

Pensacola State College

Veterinary Technology Program Information Packet

Contact Information:

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Health Programs Admissions Office 850-484-2210
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Ms. Sarah Lewis

Reading and following directions is crucial to success in the program and the field of veterinary medicine. Please make sure you have read through this information packet and contact the program office to ensure the completion of requirements.

This publication is to provide general program information and is not to be construed as a contract between the student and Pensacola State College. The student is advised to work with the advisors and the program department for assistance in planning their course of study.

The information in this packet is subject to change.

Veterinary Technology Program

AS Degree

Mission Statement

The Program's mission is to recruit and prepare quality candidate students to become entry level, veterinary technicians and life-long learners. We will use didactic education and clinical experience to instill skills, knowledge and decision making abilities. Once a veterinary technician student has completed the program they will be able to integrate their knowledge, clinical skills, problem solving/critical thinking ability and professionalism into a competent, qualified, enthusiastic, and team oriented veterinary technician.

Objectives/Goals of the Program

To pursue, achieve and maintain accreditation through AVMA's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities.

To provide an educational opportunity for the residents of Northwest Florida and Alabama.

Develop community awareness of the program and its capabilities.

Utilize community resources for diversified learning experience for the students.

Promote and increase community service by the faculty and students.

Maintain facilities with modern and functional equipment.

Maintain the technology for learning resources and instructional delivery.

Recruit, maintain and reward qualified dedicated instructors.

Develop educational experience for students at local clinical sites.

Develop employment opportunities for graduates with local practices and alternative work sites.

Outcomes Assessments

Acquire the didactic information necessary to perform entry level veterinary technician skills.

1. Successful completion of all Veterinary Technology core courses.
2. Successful completion of the Veterinary Technician National Exam.

Perform all tasks listed in the CVTEA's Essential Skills Task List.

1. Successful completion of all clinical assignments.
2. Successful completion of all work related experience courses.
3. Successful completion of all evaluations during each clinical lab course.

Develop marketable skills and professional behavior so graduates may become an efficient, productive, positive member of a veterinary team.

1. Graduate evaluations of the program and clinical work experience sites.
2. Clinical site designated mentors evaluation of the students.
3. Evaluation of the students by the program director and instructors.

Continue to improve the programs educational methods enhance the facilities and equipment and maintain positive working relationships with approved clinical sites.

1. Conduct exit interviews with graduating students and students leaving the program.
2. Have students evaluate the faculty as detailed by the department.
3. Have clinical site designated mentors evaluate program.
4. Have at least two meetings per year with the Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee to evaluate program.

Veterinary Technology

Associate in Science

(VT-AS)

This two year program prepares students to perform entry-level skills as a Veterinary Technician. These skills are mastered through classroom instruction and supervised laboratory instruction. Students will also gain clinical experience at approved clinical sites within a six county area. Veterinary Technicians perform a wide variety of duties that include, but are not limited to: Basic care and feeding of both small and large (farm) animals, capture and restraint of both small and large (farm) animals, nursing and surgical tasks for small and large (farm) animals. Standard hospital procedures such as appointment setting, client relations and education and hospital maintenance are other duties that technicians will perform. This program is actively seeking accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Associations (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician and Education and Activities (CVTEA). Instruction is consistent with the CVTEA's Student Essential and Recommended Skills List and the Florida Department of Education curriculum framework. Accreditation will allow the student to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) offered by the American Association of State Boards (AAVSB). Florida and Alabama require the VTNE and each state has a state test to become credentialed/licensed within the respective states.

Admissions to Pensacola State College

Please refer to the Pensacola State College catalog and student handbook for information on application, registration and credits, financial aid, fees and academic regulations and policies. College placement testing, PERT, may be required prior to enrollment in English and Mathematics. Program admission requirements are listed here and in the VT Handbook.

Special Admissions Requirements

Admission to this program is limited. The number of students in each class shall be determined by the availability of space, equipment, qualified faculty and hospital and clinical facilities necessary for meaningful education. Only one class per year is accepted. Program acceptance is based on selection from qualified applicants meeting the minimum criteria, on a first-qualified/first-served basis.

1. Complete a Pensacola State College application, take college placement testing, PERT, and have transcripts sent to admissions.
2. Complete the separate health-related application and submit according to directions. **For entrance into fall 2011 the deadline is May 1, 2011.**
3. Make contact with the program director at veterinarytech@pensacolastate.edu.
4. Minimum of a "C" or better completion in the required General Education courses as listed below.
5. A minimum of 30 hours of volunteer or work related experience **in a veterinary clinic must be completed**. Please use the form in this program information packet. *Veterinary Clinic Observation*.
6. Read through the Rabies vaccination declaration form in the information packet. *Rabies Declaration or Declination Form*. Completion of the form is required prior to starting core courses.
7. Satisfactory background check and drug screening test results.

