VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
INFORMATION AND FACTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. KATHY CORCORAN
AT (216) 987-5450 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/healthcareers/veterinary/Pages/default.aspx
1. **What is a Registered Veterinary Technician?**

The Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT) is a vital member of the veterinary health care team, providing a wide range of care for animal patients. The duties of a Registered Veterinary Technician may be described as the veterinary equivalent of a nurse, surgical technician, anesthetist, medical technologist, dental hygienist, pharmacy technician and radiography technician combined.

Care provided by a Veterinary Technician includes:

- Performing patient assessments
- Performing blood work, urinalyses, parasite examinations and other laboratory tests
- Administering and monitoring anesthesia
- Performing dental cleaning and simple extractions
- Preparing patients, equipment and instruments for surgery
- Providing basic patient nursing care
- Placing intravenous catheters and administering intravenous fluids
- Applying and removing bandages
- Educating clients about home care for wounds, bandages, dental health etc.
- Preparing, dispensing and administering medications
- Assisting with emergency care
- Obtaining diagnostic radiographs (x-rays)
- Assisting with diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as ultrasound, CT/MRI, endoscopy and feeding tube placement
- Keeping patient and other important medical records

These areas comprise the subjects covered in the Veterinary Technology Program. It is challenging because students learn the essence of multiple health careers (in the human health-care system) and may find themselves doing all of them in the veterinary setting.

2. **The Tri-C Veterinary Technology Program:**

**Program Description:**
The Tri-C Veterinary Technology Program is a Health Career program leading to an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree. In the program, students learn through a combination of classroom, laboratory and off-campus activities. Clinical experience includes over 500 hours covering a wide scope of the veterinary industry including small, large and exotic animal practices, animal welfare organizations, and laboratory animal facilities.

Once accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program, full-time students attend Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) Western Campus for five semesters of study including the ten-week summer session between the first and second years. Most terms, full-time students attend classes four to five days a week.
There are a limited number of spaces open for part-time students each year. Once accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program, part-time students attend classes two to three days a week most semesters. The actual weekdays during which students attend class varies from semester to semester. Students who are accepted for part-time status can complete the program part-time in three years. Part-time students who do not have credit for their general education courses can complete the program in 4 years or less. **Note: For students accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program after December 31, 2017, either SPCH 1000 (Introduction to Interpersonal Communication) OR SPCH 1010 (Introduction to Speech Communications) will be required to graduate from the Vet Tech Program. Contact the VT Program Manager (216-987-5450) with questions or concerns.**

Currently program courses are only offered during the day, although occasionally, they may be offered in the evening due to instructor or classroom availability. The Program also includes visits to off-campus laboratory and clinical facilities. Students are responsible for their own transportation to these sites.

**Accreditation:**
The Veterinary Technology Program has been fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) since November, 2002. The most recent renewal occurred in November 2016.

**Physical and Mental Qualifications:**
Minimal physical and mental qualifications are necessary to be considered for admission into and progression through the Tri-C Veterinary Technology Program. A discussion of what is required of a beginning veterinary technician is included at A Day in the Life section of this page. More information regarding these requirements is available by contacting the Program Manager at 216-987-5450.

**3. Employment Opportunities:**

Private practices employ the majority of RVT’s, mostly companion-animal facilities. These see dogs and cats and may see other pet species, including rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles or fish. Practices seeing other species (horses, food animals like cattle or pigs) employ fewer technicians. Biomedical research laboratories, drug and feed manufacturing companies, specialty practices, diagnostic laboratory facilities, animal shelter and humane organizations, animal production facilities, and zoos represent some of the alternative career opportunities for registered veterinary technicians.

The demand for Registered Veterinary Technicians is high. Six-month post graduation employment rates have traditionally exceeded 85-90%.

Assistance with job placement, resume preparation and interview techniques is provided by Key Career Place located on each campus. More information can be found at the following address: [http://www.ecampusrecruiter.com/tri-c/index.php?script=local-login](http://www.ecampusrecruiter.com/tri-c/index.php?script=local-login)
4. **Salary Ranges for a Veterinary Technician:**

Salary ranges vary according to career choice. In general, veterinary technicians in private practice earn less than those employed by industry, pharmaceutical companies, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), or colleges. Graduates hired in 2016 earned between $26,000 and $34,500/year.

