SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Job Title
Registered Veterinary Technician

Job Description
The Registered Veterinary Technician is an integral member of the veterinary health care team, enjoying a wide range of job responsibilities. The RVT's responsibilities include: animal handling, restraint and examination, vaccinations, injections, and dispensing of medications, maintenance of clinic and owner records, client education, exposing and developing of radiographs, dental prophylaxis and extractions, application of casts and splints, first aid and emergency procedures, IV catheterization, fluid administration, obtaining blood samples through venipuncture, clinical laboratory testing, identification of internal and external parasites, surgical preparation, assisting, suturing, Induction and monitoring anesthetics, preoperative and postoperative care.

Characteristics Required for Success in the Veterinary Technology Program
The successful VTAH student:
• is a team player, flexible, mature, and emotionally stable
• is able to withstand strenuous physical activity
• is a lifelong learner
• is highly motivated and dedicated to his/her work
• is able to communicate tactfully with a diverse population of individuals
• is able to carefully follow verbal and written instruction
• possesses some animal experience and previous veterinary experience is helpful.
• is able to accept constructive criticism and perform self-evaluation activities, which result in personal and professional growth
• possesses reliable transportation

Employment Outlook
Exciting job opportunities continue to be numerous due to the diverse growth in the veterinary field, as well as, a shortage of professionally trained technicians. Most Registered Veterinary Technicians are employed in private veterinary hospitals, but graduates may also work in diagnostic laboratories, biomedical research institutions, humane societies, various federal and state agencies, armed forces, zoological parks, wildlife rehabilitation facilities, aquariums, teaching facilities, specialty veterinary practices, large farms or ranches, and pharmaceutical research or sales.

Starting Salary Range for the San Diego Area
Starting Range: $26,000 to 30,000 per year
Experienced: $32,000 to 42,000 per year

Program Director
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Program Prerequisites
Completion of the following courses with a **letter grade of "C"** or better and must be completed within the **last 5 years.**
   1. Biology 107 – General Biology Lecture and Laboratory
   2. Chemistry 100/100L – General Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory
   3. VTAH 140 – Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology

Admission Requirements
1. Complete online application. Applications accepted from **December to January**
2. Successful completion of General Biology lecture and laboratory (within 5 years)
3. Successful completion of General Chemistry lecture and laboratory (within 5 years)
4. Successful completion of Veterinary Microbiology (VTAH 140) Offered Spring 2022
5. Attendance to an VTAH Information Session with 12 months of application.

Transcripts
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all district and college offices are closed. We are unable to receive transcripts by mail. All applicants must upload a PDF copy of their transcripts from SDCCD, or other institutions attended which demonstrate completion of prerequisite courses required our program.

You will need to **upload unofficial transcripts** in pdf format to the online application. In addition to the unofficial transcripts, you will need to submit your **official transcripts to San Diego Community College District.** Please use the link below for detailed instructions.
http://www.sdmesa.edu/student-services/evaluations/transcripts.shtml

Final program acceptance is contingent upon verification of successful completion of all mandatory prerequisites.

Degree and License Requirements
After successfully completing the program, you will be awarded an Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology from the San Diego Community College District.

Graduates of this program are required to sit for and pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) in order to become licensed as a Registered Veterinary Technician in California. VTNE applicants must **complete an Associates of Science degree in Veterinary Technology** prior to scheduling the licensing exam (VTNE).

The passing rate for Mesa College graduates on both exams has historically been very high falling in the 83-95 percentile.

Every candidate applying to take the VTNE (Veterinary Technician National Exam) must certify that she/he has never been convicted or pled nolo contendere to any violation of any law of any state, the United States, or a foreign country. In addition, each candidate must disclose all misdemeanors and felonies: including, but not limited to: civil, welfare, health and safety, vehicle, or penal code conviction(s) and any conviction which has been dismissed. Candidates are required to list any conviction that has been set aside and dismissed under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code or under any other provision of law.

Accreditation
As of May 2020, San Diego Mesa College, Veterinary Technology Program was granted initial with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation. In addition, San Diego Mesa College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Program Information Sessions
Information sessions are scheduled to brief the prospective student about the program, expectations, and selection procedure. Typically, they are on Friday evenings from 5 PM to 6:30 PM. Due to COVID restrictions the information sessions are conducted via Zoom.

Attendance at the information session is **mandatory** and must be completed with **12 months** of applying to the program. Information sessions attended in 2017 to 2020 will not be accepted.

