

VETERINARY ASSISTANT

Program Outline

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| Major: | VETA |
| Length: | 1 Year |
| Delivery: | 2 Semesters |
| Credential: | Ontario College Certificate |
| Effective: | 2014-2015 |
| Location: | Orillia |
| Start: | Winter (Orillia) |

Description

The Veterinary Assistant Program provides an opportunity for students to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to assist Veterinary Professionals in the practice of Veterinary Medicine and also in other animal care settings. This one year (two semester) program prepares the student to handle and restrain companion animals as well as perform basic husbandry and clinical procedures. The student also learns a variety of basic diagnostic laboratory techniques, surgical support procedures, and receptionist and client relation skills. Students learn and reinforce their skills and knowledge through a combination lecture and hands on laboratory practice in our Orillia campus veterinary hospital.

Career Opportunities

Graduates will find a range of occupations as a member of the Veterinary Health Care Team, including employment in veterinary clinics, zoos, wild-life centres, pet stores, SPCAs, grooming facilities etc.

Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- provide humane and ethical care for the basic needs of companion animals within the scope of the regulation, laws and statutes governing animals and the Veterinary profession;

- identify and interpret animal behaviours and body language and restrain and manage a variety of breeds of companion animals in clinical situations;
- perform basic clinical procedures on animals such as assessing vital signs and administering medications, including common chemical restraints as required, under the supervision of a veterinary professional;
- collect and process samples for diagnostic laboratory work and perform basic diagnostic tests such as parasite load assays and urine chemistries;
- prepare and maintain the surgical area and supplies ensuring adequate levels of asepsis and assist during surgical procedures;
- assist with the production of diagnostic quality radiographs;
- perform client relation skills, including animal care counseling, reception and basic bookkeeping duties through the use of current word processing software as well as veterinary specific software;
- identify the implications of veterinary assistant practice on the natural environment and to employ environmentally sustainable practices to reduce the impact on the environment.

External Recognition:

Georgian College is accredited by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and by the Canadian Council on Animal Care as a "Good Animal Practice" facility.

The Program Progression:

Winter Intake - Orillia

Sem 1 | Sem 2

Winter | Summer
2015 | 2015

Admission Requirements:

You must meet ONE of the following requirements to be eligible for admission to these programs:

Secondary school applicants:

- OSS Curriculum: OSSD or equivalent with Grade 12 English (C) or (U) (ENG 4C, ENG 4U); plus Grade 11 College or Grade 11 or 12 University Biology (SBI3C, SBI3U, SBI4U)

Non-Secondary school applicants (19 years or older):

- Any credit Communication course and most credit biology courses taken at Georgian College
- College preparatory programs including those taken at Georgian College: Pre-health Sciences*
- Equivalent courses in English and biology taken through secondary school or Independent Learning Centres (at the general, advanced, college or university level)
- Academic and Career Entrance Certificate (ACE) program with communications and biology
- Mature student testing in English and testing/challenge exam in biology that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through most testing services)*
- Ontario High School Equivalency Certificate (GED) plus biology.
- English, Literature or Communication credit courses and most biology credit courses from accredited colleges/universities
- If home schooled, applicants can write the mature student testing in English and testing/challenge exam in biology that meets the minimum standards for admission (available through testing services)*

* available from Georgian College. For a complete listing please contact the Office of the Registrar.

Non-secondary school applicants who are 19 years of age or over by the first day of classes, and who lack the academic entrance qualifications, may be considered for entrance to an appropriate post-secondary diploma or certificate program as mature applicants. Mature applicants must meet all program specific prerequisites including all selection criteria; equivalencies are stated above. Applicants who are unsure whether they meet admission requirements should contact the Office of the Registrar. In addition, those applying as mature students and having no documentation of Grade 12 education must supply, if required, proof of age, such as a copy of an official birth certificate or driver's licence. Refer to Section 2.5 and 2.6 of the Academic Calendar for further details.

Credit transfer and course exemptions:

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may be eligible for credit transfer/course exemptions. Courses/experience must match at least 80% of the learning outcomes of a Georgian College course with a minimum grade of 60% or C achieved in previous coursework; some program exceptions apply (see program outline). For further information please visit the Credit Transfer Centre website: georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/

Graduation Requirements:

11 Mandatory Courses

1 Communications Course

1 General Education Course

Graduation Eligibility:

To graduate from this program, the passing weighted average for promotion through each semester, and to graduate is 60%. Additionally, a student must attain a minimum of 50% or a letter grade of P (Pass) or S (Satisfactory) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline.