Upon meeting all the above conditions the student will be sent a letter stating candidate status. **Each student will be REQUIRED to attend an orientation seminar prior to official start of classes. During the orientation each student will be required to take a drug test and complete a background screening. PLEASE READ THE ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES.**

Credentialing

Upon completion of the AS program and accreditation of the program by CVTEA, the graduate will be eligible to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam. Successful completion of this exam qualifies the graduate to become a credentialed veterinary technician. Florida and Alabama each require a state test to become credentialed within the state.

Job Placement Information

Students earning the AS degree as a Veterinary Technician are able to gain employment in positions included, but not limited to, companion, food, equine, or mixed animal practice, zoos, aquariums, wildlife rehab, humane society and animal control, biomedical research, food safety inspection, pharmaceutical companies and teaching. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Job Outlook, employment in the field is expected to grow 36% between 2008-2018, with excellent job opportunities, mainly in private practice, but also in other areas as well.

General Education Course Requirements	Credits
Communication	
1. ENC 1101 English Comp I*	3
Humanities/Fine Arts	
1. PHI 2600 Ethics	3
Social/Behavioral Sciences	
1. HSC 2100 Personal and Community Health or	
2. DEP 2004 Human Growth and Development or	
3. PSY 2012 General Psychology	3
Natural Sciences/Mathematics	
1. MAC1105 College Algebra *	3
General	
1. ZOO 1010 General Zoo and *	3
2. ZOO 1010L General Zoo Lab *	1
Total General Education Credits	16

***These courses must be completed with the grade requirement of a “C” or better and a 2.0 grade overall prior to starting any of the core courses of the program. It is advised that all general education requirements be completed prior to starting the core courses of the program. All general education requirements must be completed prior to graduation.**

Computer Competency and Communications

Computer competency will be met in core course ATE 1311 Veterinary Office Procedures. Oral Communications requirement will be met by core course ATE 1050 Canine and Feline Behavior.

Core Course Semester One Fall 2011

ATE 1110 Animal Anatomy	3
ATE 1211 Animal Physiology	3
ATE 1110L Animal A&P Lab	1
ATE 1650C Introduction to Clinical Procedures (Combined Lec/Lab)	3
ATE 1311 Veterinary Office Procedures and Terminology	3
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_Core Course Semester Two Spring 2012

ATE 1636 Large Animal Clinical Procedures	3
ATE 1636L Large Animal Clinical Procedures Lab	1
ATE 2632 Small Animal Clinical Procedures 2	3
ATE 2632L Small Animal Clinical Procedures 2 Lab	1
ATE 1612 Large Animal Medicine	3
ATE 1050 Canine and Feline Behavior	2
ATE 1941L Clinical Work Experience One	1
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Core Course Semester Three Summer 2012

ATE 2722 Avian, Exotic, Small Mammals and Fish	2
ATE 2671 Laboratory Animal Medicine	2
ATE 2671L Laboratory Animal Medicine Lab	1
ATE 1942L Clinical Work Experience Two	1
	<u>6</u>

Core Course Semester Four Fall 2012

ATE 2634 Small Animal Clinical Procedures 3	3
ATE 2634L Small Animal Clinical Procedures 3 Lab	1
ATE 2630 Pharmacology	4
ATE 2710 Veterinary Emergency Medicine	3
ATE 2943L Clinical Work Experience Three	1
	<u>12</u>

Core Course Semester Five Spring 2013

ATE 2020 Contemporary Clinical Issues	3
ATE 2635 Small Animal Clinical Procedures 4	3
ATE 2635L Small Animal Clinical Procedures 4 Lab	1
ATE 2501 Professional Development Seminar	2
ATE 2511 The Human Animal Bond	2
ATE 2944L Clinical Work Experience Four	1
	<u>12</u>

Total Core Credits	57
General Education Total	<u>16</u>
Total Program Credits	73

Clinical Work Experience will require that the student spend four hours per week at an approved clinical site each semester.

