Pensacola State College

Veterinary Technology Program

Information Packet

Contact Information:
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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.

Revised June 2015

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).

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 the fall semester 2016 the application is due by May 1, 2016.**
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 recent 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 by June 2016 and given a program orientation date.   **Each student will be REQUIRED to attend an ORIENTATION seminar prior to official start of classes.**

Credentialing

Upon completion of the AS program from this CVTEA-accredited program, 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 (depending on state regulation)**.**

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

                -OR-

3. BSC1010 Prin. Of Biology   3
4. BSC 1010L Prin. Of Biology 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 Fall

ATE 1050 Canine and Feline Behavior   2
ATE 1110 Animal Anatomy and Physiology Lecture   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
                                            12

Core Course Semester Spring

ATE 1636Large Animal Clinical Procedures   3
ATE 1636L Large Animal Clinical Procedures Lab   1
ATE 2618 Small Animal Diseases   3
ATE 2632 Small Animal Clinical Procedures 2   3
ATE 2632L Small Animal Clinical Procedures 2 Lab   1
ATE 1612 Large Animal Medicine   3
ATE 1941L Clinical Work Experience One   1
                                            15

Core Course Semester Three Summer

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
	6

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
	12

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
	12

Total Core Credits	**57**
General Education Total	**16**
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 or 850-471-4673.

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. It is advisable to obtain varied observations from different areas within the hospital (reception, surgical/anesthesia suite, and medical treatment area, for example) or from three separate veterinary hospitals.

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 the program. If cohorts have a felony conviction (s), open court case, or are on active probation, these are disqualifying factors.

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 ASSISTANCE.

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.

Rabies/Tetanus Vaccination Declaration or Declination

Please sign the following:

I have **completed/will complete** the Rabies vaccination. _____

Please provide documentation.

OR

I **decline** Rabies vaccination at this time._____

Parent's signature if under 18. _____

I have **completed/will complete** the Tetanus vaccination. _____

Please provide documentation.

OR

I **decline** Tetanus vaccination at this time. _____

Parent's signature if under 18. _____

Date_____

Witness_____

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS YOU MAY CONTACT Ms. Sarah Meyer-Paterson at 850-471-4673 OR VETERINARYTECH@PENSACOLASTATE.EDU

ESCAMBIA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTACT IS:

850-595-6524

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**. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU ARE EXPECTED TO PERFORM THESE TASKS.**

_____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.

_____Equipment and instrument maintenance.

_____Lab procedures, fecal analysis, urinalysis, serology, blood cytology. Sample prep for shipping.

_____Euthanasia.

_____Other:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Student Name_____

Student ID#_____

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	$104.58	$7634.34
	Alabama resident	$105.58	$7707.34
	Non-Florida Resident	$419.76	$30,642.48

Additional Expenses Estimates:

Books/supplies……………………………………………………………$1400
Lab Fees…………………………………………………………………….$680
Uniforms…………………………………………………………………….$150
Liability Insurance……………………………………………………….$10
Tetanus Vaccination……………………………………………………$40
Rabies Vaccination Series……………………………………………~$800 for the series of 3 vaccines.
Please contact county health department for complete information and ordering.
Forensic Drug Pane and Background Screen…………………………………………………………..$90

These fees are based on the 2014-2015 Catalog and are subject to change.

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID ALONG WITH YOUR PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE APPLICATION. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PROGRAM.

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; all students are required to complete a FAFSA application.

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 f**or advising in 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 <u>required</u> to attend orientation to accept a seat in the program.