Lone Star College – Tomball Veterianry Technology Program

Technical Standards information and signature form

The field of Veterinary Technology is both intellectually and physically challenging. The curriculum of the Lone Star College - Tomball Veterinary Technology Program seeks to provide a foundation in Veterinary Technology that will prepare the student to become successfully credentialed and perform a wide variety of professional roles within the veterinary field. A candidate for the profession of Veterinary Technology must have abilities and skills in many different areas. The Association of Veterinary Technician Educators (AVTE) has identified the following essential and technical skills and standards for all students to demonstrate with or without a reasonable accommodation, although a program may specify other skills or standards.

General Physical Requirements - Students must:

* Possess the physical ability to
* Tolerate walking and standing for at least ten minutes at a time, multiple times per hour.
* Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level or higher, multiple times per day.
* Lift objects/animals weighing up to 50 pounds to a height of one meter or higher and carry the object/animal for two meters without assistance.
* Use hands and arms to handle, install, position, and move materials, equipment, and supplies without assistance.
* Handle, position, and restrain live animals of small and large animal species.
* Be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and be amenable to learning the safe handling, restraining, and working with these animals. An individual should not be allergic to any species of animals to the extent that would prohibit working in a facility that has them.
* Cognitive Ability - Students must:
* Be able to function in a structured environment within considerable time constraints and capable of making rapid decisions in urgent situations and meeting deadlines.
* Possess a willingness to assist with and perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting; including humane euthanasia and handling of sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals without fear.
* Be able to complete required tasks/functions under stressful and/or unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations.
* Be able to access information from books, reference manuals, computers, and paper and electronic medical documents to perform duties and safely use equipment without assistance.
* Be able to prioritize, organize, and utilize time-management skills to perform tasks.
* Evaluate, synthesize, and communicate diagnostic information to the attending veterinarian and/or staff.
* Be able to progress toward minimal supervision as they advance through the program.
* Communication Skills - Students must:
* Read, write, speak, and report accurately and effectively in English.
* Comprehend and conduct complex written, and oral instructions given in English.
* When communicating verbally with other individuals, either in person or by telephone, be able to make legible and coherent written notes, in English, within the margins and space provided on the appropriate forms.
* Professionalism and Interpersonal Skills - Students must:
* Demonstrate professional and socially appropriate behavior; 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.
* Have the ability to exercise good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural judgment decisions under stressful and/or emergency conditions (i.e., unstable patient condition), emergent demands (i.e., stat test orders), and a distracting environment (i.e., high noise levels, complex visual stimuli, aggressive animals).
* Manual Dexterity and Mobility - Students must:
* Be able to move his/her entire body no less than three meters within two seconds of a signal to do so, to move rapidly from danger while handling animals in confined spaces.
* Possess fine motor movements to perform the essential functions of the profession. This includes the 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. This includes 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 the ability to palpate and interpret findings, i.e., palpation of pulses, lymph nodes or trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size.
* Be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. This includes ability to assist in holding of hemostats or other instruments while assisting in surgery; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous and urinary catheters without assistance.
* Be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to an exceptionally fine string. This includes the ability to hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00-silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine and/or other body fluids; apply bandages without assistance.
* Auditory, Olfactory, and Visual Skills - Students must:
* Have functional use of senses to assess patients, interpret, and record data safely and correctly.
* Possess adequate visual ability, with or without correction, allowing for the determination of minute areas of detail, small variations in color and adequate depth perception (size, shape, and texture), including differentiation of details as viewed through a microscope. This includes ability to characterize and interpret the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body structures and fluids, observe variations in skin and mucus membrane color, integrity, pulsations, tissue swelling, etc.
* Possess visual ability to allow for observation and assessment as necessary in nursing care both from a distance and close by to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behaviors.
* 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 animal and alarms/warning signals on animal monitoring equipment directly and through intercommunication systems to ensure patient safety.
* Detect and respond appropriately to odors to maintain environmental safety and patient needs.
* Be able to use a compound microscope to identify cells and organisms and be able to differentiate colors of stained objects.
* Be able to observe movement at a distance ranging from 30-45 centimeters to 15-20 meters at a discrimination level that permits detection of subtle differences in movement of the limbs in animals. This includes ability to detect and describe a change in color of hair coat caused by licking or trauma; detect abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; ability to read anesthesia-monitoring equipment.
* Be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width. This includes ability to characterize bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; and ability to see ECG tracing.
* Possess adequate depth perception to allow detection of a 0.5 cm elevation, which is no more than 1cm in diameter on a slightly curved surface having a slightly irregular surface. This includes detection of tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth-haired dog and determining presence of reaction to skin testing for allergies.
* Be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading to permit oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks.
* Be able to perceive the origin of sound as needed to detect movement of large animals in a pen or corral, monitoring multiple patients in an ICU

Printed Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

LSC Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_