



**Georgetown/Owens Campus
Technical Standards
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (VET)**

The Technical Standards identified are for students in the Veterinary Technology (VET) Program at the Georgetown/Owens campus of Delaware Technical Community College. Prospective students should read and evaluate their personal capabilities to meet these standards. As a VET student, you will be required to perform essential skills set forth by the VET Program's accrediting body, American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA-CVTEA). The following physical, cognitive, behavioral, and environmental technical standards are encountered by VET students in training and emulate the entry level skills required of a veterinary technician in practice. VET students will be required to proficiently perform the identified skills designated below, with or without accommodations, as evaluated by College VET faculty and/or adjunct faculty.

The goal of the Veterinary Technology Program is to reflect the skills and competencies a program graduate will be expected to demonstrate proficiency on the job in their chosen career as a veterinary technician. The Program realizes the duties a veterinary technician will perform depends on the type of facility he/she works; however, AVMA-CVTEA requires proficiency working with dogs, cats, horses, ruminants, rodents, and birds.

It is in your best interest, as a potential VET student to read each standard. If you are unable to perform any of the technical standard, you will need to schedule an appointment with the VET Department Chairperson and/or Americans with Disability Act (ADA) counselor to discuss your situation. This will increase your prospective success at the College and assist with your goal to become an employed veterinary technician.

Individuals with disabilities who are otherwise qualified are welcome to apply to the program. You are encouraged to meet with the campus Americans with Disability Act (ADA) counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations, which would allow you to perform the tasks described in these standards.

The field of Veterinary Technology is both intellectually and physically challenging. These standards are necessary in order to protect the students, other veterinary personnel, as well as the patients. A complete listing of AVMA-CVTEA Essential Skills can be found at <https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/cvtea-pp-appendix-i.aspx>.

Program Graduate Competencies (PGC):
(The competencies every graduate will develop specific to his/her major.)

- 1. Apply theoretical information that leads to appropriate action in the application or delivery of veterinary nursing procedures. (Cognitive Domain)**
- 2. Competently perform a full range of veterinary nursing procedures used in small and large animal medicine. (Psychomotor Domain)**
- 3. Practice behaviors that are consistent with the Veterinary Technology Code of Ethics and employer expectations/requirements. (Affective Domain)**

<i>PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS</i>
<i>GENERAL</i>
Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level or higher at least several times per day.
Bend, stoop, and crouch with a prolonged period of time as required to clean the hooves of horses, taking equine radiographs, applying bandages, and obtaining milk sample from cow.
Handle, position, secure, and restrain live animals, including dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep, rodents, and birds, for physical examination, venipuncture, and radiographic imaging.
Stand on concrete, slab, tile, or other non-carpeted or padded floor at least three hours with arms bent at the elbow and held in front of chest.
Sustain extended, direct contact with multiples species of animals without hypersensitivity or other allergic reaction.
<i>MOBILITY AND MANUAL DEXTERITY</i>
Walk (with or without restraining or leading an animal) on a variety of surfaces and/or uneven terrain.
Move entire body a distance of no less than six feet within two seconds of a signal to do so, to move rapidly from danger while handling animals in confined spaces
Manipulate, load, and compress a variety of sizes (1 cc to 60 cc) of single use syringes with one hand technique (when applicable) and/or multiple dose syringe.
Place and secure a variety of types of catheters, including over-the-needle and through-the-needle intravenous catheters, while maintaining aseptic technique in dogs, cats, horses, ruminants, and birds.
Grasp, operate, and/or exchange a variety of surgical instruments, including forceps and hemostats, using one hand technique while maintaining aseptic technique.
Move and react quickly to emergency or triage situation.
Grasp, tie, and secure a variety of small diameter material, including suture material, rope, and gauze.
Approach a horse in a stall, place a halter on horse, and lead horse from the stall avoiding injury to animal or personnel.
Move cattle into sweep (corral) from open pasture or holding pen and safely secure animal in squeeze chute avoiding injury to animal or personnel.
Grasp, secure, position and/or move equipment, including radiograph cassette holder, anesthesia monitoring equipment, and gurney.
Complete physical assessment in a timely fashion, including temperature, heart/pulse rate, respiration rate, gut sounds/ruminations (as applicable) in dogs, cats, horses, ruminants, rabbits, and birds.
Perform venipuncture and intravenous injection using a variety of venous sites in small and large animals.
<i>Auditory, Olfactory, and Visual Skills</i>
Determine minute areas of detail, very small variations in color and adequate depth perception, including differentiation of details as viewed through a microscope.
Characterize and interpret the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body fluids, observing variations in skin and mucus membrane color, integrity, pulsation, tissue swelling, hydration, etc.
Read, monitor and set parameters on veterinary medical equipment and modalities, including ECG, pulse oximeter, refractometer, autoclave, fluid pump, centrifuge, etc.
Observe and assess the immediate and distant environment for safety considerations in a variety of settings.
Detect movement of large animals in a pen, corral, or stall.
Observe and react to body language, visual, and auditory cues of animals indicating pain, distress, fear, etc.