5. **Opportunities for Career Advancement:**

Although many Veterinary Technicians provide primary care for patients, the opportunity exists to advance to supervisory positions, especially in larger facilities such as large private practices or research facilities.

Veterinary technicians may also advance their careers through additional educational pursuits. These include completing a Bachelor’s degree in Veterinary Technology or achieving the status of a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) [https://navta.site-ym.com/?page=specialties](https://navta.site-ym.com/?page=specialties). However, note that Veterinary Technician specialties are not currently recognized by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (OVMLB).

Be aware that veterinary technology courses do not qualify as entrance requirements for The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, nor do they apply toward a veterinary degree at that institution.

Transfer opportunities for Tri-C students can be found on the Tri-C Transfer Center at the following address: [http://www.tri-c.edu/Articulation/default.htm](http://www.tri-c.edu/Articulation/default.htm)

6. **Licensing Requirements for a Veterinary Technician:**

To practice legally in the state of Ohio, Veterinary Technicians must be registered. Graduates of the Tri-C Veterinary Technology Program are fully approved for registry in Ohio by the state’s Veterinary Medical Licensing Board (OVMLB). Graduates must obtain a passing score on the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and pass a criminal background check in order to become registered. Applicants should contact the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board at [http://ovmlb.ohio.gov/](http://ovmlb.ohio.gov/) for information regarding credentialing in the State of Ohio.

Graduates interested in credentialing in other states should contact their respective state veterinary medical licensing boards. Veterinary boards in other states may be accessed through the American Association of Veterinary State Boards web site at: [http://www.aavsb.org/Home.htm](http://www.aavsb.org/Home.htm)

The VTNE pass rates for Tri-C graduates, currently above 86%, consistently exceeds the national (68%) and state (74%) pass rates.
7. Admission Requirements for the Veterinary Technology Program:

Applicants who wish to be considered for admission into the Veterinary Technology Program must meet the admissions requirements.

a. College Application □
   All applicants not currently enrolled at Tri-C are required to complete the College Application for Admission/Readmission. They must submit official college transcripts from each prior institution attended at that time.

b. Official High School Transcripts or GED Test Scores □
   All applicants not currently enrolled at Tri-C must submit high school transcripts or General Educational Development scores.

c. College Transcripts □
   All applicants must submit official college transcripts from each institution attended. Applicants who have been accepted by the College, whether or not they are currently enrolled, may not need to repeat this step.

d. Academic Requirements □ Effective January 1, 2018:
   Unless the applicant has transfer credits for a comparable course from another institution, they must complete the following courses with a grade of “C” or better. Core courses may only be repeated once to improve a grade.

   a) English: ENG 1010 (College Composition I), ENG 101 (Honors College Composition I) or higher level English
   b) Mathematics: MATH 1240 (Contemporary Mathematics) or higher level Mathematics
   c) Science: BIO 1100 (Introduction to Biological Chemistry) or CHEM 1010 (Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry) or CHEM 101H (Honors Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry).
   d) Vet Technology: VT 1120 (Introduction to Veterinary Technology)

e. Grade Point Average □
   Applicants must have achieved a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale) in the four (4) courses listed above. Applicants must also demonstrate an overall minimum GPA of 2.25 in program required courses and previous college course work.

f. Work/Observation Experience □
   All students must complete 10 hours of work or observation experience at a veterinary facility within one year prior to the date of application.

g. Health Careers Application □

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All applicants are required to complete the Tri-C Health Careers Application. This must be submitted when the student is completing their final pre-requisite for the Program at the earliest.

h. **Criminal Background Check (BCI)**
   Upon acceptance into the Veterinary Technology Program, applicants must complete a criminal background check that includes fingerprinting and a court search. A student may be admitted to the Veterinary Technology Program even if a felony or misdemeanor has been committed. However, students with a BCI record may find that they are ineligible for registration in Ohio or another state; denied employment in the field or refused acceptance to a clinical site. Visit [http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/healthcareers/pages/backgroundcheckinformation.aspx](http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/healthcareers/pages/backgroundcheckinformation.aspx) for further information. Students must complete background checks between May 1 and July 15 in the same calendar year as their first-year fall semester.