Pensacola State College, Veterinary Technology Application Procedures

1. Complete and submit the Pensacola State application (\$30.00) for general admission. Have your high school and college transcripts sent to Pensacola State College, Admissions and Registrar Office. Take college placement testing, PERT, if required. This will generate your Pirate e-mail account, which will be used extensively during the admissions process. Become familiar with it now.
2. For help with college admissions, contact the Milton campus at (850) 484-4410, Pensacola campus at (850) 484-1600, or Warrington campus at (850) 484-2270.
3. Complete a health-related admissions application for the Veterinary Technology Program and submit to the admissions office, via email, mail, fax or hand-deliver to **Health Admissions Office at 5555 West Hwy. 98, Pensacola, FL 32507. Fax number is 850-484-2375.**
4. Pay particular attention to the admissions requirements. Also make sure you have completed all required forms to accompany the application. Contact the VT Program office for assistance in completing the list of admission requirements, veterinarytech@pensacolastate.edu . **RETAIN A COPY OF ALL FORMS FOR YOUR RECORDS.**
5. You are strongly encouraged to contact the Veterinary Technology Program office to ensure you have completed all requirements, veterinarytech@pensacolastate.edu.
6. Keep your address and phone information current with the College: To update your contact info, complete a Student Record Change form with any Admissions Office at a Pensacola State campus or center. You may also do this online via your Spyglass account.
7. **Seats in the VT program are awarded on a 'first-qualified, first-seated' system.** Once you have met all admissions requirements for your program, you are moved to the Candidates' List. You are selected for a position in strict chronological sequence from this list. Upon acceptance of the seat you will be sent a letter stating the date of orientation.
8. The 30 hours of **Veterinary Clinic Observation** must be completed prior to acceptance into the program.
9. Upon acceptance to the VT program cohorts will be required to undergo a criminal background check and a drug test. Pending the results of these two tests, you may not be able to continue in your program.
10. Upon acceptance to the VT program cohorts must have a current **Health Acknowledgement Form** and **Rabies/Tetanus Immunization*** records for attending portions of these programs. You will bear the cost of these immunizations.

*PLEASE READ THIS FORM AND CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE PEOPLE FOR HELP.

Pensacola State College

Veterinary Technology Program

Technical Standards

Veterinary Medicine is a strenuous profession. The student must be able to complete the tasks required to be successful in the program and perform as a veterinary technician.

1. Verbal and written skills are essential to be able to respond effectively in communication with other members of the veterinary medical team and clients.
2. Ability to withstand a physically taxing workload.
3. The student must be able to maintain a professional attitude and appearance during the challenges of academic course work and clinical settings.
4. To be able to function competently and professionally in emergency situations.
5. To be able to assist in the humane capture and restraint of a variety of animal species including dogs, cats, cows, horses, rats, mice, rabbits, birds , reptiles and other food and laboratory species.
6. Employers often require that you are able to lift up to 50lbs onto an examination table.
7. Stand and walk for extended periods of time (several hours).
8. Employ body mechanics to bend, stretch, reach, stoop, kneel and twist in the performance of duties.
9. You must have the maturity to be professional and ethical in your conduct at all times in school, at clinical sites, and in your representation of the veterinary profession.

If your ability to perform these essential functions depends on accommodations being provided, be advised that requests for accommodations must be presented to the "Disability Support Services Department, and must be accompanied by appropriate medical, psychological and /or psychiatric documentation to support this request. You may contact "Student Resources for ADA services" at 484-1637 located in Building 6, Pensacola Campus. All applicants with or without accommodations must possess the stated abilities.

Pensacola State College
Veterinary Technology Program
Rabies/Tetanus Vaccination Declaration or Declination

Please read through this form. You should consider waiting until you have been offered a seat in the program and have accepted before completing the vaccine series.

Student Name _____

Student ID# _____

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, agitation, hypersalivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

Preexposure vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, and certain laboratory workers. Pre-exposure vaccination DOES NOT eliminate the need for additional therapy after a rabies exposure, but it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for RIG and decreasing the number of doses of vaccine needed.

Veterinarians and their staff are classified in either the frequent or infrequent risk categories based on whether they are in rabies enzootic areas. Persons in the rabies enzootic areas are considered to be in the frequent-risk category. Florida and Alabama are considered enzootic areas.

During the program you will handle animals at clinical work experience sites and in clinical laboratories. Every precaution will be taken to ensure these animals have been vaccinated for Rabies. However, we STRONGLY ADVISE that you have the Rabies pre-exposure vaccinations to decrease risk of infection.

Tetanus is a deadly disease caused by the bacteria *Clostridium tetani*. This bacterium is able to form spores in the soil and can replicate under anaerobic (without air) conditions. Whenever deep wounds occur, such as bite wounds or other puncture wounds, the bacteria can replicate and can ultimately cause continuous muscular spasms in humans that can terminate as fatal asphyxia. Incubation for tetanus is 3-21 days. Tetanus is easily prevented with tetanus toxoid (vaccine). Tetanus rarely occurs in fully immunized persons within 10 years of their last vaccination. Veterinary technology students are strongly encouraged to contact their personal physician to receive a tetanus booster immunization at the onset of the veterinary technician training.

Please sign the following:

I have completed or will complete the Rabies vaccination. _____

Please provide documentation.