Gather information from medical records, hand written veterinarian orders and professional literature.
Observe and assess as necessary in nursing care, including ICU, both from a distance and close by in order to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behavior of animal.
Discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is no more than 0.5 mm in width including characterizing bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate and density patterns on a radiograph
Assess and monitor health status, including auscultation of heart, lungs, and gut sounds/ruminations (when applicable) of a variety of species.
Hear conversation, including telephone, from a client, veterinary support personnel and/or veterinarian.
Recognize and respond to alarms/warning signals on animal-monitoring equipment and/or fire alarms directly and through intercommunication systems to ensure patient safety.
Recognize permanent (tattoo, ear tags, etc.)/temporary devices, microchip, and breed characteristics (color, pattern) to correctly identify an animal.
Detect and respond appropriately to odors in order to maintain environmental safety, sanitation, and patient needs.
Communicate in a surgery room while all occupants wear surgical masks.
<i>TACTILE</i>
Palpate normal and abnormal structures, including thyroid, lymph nodes, mammary gland, urinary bladder, tumors, etc. describing position, size, consistency, and attachment.
Assess quality and/or strength of peripheral (all species) and digital (equine) pulses using two finger method.
Identify variations in temperature of equipment to avoid injury or trauma to patient and/or personnel.
Palpate trachea of animal to determine proper endotracheal tube size.
<i>COGNITIVE/MENTAL FACTORS</i>
<i>PROBLEM-SOLVING / CRITICAL THINKING</i>
Function in a structured environment within significant time constraints, make rapid decisions in urgent situations, and meet deadlines.
Assist with and/or perform techniques on sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals without fear or hesitation.
Complete required tasks/functions under stressful and/or unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations.
Assess information from books, reference manuals, computers, and paper/electronic documents to perform duties.
Prioritize, organize, and utilize time-management skills to perform tasks.
Evaluate, synthesize and communicate diagnostic information to the attending veterinarian and/or veterinary support personnel
Make appropriate professional and procedural judgment decisions under stressful and/or emergency conditions, emergent demands, and distracting environments (high noise level, complex visual stimuli, aggressive animals, etc.).
<i>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS</i>
<i>EXPOSURE TO ZOOBOTIC DISEASES</i>
Handle, restrain, and treat animals regardless of health condition or infectious state.
Adhere to Universal Standard Precautions and wear protective equipment (safety glasses, face mask/shield, ear plugs, protective clothing and gloves, lead gown, gloves, and thyroid shield for radiation protection).
Obtain pre-exposure rabies series or demonstrate protective titer prior to animal handling labs in accordance with Center of Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for veterinary profession risk level.
<i>PSYCHOSOCIAL / BEHAVIORAL FACTORS</i>
<i>BEHAVIORAL SKILLS</i>
Recognize and respond appropriately to potentially dangerous and stressful situations.
Uphold the Veterinary Technician Code of Ethical Conduct.
Maintain professional and patient confidentiality.
Demonstrate the emotional health and stability required to fully utilize intellectual capabilities, demonstrate good judgment, and render humane and compassionate care and treatment to animals.
Demonstrate professional and socially appropriate behavior.
Maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close human and animal contact.

<i>INTERPERSONAL SKILLS</i>

Maintain professional demeanor in all clinical interactions.
Interact appropriately with individuals of all ages, genders, races, socio-economic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.
Establish trust and confidence with veterinarian, veterinary support personnel, clients, producers, and practice managers.
Work effectively with grieving clients and their pets during end of life discussions and euthanasia.
Receive and follow directions/instructions and/or feedback from supervisors.
COMMUNICATION SKILLS
Communicate effectively both verbally and in written form in English through interaction with veterinarians, veterinary support personnel, and clients.
Ability to modify communication (verbal and written) to meet the needs of different audiences such as veterinarian, veterinary support personnel, practice manager, and client.
Recognize impact of non-verbal communication and modify accordingly.
Report orally with confidence in a variety of settings.
Complete a variety of professional documents conforming to all rules of English punctuation, grammar, diction, and style.
Effectively use a computer to enhance communication, document using word processing, and operate management software programs for medical documentation, billing and/or scheduling.
Write clearly and correctly in veterinary medical records for legal documentation.
Comprehend and carry out complex written and oral instructions given in English.
Recognize common abbreviations used in veterinary medical terminology.
EFFECTIVE USE OF TIME AND RESOURCES
Set priorities and reorganize and/or delegate tasks when needed in dynamic situations and clinical settings.
Perform multiple tasks simultaneously.
Cope with heavy workloads, client demands, and changes in schedule.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss further the Technical Standards required of VET program students, please contact the VET Department Chairperson, Dr. Quillen, at (302) 259-6700 or email (vquillen@dtcc.edu).

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bans discrimination of persons with disabilities. In keeping with this law, Delaware Tech makes every effort to ensure quality education for all students. However, we feel obligated to inform students of the technical standards/essential functions demanded by the physical therapy profession.

If reasonable accommodations are necessary, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the DTCC Owens campus ADA coordinator at 302 259-6045.

DTCC, Owens is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution and complies with all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

