Volunteer State Community College
Veterinary Technology
Information Packet

Dear Potential Applicant,

I am pleased to give you information on the Veterinary Technician Program here at Volunteer State Community College. This is a two- year program that cumulates in an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Veterinary Technology. The program is designed to prepare students to become licensed veterinary medical technicians. Many veterinary technicians work in private veterinary practices, but other career options include industry, education, humane societies, zoos and wildlife parks, military, and research.

The Veterinary Technician Program has limited seating with only one new class a year of 24 students accepted every Spring semester. The deadline for applying to the program is the first Friday of November. This information packet is meant to give you valuable information on how to apply to the program. However, it is recommended that you speak to a Vet Tech Advisor before registering for classes. Please contact DJ or me for advising questions or general injuries. Our contact information is below.

Students are encouraged to visit the [National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America](www.navta.net) (www.navta.net) for more information about a career in Veterinary Technology.

Students interested in going on to become a veterinarian should take the more rigorous General Biology (BIOL 1110) and General Chemistry (CHEM 1110) courses. Please visit [The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges](www.aavmc.org) (www.aavmc.org) for more detailed information about applying to Veterinary School.

Students that are not interested in the science heavy coursework or the time commitment for Veterinary Technology may be interested in our [Veterinary Assistant Program](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. K. Hope Wright DVM
Program Director Veterinary Technology
Veterinary Technology Building Room 104A
Hope.wright@volstate.edu

Clinical Coordinator and Veterinary Technician Advisor
DJ Smith LVMT
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Required for Consideration into the Program

1. [Admission to the College](www.volstate.edu/admissions) (www.volstate.edu/admissions)
2. Acceptable placement scores or completion of all learning support in Reading, Writing, and Math
3. Minimum overall GPA of 2.5 for students that have completed a semester of college
4. Must have completed or be currently enrolled in either Biology or Chemistry
   a. Pass with a grade of C or better by the end of fall semester in which you apply
5. Completion of 8 Observation / shadowing hours with a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician
   a. Observation is designed to foster true interest in the profession
   b. A completed [Observation Form](#) must be submitted with your application. If you work or have worked in a veterinary practice, you should complete the Veterinary Related Work Experience Form instead.
6. Ability to perform the essential expectations of a Veterinary Technician Student, included on application
7. [Application to the Veterinary Technology Program](#) – **due by the first Friday in November**

All forms can be found on the [Vet Tech Application](#) webpage (www.volstate.edu/academics/mathematics-and-science/veterinary/technology/application)

Selection Process

All applicants that have completed the above steps will be invited to interview. Interviews will be held the week of Finals in December.

Applicants are selected based on:

- 1/3 points – college GPA (science GPA is weighted based on completed hours) *Students that have completed Introduction to Biology (BIOL 1010) (or higher),* **and** *Fundamental of Chemistry (CHEM 1030) (or higher) will be given more points than other applicants.* We will include classes taken Fall in this calculation.
- 1/3 points – Application components: reference letter, relevant veterinary work experience (must complete work experience form) and essay
- 1/3 points – Interview

The final decision will not be made until Fall grades are posted. Only 24 positions are available in the Program. The selected applicants are first given conditional acceptance. Students with Conditional Acceptance must complete the following before Formal Acceptance is extended.

- Sign and submit the acceptance letter
- Submit proof of Health Insurance and Tetanus vaccination
- Pass a background check
- Schedule Rabies vaccination

Students are required to pass a background check to participate in the Clinical Practicum classes. The background checks look at past drug use and other criminal charges. Students that cannot pass a background check must have a conversation with the program director before applying.

Students must get a rabies prophylactic vaccination to participate in live animal skills, which are a required part of every semester. Without completion of those skills, students will not pass that semester.

Students who do not complete any of the above items by the deadline will not be given Formal Acceptance. That position will then be offered to the first Alternate.

Student Expectations

All admitted Veterinary Technology students must pass all the VET classes with a "C" or better to progress in the program. **All VET courses are to be taken in the specified order; any alterations may delay graduation. The VET courses meet 3 days a week and are rigorous and fast paced.**

All admitted students must participate in Animal Care Rotations. Any student that abuses or neglects an animal used in this program may be immediately dismissed from the program. See other essential student expectations below.

Program Costs

Below is an estimation of the cost of the Veterinary Technology program, **in addition to tuition**. Students are expected to complete the program in four semesters, with 13 to 16 credit hours per semester. Please see the Financial Aid – tuition webpage for tuition costs.

Student's Expenses	Estimated Cost
Background check	$50
Tetanus vaccine	$50
Rabies prophylactic vaccine	$1000 – varies
Health ins.	Various
Textbooks (VET)	$500
Scrubs	$40 per pair
Stethoscope – and other equipment	$130
Lab coat	$20
Coveralls and boots	$70
Background ck for license	$35
State of TN License fee	$85
National Exam fee	$330

Accreditation

The Veterinary Technology program at Volunteer State Community College is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA CVTEA) as a program that educates veterinary technicians

AVMA – CVTEA

1931 North Meacham Rd Suite 100

Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360

800-248-2862

Recommended Schedule

Students should enter school with Math and Science – Vet Tech as a major.

