

## VETERINARY ASSISTANT

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### Program Outline

<b>Major:</b>	VETA
<b>Length:</b>	1 Year
<b>Delivery:</b>	2 Semesters
<b>Credential:</b>	Ontario College Certificate
<b>Effective:</b>	2017-2018
<b>Location:</b>	Orillia
<b>Start:</b>	Winter (Orillia)

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### Description

Students focus on the acquisition of the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to assist veterinary professionals in the practice of Veterinary Medicine and also in animal care settings. Students learn the handling and restraint of animals as well as basic animal husbandry and clinical procedures. Emphasis is on companion animals. Students also learn 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 of lecture and hands on laboratory practice in the on-site veterinary hospital.

### Career Opportunities

Graduates may find a range of occupations as a member of veterinary health care team, including employment in veterinary clinics, zoos, wild-life centers, pet stores, animal shelters, and grooming facilities.

### Program Learning Outcomes

The graduate has reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- provide humane and ethical care for the basic and specialized needs of a variety of domestic, exotic and wildlife animals within the scope of regulations, laws and statutes governing animals and the Veterinary Profession;

- recognize and stress the importance of using environmentally friendly practices and supplies within the work environment;
- identify and interpret animal behaviours and body language in order to restrain and manage companion animals in clinical settings;
- 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;
- prepare and maintain the surgical area and supplies, ensuring asepsis and assist during surgical procedures;
- produce standard radiographs of diagnostic quality;
- collect and process samples for diagnostic laboratory work and perform basic diagnostic tests;
- 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;
- apply basic entrepreneurial strategies to identify and respond to new opportunities.

### **External Recognition:**

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

### **The Program Progression:**

Winter Intake - Orillia

Semester 1 | Semester 2

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Winter		Summer
2018		2018

### **Admission Requirements:**

OSSD or equivalent with

- Grade 12 English (C or U)
- Grade 11 or 12 Biology (C or U)

First-year enrolment is limited, satisfying minimum entrance requirements does not guarantee admission.

Mature students, non-secondary school applicants (19 years or older), and home school applicants may also be considered for admission. Eligibility may be met by applicants

who have taken equivalent courses, upgrading, completed their GED, and equivalency testing. For complete details refer to: [www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/](http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/policies-procedures/)

Applicants who have taken courses from a recognized and accredited post-secondary institution and/or have relevant life/learning experience may also be considered for admission; refer to the Credit Transfer Centre website for details: [www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/](http://www.georgiancollege.ca/admissions/credit-transfer/)

**Additional Information:**

Students are required to provide proof of pre-exposure rabies vaccination in the form of a current and effective rabies titre within the first eight weeks of beginning the program.

**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**

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

VETA1010 Success in Veterinary Assistant and Beyond

VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology

VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology

#### 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:**

##### VETA1002 Front Office and Reception 1 28.0 Hours

Students focus on the Veterinary Assistant (VA) as a member of the Veterinary Health Care Team in a small business environment. The roles of the VA are defined as well as the roles of the other team members. The duties of the VA as a receptionist are described, including practicing effective client communication. Occupational health and safety issues and professional ethics are also discussed.

C- VETA1010 Success in Veterinary Assistant and Beyond and (C- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology)

##### VETA1003 Clinical Procedures 1 56.0 Hours

A combination of theory and practice are employed to enable the student to learn about safe handling, restraint and husbandry of cats and dogs. Students identify canine and feline breeds and are introduced to canine and feline behaviour. Cleaning, sanitation and isolation procedures of the veterinary facility are also discussed. (C- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or C- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (C- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology)

##### VETA1004 Laboratory Procedures/Imaging 56.0 Hours

Students are introduced to a variety of basic laboratory techniques in this combination lecture and lab course and also to the knowledge and skills to produce diagnostic quality radiographs. Students learn how to collect and process samples for diagnostic laboratory procedures and how to perform a selection of basic diagnostic tests. In the imaging section of the course, students focus on the veterinary assistant's (VA) role using imaging equipment under safe working conditions for staff and patients. (C- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or C- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (C- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology)

##### VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants 28.0 Hours

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- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (P- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology) and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2

#### VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2 42.0 Hours

Students continue to develop their skills as a veterinary receptionist. Medical record keeping and appointment management are described and practiced. Commonly used veterinary practice management software systems are explored and utilized.

(P- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (P- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology) and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants

#### VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2 56.0 Hours

Students learn and practice basic nursing procedures for dogs and cats in this combination lecture and lab course. Data collection and record keeping for in hospital and outpatients are described. Non-invasive diagnostic and therapeutic nursing procedures are studied and practiced under the supervision of a veterinary professional. Preventive medicine and basic clinical nutrition are also discussed. Care of selected exotic and wildlife animals is introduced.

(P- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (P- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology) and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2 and C- VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty

#### VETA1008 Surgical Assisting 56.0 Hours

In this combination theory and laboratory course, students 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 are practiced. Students 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 are discussed and practiced.

(P- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (P- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology) and C- VETA1005 Pharmacology for Veterinary Assistants and C- VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2 and C- VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty

#### VETA1009 Kennel and Hospital Duty 28.0 Hours

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- VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology or P- VETA1000 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology) and (P- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or P- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology) and C- VETA1006 Front Office and Reception 2 and C- VETA1007 Clinical Procedures 2 and C- VETA1008 Surgical Assisting

#### VETA1010 Success in Veterinary Assistant and Beyond 28.0 Hours

Students focus on building skills needed to be successful in this program and in the field. These skills include building meta-cognitive skills, good relationships, computer literacy, and making positive changes that promote academic and personal success. Students utilize learning materials from their core courses to actively participate in learning activities that identify learning strengths and areas that require further development.

#### VETA1011 Basic Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology 28.0 Hours

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

C- VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology or C- VETA1001 Veterinary Medical Terminology

#### VETA1012 Veterinary Medical Terminology 28.0 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 is introduced and practiced. Terminology related to each of the body systems and to common diagnostic procedures is discussed as well as anatomical directional terms.

### **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.*