I decline Rabies vaccination at this time. _____

Parent's signature if under 18. _____

I have completed or will complete the Tetanus vaccination. _____

Please provide documentation.

I decline Tetanus vaccination at this time. _____

Parent's signature if under 18. _____

Date _____

Witness _____

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT DR. BRITA REYNOLDS AT 850-484-1941 OR VETERINARYTECH@PENSACOLASTATE.EDU

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT IS: Ms. Debra Paul
850-595-6524 Debra_Paul@doh.state.fl.us**

**Pensacola State College
Veterinary Technology Program
Veterinary Clinic Observation**

Student Name _____

Student ID# _____

As a potential candidate to the Veterinary Technology Program at Pensacola State College it is required that you complete 30 hours of volunteer or work experience at a veterinary hospital. The managing veterinarian or CVT is required to sign this form and will be contacted to confirm your observation/participation.

10 hours _____ 10hours _____

10hours _____

Please both student and manager initial with a date completed.

Here is a list of tasks/skills and job information. The candidate must read and check off any of the skills, tasks, and job information that they observed.

_____ Wages for a credentialed veterinary technician.

_____ Working hours for a veterinary technician.

_____ Benefits: Vacation, continuing education, uniforms, health insurance.

_____ Rewards of being a veterinary technician.

_____ Challenges associated with being a veterinary technician.

_____ Observation of a minor surgical procedure.

_____ Observation of a major surgical procedure.

_____ Observation of procedures with farm or large animals.

_____ Observation of a dental prophylaxis.

_____ Observation of the technician's role in anesthesia, surgical assisting, and sample collection.

_____ Appointment scheduling, invoice preparation, cash handling.

____ Client education and estimate preparation and presentation.

____ Hospital cleaning including kennels and runs.

____ Machine maintenance and instrument clean-up.

____ Lab procedures, fecals, UA's, serology. Sample prep for shipping.

____ Euthanasia.

____ Other: please

describe: _____

Student Name _____

Student ID# _____

Name of Hospital _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Printed Name of Managing Veterinarian or CVT

Signature _____

Date Completed the 30 hours _____

Name of Hospital _____

Address _____

Phone_____

Printed Name of Managing Veterinarian or CVT

Signature_____

Date Completed the 30 hours_____

Name of Hospital_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Printed Name of Managing Veterinarian or CVT

Signature_____

Date Completed the 30 hours_____

Student Name_____

Student ID#_____

Pensacola State College

Veterinary Technology Program Estimated Costs

	Per Credit	Total Cost
Tuition by credit hour: In-state	\$90.78	\$6626.94
Alabama resident	\$91.83	\$6703.59
Non-Florida Resident	\$342.21	\$24,951.33

Additional Expenses Estimates:

Books.....	\$500
Lab Fees.....	\$1000
Uniforms.....	\$150
Immunizations	\$570 for the series of 3 for the Rabies. Please contact county health department, Ms. Debra Paul for complete information and ordering. The Tetanus is approximately \$40.
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 300
Graduation	\$ Contact the college.

These fees are based on the 2010-2011 Catalog and are subject to change.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID ALONG WITH YOUR PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE APPLICATION. DO NOT WAIT.

Students who need assistance in paying the costs associated with their attendance at Pensacola State College should complete the, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Filing a FAFSA will determine if a student qualifies for any of the aid programs.

<http://pjc.edu/students/services/financialServices.asp>

Pensacola State College Veterinary Technology Program Student Checklist

_____ Read and understand the information in the Pensacola State College catalog regarding the

Academic and Student Services
Student Handbook that includes student rights and responsibilities.
Admissions/Testing/Regulations/Financial Aid/Graduation

_____ Complete and submit Pensacola State College Application and associated fees according to the directions in the current catalog and the student handbook.

_____ Official Transcripts sent to Admissions and Registration office.

_____ Complete the FAFSA for financial aid.

_____ Apply to the Veterinary Technology program using the **Health-Related** application form.
It is your responsibility to apply by the date required for entrance into the fall semester.

_____ Contact the program office at veterinarytech@pensacolastate.edu for a advising your course of study.

_____ Make sure you have completed all requirements for entrance into Pensacola State College to begin your general education requirements.

_____ Complete general education requirements as listed in the program curriculum.

_____ Complete the 30 hours of Veterinary Clinic Observation

Reading and following directions is crucial to success in the program and the field of veterinary medicine. Please make sure you have read through this information packet and contact the program office to ensure the completion of requirements.

Please start your volunteer experience early in your education process to allow sufficient time to complete your 30 hours or to decide if the veterinary technician program and employment as a veterinary technician is the proper fit for you.

Once all criteria are met you will be moved to candidate status in chronological order. You will also be required to attend orientation and accept a seat in the program.