Cuyahoga Community College®

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
Information and Facts

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1. What is a Registered Veterinary Technician?

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 combined veterinary equivalent of a nurse, surgical technician, anesthetist, medical technologist, dental hygienist, pharmacy technician and radiography technician.

Care provided by a veterinary technician includes:
- Obtaining radiographs (x-rays)
- Performing patient assessments
- Performing bloodwork, urinalyses, parasite examinations and other laboratory tests
- Administering, monitoring and recovering patients from 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
- Venipuncture

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 more than 500 hours covering a wide scope of the veterinary field, including small, large and exotic animal practices, animal welfare organizations, and laboratory animal facilities.

Once accepted into the program, full-time students attend Tri-C's Western Campus for five semesters of study, including a 10-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 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 in three years. Part-time students who do not have credit for their general education courses can complete the program in four years or less. **Note: For students accepted into the Veterinary Technology program after December 31, 2017, either COMM 1000 (Introduction to Interpersonal Communication) OR COMM 1010 (Introduction to Speech Communications) will be required to graduate from the program. Contact the VT program director (216-987-5450) with questions or concerns***.*

Currently program courses are only offered during the day, although occasionally may be offered in the evening based on 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 October 2019.

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 in "A Day in the Life" section of the webpage. This is a physically demanding job that requires long periods of standing, lifting and fine motor skills. Students are required to maintain their own health insurance coverage. More information regarding these requirements is available by contacting the program director at 216-987-5450.

3. Employment Opportunities

Private practices employ the majority of RVTs, mostly companion-animal facilities. These treat dogs and cats, and may see other pets, including rabbits, rodents, birds, reptiles or fish. Practices seeing other species (horses and food animals like cattle or pigs) employ fewer technicians. Other career opportunities include biomedical research laboratories, drug and feed manufacturing companies, specialty practices, diagnostic laboratory facilities, animal shelters and humane organizations, animal production facilities, pet insurance, and zoos.

The demand for RVTs 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://bit.ly/3t99Gu3**

4. Salary Ranges

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 2023 earned between $30,180 and $59,310 per year. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics listed the national median salary in 2023 as $21.03 per hour and $43,740 per year: **http://bit.ly/3es4Qnt**.

5. Career Advancement

Although many veterinary technicians provide primary care for patients, the opportunity exists to advance to supervisory positions, especially in 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 becoming a veterinary technician specialist (VTS) **https://navta.net/veterinary-technician-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 at the following address: **http://bit.ly/3ve4oil**

6. Licensing Requirements for a Veterinary Technician:

To practice legally in 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/ for information regarding credentialing in 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 website at http://bit.ly/3visJDU

The three-year pass percentage from 2020 to 2023 on the VTNE for Tri-C graduates is 94.12%.

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 GED 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 Jan. 1, 2024:**

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 1190 (Algebraic and Quantitative Reasoning) 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 GPA (based on a 4.0 scale) in the four courses listed above. Applicants must also achieve 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**

All applicants are required to complete the Tri-C Health Careers application. This must be submitted when the student is completing their final prerequisite 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 program even if a felony or misdemeanor has been committed. However, students with a BCI record may find they are ineligible for registration in Ohio or another state, denied employment in the field or refused acceptance to a clinical site.

Visit **http://bit.ly/3tf6nSf** for further information. Students must complete background checks before they begin 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 program by uploading written evidence of a completed health exam and required immunizations to their records account. This requirement must be fulfilled before a student's first semester in the Program. This is a physically demanding job that requires long periods of standing, lifting and fine motor skills. Students are required to maintain their own health insurance coverage. Questions may be directed to the program director 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

To apply, complete the **Get Started Interest Form** *at tri-c.edu/vettech and indicate your program(s) of interest to automatically track your progress toward admission. You'll receive an email at your Tri-C address each time you complete an admissions requirement. Once you complete all of the requirements, you'll receive another email with your acceptance status and additional information.*
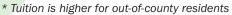
9. Selection Process

Students are accepted into the program on a non-competitive rolling- admission basis. Applicants who submit completed application packets are admitted to the Veterinary Technology Program in the order the completed packets are received.

Twenty-four 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 they submit completed application packets. For example, an applicant accepted into the fall 2023 Veterinary Technology class is essentially on the waiting list for the fall 2022 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.

Estimated Veterinary Technology Program Costs	Appr. cost
Tuition and fees *(for residents of Cuyahoga County)*	
*Tuition for general education courses	$1,718
*Tuition for program courses	$5,612
Laboratory fees	$800
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 site	Varies
Health expenses	
Rabies vaccination *(required)*	$1,800
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 toward non-VT degrees in traditional sciences, such as Biology or Chemistry.

Can I work while attending the program?

The program is academically rigorous, and 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?

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 federal and state programs. Additionally, the Cleveland Academy of Veterinary Medicine has an 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 director, **Ms. Harviel** at **216-987-5450** or **carrie.harviel@tri-c.edu**, or view our website: **http://www.tri-c.edu/vettech**

NOTES:

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