i. **Health Requirements**
   Upon acceptance to the program, the applicant will be required to fulfill the health requirements of the Veterinary Technology Program by uploading written evidence of a completed health exam and required immunizations to their records account. This requirement may be fulfilled during a student’s first semester in the Program. Questions may be directed to the Program Manager at 216-987-5450.

j. **Group Information/ Orientation Session**
   Accepted and alternate candidates are required to attend a group information/orientation session prior to their first fall semester. The date, time and location will be indicated in the acceptance letter or sent at a later date.

8. **Application Procedure:**

   Applicants must submit required materials to the Health Careers Enrollment Center. The Center collects these materials and forwards them to the specific Health Career Program when the packet is complete. After all admission requirements have been verified, a letter of acceptance with a projected starting date will be mailed to the applicant. Applicants should follow the instructions included with the application packet. *Note: The Health Careers Enrollment Center contacts students with a list of missing application materials required to complete the application packet and the recommended time frames for their submission.*

9. **Selection Process:**

   Students are accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program on a non-competitive rolling-admission basis. Applicants who submit completed application packets are admitted to the Veterinary Technology Program in the order that the completed packets are received.
At least twenty-five (25) applicants are accepted for each fall semester. If there are more qualified applicants than openings, applicants receive the first available space. If that space is in the following year’s class, they are essentially placed on a waiting list in the order that they submit completed application packets. For example, an applicant accepted into the fall 2013 Veterinary Technology class is essentially on the waiting list for the fall 2012 class. Applicants on the waiting list must maintain good academic standing with the college for final enrollment in the program. Completion of the program requirements will not guarantee immediate admission to the program if there are more applicants than positions.

10. Estimated Costs of the Veterinary Technology Program:
   
   *Note: These costs are estimates only, and are subject to change without notice.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuition and Fees: (for residents of Cuyahoga County)</th>
<th>App.Cost:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Tuition for General Education Courses:</em></td>
<td>$1,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tuition for Program Courses:</em></td>
<td>$5,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Fees:</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Expenses:

| Textbooks (required)                                  | $1,300    |
| Textbooks (optional)                                  | $500      |
| Uniforms, Lab Coats and other Supplies:               | $150      |
| National Licensing Exam (VTNE):                       | $325      |
| Classroom Supplies:                                   | *Varies*  |
| Transportation/Parking for Clinical Sites:            | *Varies*  |

Health Expenses:

| Rabies Vaccination: (Recommended)                     | $1,000    |
| Physical Exam and Immunizations:                     | $750      |
| TB testing:                                          | $200      |
| Health Insurance:**                                  | *Varies*  |

* Tuition is higher for out-of-county residents

** Health insurance is required for Veterinary Technology Program

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

Can I transfer credits from another college or university?
Generally, yes. Students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with a college counselor after their transcripts have been reviewed and transfer credit assigned by the Department of Admissions. However, credits earned in VT-labeled courses may not count for non-VT degrees in traditional sciences, such as Biology or Chemistry.

Can I work while attending the program?
The program is academically rigorous and therefore full-time students who must work are encouraged to work NO MORE THAN 20 hours per week.

If I already have credits, can I complete the program in less than two years?

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With a few exceptions, VT courses are offered in sequence on an annual basis. Therefore, there are no opportunities for an accelerated curriculum, or for retaking VT required courses the following semester.

**Is financial aid available?**
Generally, yes. Students may qualify for the usual federal and state programs. Additionally, the Cleveland Academy of Veterinary Medicine has endowed a scholarship, which currently funds at least one award each year. For more information, contact the Tri-C Financial Aid Department at 216-987-5100.

**For further information:** Contact the Program Manager, Dr. Kathy Corcoran (216) 987-5450  
kathy.corcoran@tri-c.edu or view our website http://www.tri-c.edu/programs/healthcareers/veterinary/Pages/default.aspx