



Veterinary Medical Assisting

Member of the New York Association of Agricultural Educators (NYAAE)



VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSISTING is an important part of the veterinary health care team in clinics, zoos, pet shops and research facilities. Students work with a large variety of animals such as dogs, cats, rodents, birds/poultry, farm animals, and reptiles. General care and feeding of various species as well as tasks the veterinary assistant perform are under the guidance of a veterinary technician or veterinarian. Tasks include: animal feeding, basic animal grooming, animal nursing, common office/clinic procedures, client education, exam room procedures, surgical and diagnostic lab procedures, maintenance of animal/medical records on computers and other skills as recommended by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America. Day students will participate in a vaccination clinic onsite at the Huntington Campus. Students may receive certificates in kennel maintenance, shelter worker, veterinary foundations and bite safety.

Work Environment

Veterinary Assistants have a wide range of employment opportunities in animal clinics, veterinarian's offices, pet stores, laboratories, pet grooming shops, animal shelters, zoos, and preserves.

Career Opportunities

Veterinary Assistant
Lab Animal Technician
Grooming Assistant
Pet Shop employee
Animal Caretaker
Field Biologists Assistant
Zookeeper

Advanced Standing Available*

Alfred State
Five Towns College
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Delhi
SUNY Jefferson Community College

*College credits may be earned by meeting the criteria of articulation agreements (see listing in Handbook) Tech has established with SELECT colleges. In addition, check directly with the post-secondary institutions for any additional credits they may offer.

Academic credits integrated:

Tech Math, Tech Phys Sci, Eng. 12, CFM, Comp App

CTE Endorsement

Students must successfully meet the academic and attendance criteria for a two-year Wilson Tech Certificate of Completion, be High School diploma eligible, and pass the following exam: National Occupational Competency Institute (NOCTI) - Veterinary Assistant PA.

Student Supplies

Additional supplies will need to be purchased for this program including a uniform.

Average Annual Wage

Salaries are subject to market fluctuations.

For the most current updates on local & national wages go to job search engines on the internet and www.careerzone.ny.gov

Helpful Preparatory Courses

- Biology with lab
- Chemistry with lab
- Algebra 1

Course Outline:

- Individual Animal Care & Handling Bio-profiles
- Basics in Grooming
- Office, Hospital & Kennel Maintenance Procedures
- Small Animal Nursing & Pharmacology
- Client Communication/Medical Record Keeping
- Exam and Treatment Room Procedures
- Surgical Preparation and Assisting
- Laboratory Procedures
- Animal Disease & Health Maintenance
- Diagnostic Imaging Assisting