

**Northwestern CT Community College (NCCC)  
Veterinary Technology Program  
Information Packet  
(2018 – 2019 Academic Year)**

Park Place East  
Winsted, CT 06098  
[www.nwcc.edu](http://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 NCCC Veterinary Technology Program is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Graduates are prepared for immediate employment in veterinary offices, biological research facilities, drug and feed manufacturing companies, and in the animal production industry. Students who successfully complete the program will be awarded an Associate in Science Degree in Veterinary Technology. The program provides the classroom, laboratory, and field experience that will prepare students to be job entry-level competent. It 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.

Enrollment 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 Veterinary Technology and Biology (VET\* and BIO\* designated) courses within a **five-year time** frame. **The only students eligible to register for VET\* designated courses at NCCC are those that have been formally accepted into the Veterinary Technology Program.**

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

Students seeking transfer from another Veterinary Technology Program will be considered on an individual basis and are not guaranteed acceptance.

## Application Process

Prior to applying to the Veterinary Technology Program, students must:

- 1.) Apply and be accepted to NCCC through the NCCC Admissions Office (860-738-6330)
- 2.) Submit official transcripts for all previous college-level course work at institutions other than NCCC
- 3.) Request to have your transcripts evaluated for transfer credits by the NCCC Admissions Office. Transfer credits which meet general education requirements will be accepted. **A minimum grade of "C-" is required for all transfer credits, and grades from colleges and universities not regionally accredited will not be accepted.**
- 4.) Have completed (or be in the process of completing) all prerequisite coursework with a grade of "C" or better.

Once the above requirements have been met, prospective students can submit an application for acceptance into the NCCC Veterinary Technology Program. The Application can be found on the NCCC website at <http://www.nwcc.edu/academics/programs/degree-programs/vt>.

**The application deadline is April 30, 2018 for admission to the Fall 2018 Semester.** It is possible to submit an application while pre-requisite coursework is in progress; however, all prerequisite coursework **MUST** be completed during the Spring of 2018 in order to be considered for entry to the program in the Fall of 2018. If an application is submitted while a prerequisite course is in progress, a transcript indicating that fact must be provided with the application. A new transcript including the final grades for those courses must then be submitted by June 8<sup>th</sup>; failure to do so may result in forfeiture of a place in the program.

Students will be notified of their acceptance status by mid-June. If the number of applications exceed the number of spaces available in the program, then a ranked acceptance list and wait-list will be generated. Applications will be ranked based on: pre-requisite course G.P.A (40%), quantity, variety and quality of past animal experience (30%) and application essay (30%). If, following review of all the applications, spaces in the program are still available, then a notice will be placed on our website announcing a deadline for additional applications.

## **Application Requirements**

### **Prerequisite coursework**

The NCCC Vet Tech Program has four courses as program prerequisites (i.e., courses that must be successfully completed before acceptance into the Vet Tech program):

- BIO\* 121 – General Biology
- CHE\* 111 – Concepts of Chemistry
- CSA\* 105 – Introduction to Software Applications
- MAT\* 137 – Intermediate Algebra

**Successful completion of these prerequisites means that the student obtained a grade of “C” or higher.**

BIO\* 121 and CHE\* 111 must be college-level courses and must be taken within the 5 years prior to acceptance into the Vet Tech Program.

CSA\* 105 ONLY – Students have the option to substitute a Passing Score on the NCCC Computer Proficiency Test (CPT) for completion of this course. Information regarding the CPT is available at <http://www.nwcc.edu/academics/programs/degree-programs/vt/Computer-Proficiency-Test>.

MAT\* 137 ONLY – Students have the option to substitute a Satisfactory Score on a Math Placement Test for completion of this course. Students should contact the NCCC Admissions Office for information on Placement Testing.

### **Shadowing or Work Experience**

Careers in veterinary medicine can be high stress positions and the NCCC Veterinary Technology Program is academically challenging. It is essential for student success that individuals are certain of their career choice. **Prior to application to the NCCC Veterinary Technology Program, it is strongly recommended that applicants experience 20 hours or more of job shadowing of a Veterinary Technician at a veterinary clinic.** A form to document these experiences is included with the application packet.

### **Application Essay**

Applicants are also required to submit a *typed*, 1-2 page, double-spaced essay with their application. This essay should state the applicant's goals and reasons for entering the Veterinary Technology program, document past experience with animal care and/or veterinary medicine and describe the recommended job shadowing. Hand-written essays will not be accepted.

## **Program Academic Requirements**

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.

All VET\* and BIO\* designated courses (within the program) must be completed within 5 years of graduation.

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 completion of two off-campus externships of 150 and 200 hours, respectively.

## **Program Health / Vaccination Requirements**

For any VET\* designated courses numbered 150 or higher (excluding VET\* 201 & VET\* 202), a health physical and rabies vaccination certificate are required. Health physical forms will be provided to students in the NCCC Veterinary Technology Program during the semester prior to their enrollment in courses where required.

Students must be in overall good health, test negative for tuberculosis, 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 student protection because, for clinical labs, the NCCC Veterinary Technology program utilizes shelter animals for which vaccination history is unknown.

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 physician's/care provider.

### **Approximate Costs**

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

As of the Fall 2017 Semester, the estimated total cost of tuition and college fees for an in-state, full-time student completing the program in two years is \$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 \$4,000 for textbooks, scrubs, and other supplies.

The cost of the required health physical and rabies vaccination is estimated at \$1,200. The rabies vaccinations cost approximately \$300 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.

## Program of Study

The following is the suggested academic plan for full-time students who aim to graduate in two years. Students considering variation from this plan should refer to the NCCC Course Catalog for detailed information on specific course prerequisites and should discuss the modified academic plan with an NCCC Vet Tech Academic Advisor.

Course #	Course Title	Credits
<b>SEMESTER 1 (Fall)</b>		
ENG* 101	Composition	3
MED* 125	Medical Terminology	3
VET* 100	Introduction to Animal Care	2
VET* 101	Introduction to Veterinary Technology	3
VET* 201	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology I (with Lab)	4
<b>SEMESTER 2 (Spring)</b>		
VET* 102	Vet Office Management & Communication	3
VET* 151/151L	Small Animal Veterinary Technology	4
VET* 152/152L	Large Animal Veterinary Technology	4
VET* 202	Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology II (with Lab)	4
VET* 250	Principles of Pharmacology – Vet Tech	3
<b>SUMMER / INTERSESSION</b>		
PSY* 111	General Psychology I	3
VET* 280	Veterinary Technology Externship I	1
<b>SEMESTER 3 (Fall)</b>		
VET* 205/205L	Veterinary Lab Procedures	3
VET* 212	Principles of Imaging	1
VET* 230/230L	Veterinary Anesthesia & Surgical Nursing	4
VET* 240	Periodontology & Oral Radiology	2
MAT*	Mathematics Elective	3
<b>SEMESTER 4 (Spring)</b>		
BIO* 235	Microbiology	4
VET* 220	Animal Pathology	3
VET* 238	Parasitology	3
VET* 281	Veterinary Technology Externship II	2
ELECTIVE	Social Science Elective	3
ELECTIVE	Humanities or Arts Elective	3
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>		<b>68</b>

## **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, as of April 2016, 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.