What is Veterinary Technology? Veterinary technicians perform many skills in a veterinary practice, including nursing care, anesthesia, assisting in surgery, and diagnostic testing. Veterinary technicians must have not only a passion and love for animals, but also a strong interest in medicine and a genuine desire to help people. Graduates may work in veterinary offices, emergency and critical care, zoological medicine, laboratory animal medicine, and pharmaceutical sales. Learn more about the career at www.navta.net

Length of Program
5 semesters (not including prerequisite courses)

Semester Program Begins
Fall Semester; Full time; Day classes only

Application Process
1. Apply to Gwinnett Technical College at www.gwinnetttech.edu and submit all transcripts from high school and previous college work, or take the COMPASS test if required.

2. Applicants are initially accepted into the Healthcare Science Certificate program while completing the required prerequisite courses.

3. TEAS V Exam must be completed prior to the May 20th deadline and must be taken at Gwinnett Technical College.

4. Fall 2015 Program Application must be turned in by May 20, 2015. Please download an application packet at: http://www.gwinnetttech.edu; go to forms and documents, scroll down to program applications; select Veterinary Technology Application.

Prerequisite Courses
BIOL 1111* and BIOL 1111L*
CHEM 1211** and CHEM 1211L**
ENGL 1101
One of the following: MATH 1101 or MATH 1111 or MATH 1113 or 1131
One of the following: HUMN 1101, ARTS 1101, MUSC 1101 or ENGL 2130
One of the following: ECON 2105, ECON 2106, SOCI 1101, HIST 1111,
   HIST 1112, HIST 2111, HIST 2112, POLS 1101,
   PSYC 1101

*Course must be completed within five years of the competitive program Application deadline. **Course must be completed within 10 years of the competitive program Application deadline.

FYES 1000 (only this class may be completed after the May 20 deadline)

Program Deadlines
For Fall 2015 semester admission, application file including Health Essay and all prerequisites must be completed by May 20, 2015

Competitive Admissions
1. A mandatory meeting will be held after the deadline for all applicants who have completed the prerequisites.

2. Candidates will be interviewed.

Cecilia Fuentes, Program Support Specialist cfuentes@gwinnetttech.edu (678) 226-6966. For admission and enrollment, contact:
Enrollment Support Center in Building 100 or at healthteam@gwinnetttech.edu
Veterinary Technology

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Nature of the Work

Owners of pets and other animals today expect superior veterinary care. To provide this service, veterinarians use the skills of veterinary technicians, who perform many of the same duties for a veterinarian that a nurse would for a physician.

Veterinary technicians typically conduct clinical work in a private practice under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Veterinary technicians often perform various medical tests and treat medical conditions and diseases in animals. For example, they may perform laboratory tests such as urinalysis and blood counts, assist with dental care, prepare tissue samples, take blood samples, and assist veterinarians in a variety of other diagnostic tests. Some veterinary technicians record patients’ case histories, expose and develop x-rays and radiographs, and provide specialized nursing care. In addition, experienced veterinary technicians may discuss a pet’s condition with its owners and train new clinic personnel. Veterinary technicians assisting small-animal practitioners usually care for small pets, such as cats and dogs, but can perform a variety of duties with mice, rats, sheep, pigs, cattle, monkeys, birds, fish, and frogs. Some veterinary technicians work in mixed animal practices where they care for both small pets and large, domestic animals.

Besides working in private clinics and animal hospitals, some veterinary technicians work in research facilities under the guidance of veterinarians or physicians. In this role, they may administer medications, prepare samples for laboratory examinations, or record information on an animal’s genealogy, diet, weight, medications, food intake, and clinical signs of pain and distress. Some may sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment and provide routine postoperative care. Occasionally, veterinary technicians may have to euthanize seriously ill, severely injured, or unwanted animals.

Work Environment

While people who love animals get satisfaction from helping them, some of the work may be unpleasant, physically and emotionally demanding, and sometimes dangerous. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that full-time veterinary technicians experienced a work-related injury and illness rate that was much higher than the national average. At times, veterinary technicians must clean cages and lift, hold, or restrain animals, risking exposure to bites or scratches. These workers must take precautions when treating animals with germicides or insecticides. The work setting can be noisy. In some animal hospitals, research facilities, and animal shelters, a veterinary technician is on duty 24 hours a day, which means that some work night shifts. Most full-time veterinary technicians work about 40 hours a week, although some work 50+ hours a week.

Employment

Employment of veterinary technicians is expected to grow 52 percent nationally over the 2010-2020 projection period. A growing pet population will require more veterinary technicians. As veterinarians perform more specialized tasks, clinics and animal hospitals are increasingly using veterinary technicians to provide more general care and do laboratory work. In May 2010, there were approximately 80,200 veterinary technicians employed nationwide.

Earnings

Median annual wages nationally of veterinary technologists and technicians were $30,209 in May 2012. The bottom 10 percent earned less than $21,030 and the top 10 percent earned more than $44,038.

Research the Career

http://www.avma.org/  
https://www.navta.net/