What is a Veterinary Technician?

You may know what a veterinarian is, but do you know what a veterinary technician is? Licensed veterinary technicians and technologists are essentially the equivalent to a human medicine registered nurse. They play an integral role in the veterinary health care team, collaborating with veterinarians to provide care for animals and education for the public. They are trained in the care and handling of animals, the basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and in routine laboratory and clinical procedures. Their extensive knowledge and expertise allows the veterinary health care team to provide the highest quality of care in an effective and efficient manner.

Vet techs work in private clinics, animal hospitals, industry, shelter medicine, biomedical research, government, and public health fields such as food and animal safety.

The MSU Veterinary Technology Program

Key components of the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine’s program include courses that focus on anatomy, physiology, nutrition, animal diseases, veterinary nursing, and laboratory procedures. Knowledge gained in core courses is enhanced through clinical application of nursing and technical skills at the MSU Veterinary Medical Center during the final phases of the program.

As an AVMA-accredited program, graduates are eligible to complete the national board examinations for licensure. The Program offers two options: a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology and a Certificate of Completion that starting in fall of 2018, will articulate with an Associate in Applied Science degree from Lansing Community College.

The Bachelor’s Degree

4-year program designed for individuals who already completed an Associate’s degree or have not completed a degree of any type.

Students wishing to apply for the Bachelor’s degree program must complete the program’s required 12 credits of prerequisite courses prior to matriculating into the Program.

In addition, students must complete a total of 120 credit hours, including all the veterinary technology course requirements, to be eligible for graduation with the Bachelor’s degree. All students wishing to apply to the Bachelor’s degree option should meet with an academic advisor to ensure they are meeting all MSU course requirements.

Credit Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisite Credits</th>
<th>General Coursework Credits</th>
<th>Elective Credits</th>
<th>Veterinary Technology Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>76</td>
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The Associate’s Degree in Applied Science and the Certificate of Completion

5-semester program designed for students who do not wish to earn a Bachelor’s degree and wish to earn an Associate’s in Applied Science degree and a Certificate of Completion from the program. For specific degree requirements, contact Lansing Community College at www.lcc.edu.
Preating to Apply to the Veterinary Technology Program

During high school, you should complete college preparatory courses and participate in activities that focus on animals and veterinary medicine, like being a volunteer at your local humane society, 4-H participation, or experience with shadowing a local veterinarian.

Selection Criteria

GPA
To be considered for admission, an applicant must have:
• Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75
• Minimum math and science GPA of 2.5
• Minimum of 2.5 GPA for the most recent 12 credits

Veterinary-Related Experience
• Required minimum 80 hours of veterinary-related experience prior to deadline
• Veterinary-related experience is defined as hours spent as a volunteer, observer, or work under the supervision of a veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician
• The total number of hours and the quality of the hours will be considered during application review

Three Evaluation Forms
• At least one from a veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician
• At least one academic reference (advisor, professor, or counselor)
• An individual of the applicant’s choice (non-relative)

Applicant Essays
The applicant essays are designed to demonstrate an applicant’s knowledge and understanding of the veterinary health care team and the skills and qualities necessary to be a successful member of that team. The essays will be evaluated based on how effectively the applicant’s thoughts are conveyed.

For questions, please email prevet@cvm.msu.edu to make an advising appointment.