Active participation during the zoom meeting will be used as proof of attendance. The information session registration and dates can be found on the VTAH web page of the Mesa College web site – http://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/schools-departments/allied-health/

Special Admissions Clerk for Veterinary Technology
The Special Admissions Clerk for the Allied Health Programs at San Diego Mesa College is: Dulce Arroyo.

Fees and Expenses
Tuition costs are based on class credit hours and residency status. Certain exemptions may apply. Consult the current college catalog for fee structure. Due to the special nature of the VTAH program, you should anticipate costs for medical books, professional attire, stethoscopes, coveralls, rubber boots, and miscellaneous supplies (in addition to registration fees). Expenses are typically higher the first semester and decrease over the course of your training.

Each entering student must provide proof of by the start of the Fall Semester:
- **Current tetanus toxoid vaccination (within 8 years)**
- **Tuberculosis test results (test administered within 30 days prior to the first day of the semester).**
- **Physical Exam**

Program Expenses	Cost
Tuition ($46/unit) and fees	$2,500
Vaccines and Physical Exam	$95 to $105
Textbooks First Year	$700
Textbooks Second Year	$365
Work Experience expenses - Complio ($24) - Drug Screen ($42) - Background check ($70 Live scan) - Dosimetry ($100)	$250 to $300
Veterinary Tech supplies	$150
Veterinary Licensing Exam Fee (VTNE)	$325
Total**	$4,385 to $4,445

**Program costs are subject to change.

The Special Admissions Procedure for Veterinary Technology
1) Prior to submitting an application, the candidate must first apply for admission to San Diego Mesa College.
2) The VTAH application process 100% online through the Allied Health webpage on the Mesa College website.

The online application opens on December 1st and closes on January 4th each year. Applications will not be accepted after January 4th.

3) The following constitutes a complete application:
   a. Online Application
   b. Official transcript(s) (as outlined above),
   c. Attendance to one information session
   d. "Work In Progress" documentation if currently enrolled in a prerequisite course(s).

4) Any candidate wishing to change their application status withdraw or cancel must provide immediate written communication to San Diego Mesa College Special Admissions Clerk.

Program Organization:
The VTAH curriculum is a **full-time**, **two year program** with the courses arranged in a sequential manner.

Prior to beginning VTAH course work, the completion of Biology 107, Chemistry 100/100L (or equivalent) , and VTAH 140 Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology with a grade of "C" or better is required.

Due to the demanding nature of the program, it is highly beneficial to complete as many as possible of the general education classes required for the A.S. degree prior to admission in the program.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY			**TWO YEAR PROGRAM**	
Course			**Hours**	**Units**

Fall Semester – First Year

VTAH	100A	Animal Care & Management	4.5 lab	1.5
VTAH	115	Veterinary Office Procedures	2 lect	2
VTAH	155	Fundamentals of Animal Health Tech	3.5 lect	3.5
VTAH	155L	Fundamentals of Animal Health Tech (lab)	6 lab	2
VTAH	145	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology	3 lect	3
VTAH	145L	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology Lab	3 lab	1

Spring Semester – First Year

VTAH	100B	Advanced Animal Care & Management	4.5 lab	1.5
VTAH	125	Veterinary Clinical Pathology	3 lect	3
VTAH	125L	Veterinary Clinical Pathology Laboratory	6 lab	2

VTAH	**205**	Diseases of Domestic Animals	3 lect	3

Fall Semester – Second Year

VTAH	**135**	Veterinary Pharmacology	2 lect	2
VTAH	**225**	Animal Nursing Techniques & Anesthesia	3 lect	3
VTAH	**227**	Veterinary Surgical and Nursing Procedures Lab.	3 lab	1
VTAH	**270**	Veterinary Work Experience	**	3

Spring Semester – Second Year

VTAH	**215**	Veterinary Radiography	3 lect	3
VTAH	**215L**	Veterinary Radiography Laboratory	3 lab	1
VTAH	**229**	Advanced Surgical Nursing Procedures Lab	3 lab	1
VTAH	**260**	Laboratory Animal Medicine	2 lect	2
VTAH	**260L**	Laboratory Animal Medicine Lab	1.5 lab	0.5
VTAH	**270**	VTAH Work Experience	**	2

**60-75 hours for each unit depending on if "paid" or "unpaid" hours

For more information about each individual course, please refer to the San Diego Mesa College Catalog available on-line.

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