Mandatory Courses

COMP1067 Computer Literacy

VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology

VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

VETA1002 Front Office and Reception 1

VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1

VETA1004 Laboratory Procedures/Imaging

VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants

VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2

VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2

VETA1008 Surgical Assisting

VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty

Communications Course

To be selected at time of registration from the College list, as determined by testing.

General Education Course

To be selected from College list

Course Descriptions:

COMP1067 Computer Literacy 28.0 Hours

This course is designed for development of word processing, spread sheet and presentation creation skills. Students will use word processing software to create, enhance, and format documents. Students will learn how to organize, calculate, manipulate and use graph data and will use presentation software to prepare professional looking presentations.

VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology 42.0 Hours

This course is an overview of basic anatomy, physiology and common diseases of dogs and cats. Emphasis will be on clinical anatomy and physiology as it applies to the role of the Veterinary Assistant in everyday practice. The course material will be presented in a body systems approach. Commonly encountered diseases and disorders will be discussed with each body system.

C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology 14.0 Hours

Students learn correct medical terminology for use when communicating with other veterinary professionals and for use in client communication education situations. The concept of breaking down medical terms into their roots, prefixes and suffixes will be introduced and practiced. Terminology related to each of the body systems and to common diagnostic procedures will be discussed as well as anatomical directional terms.

VETA1002 Front Office and Reception 1 28.0 Hours

This course focuses on the Veterinary Assistant's role in the veterinary practice as a small business. The roles of the various veterinary health care team members are defined. The duties of the VA as a receptionist are described as well as basic office procedures such as inventory management and maintenance of medical logs. Occupational health and safety issues and professional ethics are also discussed.

C- COMP1067 Computer Literacy and C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1 56.0 Hours

This course employs a combination of theory and practice to enable the student to learn about safe handling, restraint and husbandry of cats and dogs. Students will identify canine and feline breeds and be introduced to canine and feline behaviour. Cleaning, sanitation and isolation procedures of the veterinary facility will also be discussed.

C- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

VETA1004 Laboratory Procedures/Imaging 56.0 Hours

This combination lecture and lab course introduces the student to a variety of basic laboratory techniques and also to the knowledge and skills to assist with the production of diagnostic quality radiographs. Students will learn how to collect and process samples for diagnostic laboratory procedures and how to perform a selection of basic diagnostic tests. The imaging section of the course will focus on the VA's role using imaging equipment under safe working conditions for the staff and animal patients.

C- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants 28.0 Hours

In this course students are introduced to nomenclature of common veterinary products, their classifications, indications, side effects and administration routes. Pharmacy skills

including safe handling, record keeping, dispensing and disposal of drug products are studied. Basic pharmacy calculations are discussed and practiced.

P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2

VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2 42.0 Hours

This course focuses on the Veterinary Assistant's role in communication and client relations in the veterinary practice. Client communications in various forms and circumstances are discussed including conflict and grief situations. Medical records and appointment management are described. Commonly used veterinary practice software systems will be explored.

P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology and P- VETA1002 Front Office and Reception 1 and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants

VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2 56.0 Hours

This course employs a combination of lecture and lab in order for students to learn and practice basic nursing procedures for dogs and cats. Data collection and record keeping for in hospital and outpatients will be described. Non-invasive diagnostic and therapeutic nursing procedures will be studied and practiced under the supervision of a veterinary professional. Preventive medicine and basic clinical nutrition will also be discussed.

P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology and P- VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1 and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2, Co-VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty

VETA1008 Surgical Assisting 56.0 Hours

In this combination theory and laboratory course students will learn and perform aseptic technique procedures related to the function and maintenance of the surgical suite and personnel. Identification, preparation, care and sterilization of surgical and dental instruments and supplies will be practiced. Students will learn the skills needed to assist with aseptic preparation of the surgical patient and the surgical team. Post surgical clean up and appropriate disposal of hazardous medical wastes will be discussed and practiced.

P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology and P- VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1 and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants, Co-VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2, Co-VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty

VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty 28.0 Hours

In this course students are assigned animal husbandry duties and hospital maintenance duties on a rotational basis. Students learn and practice basic husbandry of dogs and

cats in an animal health facility setting. Cleaning and sanitation of the hospital environment are also learned and practiced.

P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology and P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology and P- VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1 and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2, Co-VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2, Co-VETA1008 Surgical Assisting

Course Description Legend

P = Prerequisite; C = Concurrent prerequisite; CO= Corequisite

Information contained in College documents respecting programs is correct at the time of publication. Academic content of programs and courses is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance to changing educational objectives and employment market needs. The college reserves the right to add or delete programs, options, courses, timetables or campus locations subject to sufficient enrolment, and the availability of courses.