

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.