CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
at Northwestern

Veterinary Technology Program
Information Packet

Park Place East
Winsted, CT 06098
www.nwcc.edu

CT State Application 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 sit for the national board exam for Veterinary Technicians (the VTNE), and be competent for entry-level jobs in all of the above industries, 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 four prerequisite courses, which must be completed with a "C" or higher prior to entry to the program – ENG 1010 English Composition; BIO121) General Biology, CHE1110 Concepts of Chemistry, and MATH 1100 Quantitative Reasoning. Students are encouraged to have all prerequisites completed at the time of application; however, those with in-progress courses will be considered on a space-available basis. In such cases, students will receive a conditional acceptance that is contingent upon successful completion of all in-progress pre-requisite coursework.

Although not technically prerequisite courses, it is <u>strongly</u> recommended that all students complete CCS101 (College Career Success) and as many elective graduation requirements as possible prior to entering the program, as the courseload upon entering the program is very demanding.

Program Application

All applicants, even current CT State students, must create an application through CT State and select Nursing and Health Sciences as their field of interest. From there, they can select the application for the Veterinary Technology Program at Northwestern Campus. Matriculation is in the fall only, with an

application window of October 1 – February 1, for entry the following fall. Applications are due on February 1.

The application process includes submission of official transcripts, Essay Responses, 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; Aptitude for the field, as demonstrated by Essay Responses and Letters of Recommendation; and overall level of Professionalism as evidenced in the interview and in the application as a whole.

Decisions are made available on April 5. For students granted a Conditional Acceptance, their matriculation will be dependent on completion of all in-progress pre-requisite courses with a "C" or higher.

Students who miss the application deadline but have completed all prerequisite coursework will be considered on a space-available basis, and should contact the Program Coordinator for more information.

Program Course of Study
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 (5 semesters, 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

The transfer of non-program (VET) courses, such as prerequisite and elective coursework, must be coordinated through the CT State Admissions department, and official copies of all transcripts to be considered for transfer should be sent to the Admissions department at the time of application.

Once admitted to the Veterinary Technology Program, students must complete all VET courses at NCCC. 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 other than VET 1001, a health assessment and rabies vaccination status form (demonstrating recent vaccination or titer) are required. These forms will be provided to applicants upon their acceptance into the program.

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

The NCCC Veterinary Technology program utilizes community and shelter animals for which vaccination history is incomplete or unknown. As such, pre-exposure rabies vaccination is required for all students enrolling in the Veterinary Technology Program. Students who have previously been vaccinated for Rabies may also submit a titer as proof of immunity.

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 was approximately $16,000 (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 $1,300 -$1400 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 $1,100. The rabies vaccinations cost approximately $4-500 per dose and two 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 due to Occupational Risk, when enrolled in a veterinary technology program.

Two scholarships are available for Vet Tech Program students. Incoming and continuing students are encouraged to review the NCCC Financial Aid website for information on applying for these, and other, scholarship opportunities. Scholarship applications are due each spring for the upcoming academic year.

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. Because the VTNE is used as a part of either required or voluntary credentialing in all 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.

The Vet Tech Program at Northwestern offers a VTNE review course in the final semester of study; students who successfully complete the course and take the VTNE in the summer after graduation are eligible for reimbursement of exam costs (currently $340).