Fall I	Course	Hours
BIOL 1010 OR BIOL 1030 OR BIOL 1110	Introduction to Biology – *Lecture and Lab* Or Essentials of Biology or General Biology	4
CHEM 1030	Fundamental of Chemistry – *Lecture and Lab*	4
COMM 2025 OR COMM 2045	Fundamentals of Speech Communication OR Public Speaking	3
AHC 115	*Medical Terminology	3
Total Hours		14

VET courses cannot be taken until Formal Acceptance into the Program. (If not accepted into the program, then continue taking courses from Math and Science Degree).

Spring I	Course	Hours
ENGL 1010	English Composition I	3
ECON 2200 OR PSYC 1030	Principles of Microeconomics OR General Psychology	3
VET 101	*Introduction to Veterinary Technology – *Lecture and Lab*	3
VET 110	*Applied Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology – *Lecture and Lab*	4
VET 125	*Laboratory Animal Care – *Lecture and Lab*	3
Total Hours		16

Summer I	Course	Hours
PHIL 1040	Ethics	3
VET 130	*Pharmacology and Therapeutics	4
VET 150	*Clinical Practicum I – *Lecture and Clinical Rotations*	4
VET 210	*Veterinary Imaging	3
Total Hours		14

Fall II	Course	Hours
VET 205	*Microbiology for Vet Tech – *Lecture and Lab*	4
VET 215	*Small Animal Medical Nursing – *Lecture and Lab*	3
VET 230	*Veterinary Clinical Pathology – *Lecture and Lab*	3
VET 251	*Clinical Practicum II – *Lecture and Clinical Rotations*	4
Total Hours		14

Spring II	Course	Hours
VET 105	*Large Animal Medical Nursing – *Lecture and Lab*	3
VET 220	*Veterinary Anesthesia and Surgery – *Lecture and Lab*	4
VET 261	*Clinical Practicum III	4
VET 265	*VTNE Review	1
Total Hours		12
Credit Hour	Total for Program	70

Application Checklist

Checklist of Items to be included with the completed Application:

Required Documentation	Included
Page 1 of Application with Passport Size Photo	
Short Essay – Why you want to be a Vet Tech	
All non-Vol State College Transcripts submitted *to Admissions Office*	
Reference Letter – 1	
Observation Form – with 8 hours observation or Work experience form	

See below for a few tips that may make completing the application easier.

Vet Tech Application Tips

Contact Information

- Put cell and email address that you use/check

College Classes

- If you have not completed a semester of college yet, leave GPA blank
- If you are not a Vol State student, send us an unofficial copy of your transcript and send the Vol State Office of Admissions an official copy.

Short Essay

- It should be 1 to 3 paragraphs
- It should have 2-3 reasons why you want to be a vet tech (other than or in addition to your love for animals)
- Use Word or Google Docs to write it and have it check your grammar and spelling
- Have someone review it - does it sound as good to them as it did to you

Reference Letter

- Should not be from the place you observed, unless you are employed there or have volunteered there for several months at least
- Should not be from a friend or family member, unless you work for them
- Can be addressed to the Application Committee or To Whom It May Concern

Additional Information

- The picture can be a simple headshot
- There are several free apps that allow you to use your phone's camera to scan documents. Most will allow you to scan all your documents and send as one pdf
    o Cam Scanner and Lens (Microsoft)

Essential Expectations of a Veterinary Technology Student

The veterinary technology field is both intellectually and physically challenging. VSCC does not discriminate against students with disabilities and provides access to its programs and services in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act/Amendments Act (ADA/AA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. However, all students must meet the essential skills and technical standards to perform functions required of the veterinary technician program and veterinary profession, with or without reasonable accommodations.

General Physical Requirements

Students must:

- Be physically able to tolerate walking and standing for at least 10 minutes at a time, multiple times per hour
- Be physically able to lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level or higher at least several times per day
- Be physically able to handle, position and restrain live small and large animals
- Possess fine motor movements in order to perform the essential skills of the profession
  - Examples include: dexterity to manipulate small equipment, adjust resistance on equipment, hold hooves while cleaning and evaluating, manage syringes, catheters, and common surgical instruments
- Possess tactile ability necessary for physical assessment and to perform nursing duties in a timely manner
  - Examples include: performing palpation during physical exams, administering oral, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intravenous medication, insert and remove tubes, collect organic samples from live animals and perform wound care
- Possess adequate visual ability, with or without correction, that allows the determination of minute areas of detail, very small variations in color and adequate depth perception
- Possess auditory ability necessary to monitor and assess health status, including auscultation of heart and lungs, and hear equipment alarms and warning sounds from animals, humans, and/or equipment of impending danger or injury
- Recognize and respond appropriately to distress sounds from animals and alarms/warning signals on animal-monitoring equipment directly and through intercommunication systems to ensure patient safety

Cognitive Ability and Interpersonal Skills

Students must:
- Be able to function in a structured environment within significant time constraints and capable of making rapid decisions in urgent situations and meeting deadlines
- Be able to complete required tasks/functions under stressful and/or unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations
- Maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close human and animal contact
- Be able to interact appropriately with clients and all members of the veterinary healthcare team

Reasonable Disability Accommodations

Request for reasonable accommodations must be initiated by the student. Accommodations may not provide unfair advantage to the students, fundamentally alter the nature and substance of the curriculum, present an undue burden for VSCC, pose a direct threat to the safety of patients, or compromise the academic integrity of the program. Students should be aware that a potential employer may not be amenable to use of accommodations that result in undue burden to the employer. Students receiving accommodations must be aware that these may not be available from a perspective employer. Veterinary practices with small numbers of employees may be exempt from the requirements of the ADA/AA.