



Program Planning Guide

Veterinary Assistant Diploma (D45780)

Program Length: 3 semesters

Program Sites: Lee Main Campus, seated only

Career Pathway Options: Associate in Applied Science in Veterinary Medical Technology; Diploma in Veterinary Medical Technology

The diploma program prepares students to work as veterinary assistants, providing hands-on care and support for animals in clinical settings. Veterinary assistants play a vital role in animal health by managing daily needs such as feeding, bathing, and exercising; restraining animals during exams and procedures; assisting with non-invasive treatments; cleaning and disinfecting cages and equipment; scheduling appointments; sterilizing surgical tools and rooms; monitoring patient health; and educating pet owners. They may also assist veterinary technicians and veterinarians with more advanced tasks, including administering medications, processing lab samples, and performing basic medical tests.

Upon graduation, students are eligible to sit for the Approved Veterinary Assistant examination through the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). Veterinary assistants who successfully complete the exam receive a documenting certificate and are entitled to use the designation AVA (Approved Veterinary Assistant).

Limited Enrollment Application Overview:

The Veterinary Assisting (VA) program is a limited-enrollment program, which means that there are a limited number of seats in this program each year. Students must meet all requirements listed below to enter the Veterinary Assisting program. While they are completing these requirements, pre-VA Students will be enrolled in the **Pre-Vet Assisting** program (**A55280VA**). Acceptance will be reviewed from November 1 to May 15, and students will be notified of acceptance through email by May 15 each year. Provisional acceptance will be reviewed from May 15 to July 31, and students will be notified of acceptance through email by August 1 each year.

VA Admission Requirements:

- Complete 10 credit hours of Pre-VA general education courses with a C or better (see page 2).
- Have a minimum 2.5 GPA based on 10 credit hours of VA general education courses.
- Submit documentation of completed rabies vaccination series.
- Submit documentation of 40 hours of observation at a local veterinary practice shadowing an RVT or DVM.
- Attend a mandatory, in-person program orientation before beginning the program. The date will be provided in the admission acceptance letter.

Provisional Acceptance:

Provisional acceptance will be offered to a student if there are seats available after all fully accepted students have confirmed their acceptance by May 31 each year, **and**:

- All remaining general education coursework will be completed by the end of the summer term.
 - Can have up to two missing general education classes.
- Documentation of completed vaccination series is provided to the department chair by July 31.
- No documentation of observation hours



Pre-VMT General Education Requirements & Suggested Course Schedule:

		Class	Lab	Work	Credits	Notes:
Required Classes						
ACA 122	Transfer & Career Success	0	2	0	1	Seated or online
ENG 111	Writing & Inquiry	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
Elective	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	0	0	3	Seated or online
MAT 110	Math Measurement & Literacy	2	2	0	3	Seated or online
Total Semester Hours		8	4	0	10	

Approved Humanities Substitutions: Can substitute ART 111, ART 114, ART 115, DRA 111, ENG 125, ENG 231, ENG 241, ENG 242, HUM 110, HUM 115, HUM 122, HUM 150, HUM 160, MUS 110, MUS 112, **PHI 240**, REL 211, REL 212

Approved Mathematics Substitutions: Can substitute any higher-level math class (MAT 171 is required for the AAS).

Upon acceptance into the Veterinary Assistant program, students will take the following courses:

Program Course Schedule		Class	Lab	Work	Credits	Notes:
1st Semester (fall)						
VET 113	Animal Breeds, Husbandry, & Nutrition	2	0	0	2	
VET 120	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology	3	3	0	4	
VET 121	Veterinary Medical Terminology	3	3	0	4	
VET 222	Intro to Exotic Animal Med	2	0	0	2	
Total Semester Hours		10	6	0	12	
2nd Semester (spring)						
VET 127	Vet Infect & Parasitic Dis.	2	3	0	3	
VET 137	Veterinary Office Practices	2	0	0	2	Online
VET 215	Veterinary Pharmacology I	2	0	0	2	
ACM 112	Facility Management	3	0	0	3	
Total Semester Hours		9	3	0	10	



3rd Semester (summer)						
VET 132	Veterinary Diagnostics and Pathology I	2	3	0	3	
VET 133	Veterinary Clinical Practices I	2	3	0	3	
VET 216	Veterinary Pharmacology II	2	0	0	2	
	Total Semester Hours	6	6	0	8	
4th Semester (fall)						
WBL 112	Work-Based Learning I	0	0	20	2	In-person work experience
	Total Semester Hours	0	0	20	2	
Total General Education Semester Hours Credit: 10						
Total Program Semester Hours Credit: 32						
Total Semester Hours Credit Required for Graduation: 42						