

**Northwestern CT Community College (NCCC)
Veterinary Technology Program
Information Packet**

Park Place East
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www.nwcc.edu

NCCC Admission Info: <http://www.nwcc.edu/future-students/degree-seeking-students>
Vet Tech Program Info: <http://www.nwcc.edu/academics/programs/degree-programs/vt>

Introduction

The Associate Degree in this AVMA fully-accredited program will prepare students for immediate employment in veterinary offices, biological research facilities, drug and feed manufacturing companies, and in the animal production industry. The objective of this program is to provide the classroom, laboratory, and field experience that will prepare students to be job entry-level competent in all of the above, with a special focus on companion animal medicine and practice. The NCCC Veterinary Technology Program promotes graduate success through a combination of challenging studies, extensive on-site hands-on learning opportunities, affiliations with off-site veterinary clinics, and continued emphasis on the need for lifelong learning.

After completing the Associate Degree program, eligible students have the option of transferring to the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Connecticut to major in either Animal Science or Pathobiology.

Program Prerequisites

The Veterinary Technology Program is a Selective Admissions Program, with applications accepted each spring for admittance in the following fall. There are currently three prerequisite courses, which must be completed with a “C” or higher prior to entry to the program – BIO121 General Biology, CHE111 Concepts of Chemistry, and MAT137 Intermediate Algebra. While it is possible to apply while the prerequisite course(s) are in progress, admission will then be contingent upon successful completion of the course(s) with a “C” or higher.

The application process includes submission of official transcripts, a Personal Statement, two Letters of Recommendation, and an interview with Program personnel. Depending on the ratio of applicants to available spots, not all students may be selected to interview. Prior experience in the field (either employment or shadowing/observation) is highly recommended, but not required.

Applicant ranking is based on: Prerequisite GPA; overall GPA; and quality of Essay Responses and Reference.

Program Academic Requirements

Students must apply and be formally accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program in order to register for VET* designated courses at NCCC. Matriculation into the Veterinary Technology Program is in the fall only, as most courses must be taken in sequence. Once enrolled, students may attend the NCCC Vet Tech Program on either a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time students can complete the program in two academic years (including a summer semester). Part-time students must complete all the program Veterinary Technology and Biology (VET* and BIO* designated) courses within a **five-year time** frame.

Once enrolled in the program, a minimum grade of “C” (2.00) is required in all VET* designated courses. Students that earn a grade of “C-” or lower, including grades of “W”, will only be allowed to repeat a class one time. Students who do not earn an acceptable grade of “C” after two attempts at a VET* designated course will be dropped from the NCCC Veterinary Technology Program.

The NCCC Veterinary Technology Program is time intensive. Full-time students should expect to spend 17-24 hours per week in class, and 3 hours of preparation (reading, studying, completing assignments and projects) for each hour spent in class. Several classes require student participation in animal care rotations, and it is the student's responsibility to perform that care even if they are not otherwise scheduled to be in class that day. In addition, the program requires regular field trips for some classes, as well as the completion of two off-campus externships of 150 and 180 hours, respectively. Students are responsible for their own transportation in all cases.

Transferring Credits

Once admitted to the Veterinary Technology Program, students must complete all VET courses at NCCC. Generally speaking, credits from other Veterinary Technology Programs are not eligible for transfer due to accreditation requirements, although in rare circumstances credit by exam may be allowed.

Due to this fact, students seeking transfer from another Veterinary Technology Program will be considered on an individual basis and are not guaranteed acceptance.

Transfer between Veterinary Technology programs in the Connecticut Community College system is also only allowed under very unusual circumstances, and the ability to do so is not guaranteed. Students wishing to transfer between community college programs must apply to the new program using the regular program admissions process. They must be in good standing with the original institution, and must demonstrate a significant need for the change. In addition, admission will be contingent upon space availability, as priority in class registration will be given to students already enrolled in the program. Finally, clinical courses (those containing hands-on skills) may not transfer due to accreditation requirements, and will have to be assessed on an individual basis.

Program Health / Vaccination Requirements

For any VET* designated courses numbered 150 or higher (excluding VET* 201 & VET* 202), a health assessment and rabies vaccination status form are required. These forms will be provided to applicants upon their acceptance to the program.

As part of the Health Assessment, students must be declared to be in overall good health, and must be capable of lifting a minimum of 50 lbs from the ground. It is strongly advised that all students be current on their tetanus vaccination.

Pre-exposure rabies vaccination is required for all students enrolling in the Veterinary Technology Program as of Fall 2021. The NCCC Veterinary Technology program utilizes shelter animals for which vaccination history is incomplete or unknown. Although students with medical exemptions to vaccination will still be allowed to register and participate in courses, they will not be allowed to work with any animals whose Rabies vaccine status is not up-to-date, or unknown; therefore failure to complete the Rabies Vaccination series may limit the student's ability to progress through the program in a timely manner.

Clinical labs also present hazards for veterinary technology students including, but not limited to, injury related to animal handling, exposure to diagnostic radiation, exposure to gas anesthetic agents, and

exposure to zoonotic diseases (transmissible from animals to humans). These hazards are of particular concern during pregnancy. NCCC will not accept liability if a student chooses to disregard these possible hazards during pregnancy. Therefore, pregnant students may only participate in clinical labs as permitted by their personal physicians/care provider.

Approximate Costs

Current detailed tuition rates are available at <http://www.ct.edu/admission/tuition>.

As of the Fall 2022 Semester, the estimated total cost of tuition and college fees for an in-state, full-time student completing the program in two years is approximately \$14,000 (including summer courses and program prerequisites). Total costs will be higher for part-time students, out-of-state students, and students required to repeat courses due to poor academic performance.

It is recommended that students purchase and keep their textbooks (as opposed to renting them or selling them back to a bookstore after course completion) because many of them will provide good references for the duration of their studies and career. Also, students are required to purchase and wear scrubs for their clinical labs. Students often choose to purchase personal equipment such as a stethoscope during their studies. Students should expect a cost of approximately \$2,000 for textbooks, scrubs, and other supplies over the course of the program.

The cost of the required health physical and rabies vaccination is estimated at \$1,200 - \$1400. The rabies vaccinations cost approximately \$400-\$450 per dose and three doses are required to complete the pre-exposure series. Students are encouraged to check with their personal health insurance provider to determine if the health physical and rabies vaccination expenses qualify for insurance coverage. Funds may be available to assist students in financial need. Further information on Rabies vaccination will be provided to students upon acceptance.

Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE)

Students who receive an Associate of Science Degree in Veterinary Technology from NCCC are qualified to sit for the VTNE. The VTNE is used to evaluate entry-level veterinary technicians' competency to practice and to be credentialed.

Veterinary technician credentialing is currently optional (i.e., not legally required) in the State of Connecticut. However, credentialing is legally required for veterinary technicians in the majority (37 out of 50 states) of the USA and voluntarily encouraged in 10 other states. Because the VTNE is used as a part of either required or voluntary credentialing in all but 3 US states or territories (including CT), NCCC **strongly** encourages its Veterinary Technology graduates to sit for the VTNE soon after graduation. Obtaining a passing score on the VTNE gives graduates the flexibility to obtain certification and employment in other states, besides CT.

Students seeking more information regarding the national board exam and veterinary technician credentialing should visit www.navta.net.