



Veterinary Technician

Department: Agricultural Sciences

Degree: Associate of Applied Science

Entry time: Summer

Length: 2 years (4 semesters, 2 summers)

- One of the **largest schools** in the nation for number of **Ag program graduates**.
- **Small class sizes** with hands-on learning labs.
- 13 agriculture-related student organizations among the **80+ clubs** on campus.
- Required internships that provide industry contacts and **potential full-time job opportunities**.

Program Description

Prepare for a career that provides professional technical support to veterinarians, biomedical researchers, and other scientists. Technicians in this field will care for hospitalized patients; assist the doctor in surgery; perform physical exams, lab work, and technical procedures (blood draws, IV placement); take health histories and X-rays; induce and monitor anesthesia; provide client education; and perform reception duties.

As a Veterinary Technician student you'll work with a variety of animals, including dogs, cats, horses, cows, pigs, sheep, birds, snakes, guinea pigs, hamsters, and rats. A strong background in biological sciences is needed for this program.

Career Opportunities

Veterinary practices
Biological research labs
Animal shelters
State and federal agencies
Veterinary support industries
Specialty veterinary facilities education

Sample Classes

Veterinary Medical Terminology
Animal Anatomy and Physiology
Veterinary Computer Applications
Animal Behavior/Kennel Management
Veterinary Pharmacology
Animal Nursing
Fundamentals in Small Animal Nutrition
Large Animal and Poultry Medicine
Avian Exotics and Small Mammals

Accreditation

This program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA). For more information, go to www.avma.org.

Internship

As a Veterinary Technician student, you will complete a 300-hour internship at a veterinary hospital or research institute during the summer between your first and second year, allowing you to apply your lab and classroom skills in an actual work environment.

Scholarships

Kirkwood will help you pay for college! Kirkwood awards more scholarships than any other community college in Iowa. For more information and to apply, visit www.kirkwood.edu/scholarships.

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