials, and performing appropriate procedures on pets. Students are also responsible for providing laboratory and diagnostic services to shelter pets as needed throughout the semester. 2 semesters of 1 credit each are required. Prereq: AAS 449, VTEC 439.

VTEC 583 - Large Animal Practicum

Credits: 2

An applied large animal class covering basic veterinary nursing care and procedures, focusing on horses and cows. The majority of class time is spent practicing hands-on skills with animals. Restricted to veterinary technology students only. Prereq: AAS 421, AAS 250.

VTEC 595 - Veterinary Technology Internship

Credits: 3

Provides students supervised hands-on experience in a veterinary medical facility within a clinical setting, students apply skills learned in animal handling and nursing, diagnostics and laboratory, client communication and practice management courses. Students are responsible for obtaining a position in an approved veterinary facility prior to the start of the semester. Open to veterinary technology students only. Prereq: AAS 550, AAS 579.

VTEC 599 - Comprehensive VTNE Review

Credits: 4

Course will prepare veterinary technology students for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). Topics include VRNE qualification and registration procedures and standardized test-taking strategies, but will primarily focus on a systematic review of the nine knowledge domains covered on the VTNE. Specific course content will vary based on yearly changes to VTNE content and based on students' performance on a VTNE readiness assessment at the start of the course. Prereq: AAS 439, AAS 579, AAS 550, VTEC 565. Special fee.

Faculty

<https://colsa.unh.edu/thompson-school-applied-science/people>