

Veterinary Technology*

(AAS Transfer Degree)

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Veterinary Technicians perform various medical tasks involved in the nursing portion of veterinary medicine. The primary focus is to promote animal health by assisting in surgery, radiography, routine laboratory and clinical procedures that aid the veterinarian in diagnosing medical conditions and diseases in animals. Good communication skills are necessary to promote pet owner education and improve animal medical care in a detailed work environment. The advanced degree as a veterinary technologist allows an individual to work with veterinarians and other scientists in medically related studies.

WORKING CONDITIONS

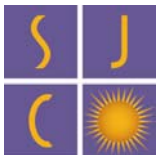
Positions in the veterinary field can be physically and emotionally demanding. Technicians routinely participate in animal husbandry and animal restraint that can require lifting and holding the animals. This may expose technicians to the risk of bites and scratches. Precautions should be taken when handling germicides or insecticide commonly used to treat infections. Excited, scared and/or sick animals may vocalize their discomfort and create a noisy atmosphere. Most veterinary technicians work 40 hours per week, but may be asked to serve on an on call basis, which may require night shift responsibilities.

TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

Two levels of education exist for this occupation — the two-year program for veterinary technicians and a four-year program for veterinary technologists. Some colleges offers a distance education (DE) or distance learning (DL) program that can be completed at a location other than a traditional college campus.

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is expected to grow much faster than the average for all occupations through the year 2016.



For further information go to:

www.sanjuancollege.edu/vettech
www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/158.asp
www.navta.net; www.careers-nm.org
www.bls.gov/oco/ocos183.htm

*Most of this information is from the coordinator of the Vet Tech Program at San Juan College and the Occupational Outlook Handbook—2008-2009

CAREER OPTIONS

Veterinary Technicians

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$23,940 - \$38,700

Nationally — \$20,880 - \$38,700

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

Veterinary Technologists

SJC Basic Program Information

San Juan College students must meet the following:

- Students must have access to, and be able to utilize the facilities and essential equipment described in our Off Campus Clinical Instruction (OCCI) criteria under the guidance of a qualified preceptor. Traditional companion animal practices offer the best opportunities for clinical training, but specialty practices and non-traditional practices, under certain circumstances, may also serve as an approved OCCI education center. Students need to have access to common species of domestic animals to perform medical and clinical procedures, and need to be supervised by a credentialed technician or veterinarian.
- Students must have access to an Internet connected computer.
- Students must be formally employed at least 10 hours per week in an approved OCCI facility to begin tier two courses.



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