



Dear Accepted Vet Tech Student,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Vermont State University Veterinary Technology Program. Admissions standards are high and acceptance shows that we have confidence in your ability to complete the program and ultimately pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and to be a valued member of the veterinary health care team.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and a few animal friends here at the university. My name is Professor Craig Stalnaker, and I am the Program Coordinator for the Veterinary Technology Program. In addition to our normal population of cats, dogs, cattle, horses, goats, rabbits and rodents, we also house reptiles including tortoises, bearded dragons or ball pythons.

Our student population is a range from recent high school graduates to nontraditional students seeking a career change. Many of our graduates do go directly from school to work in a clinical practice or related fields, while others decide to continue their education. Other opportunities here at Vermont State for a Veterinary Technology graduate are to stay an additional two years and earn a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Students, who complete this degree would have additional marketable skills, for example, in the area of practice management. We also have a formal agreement with the University of Vermont for graduates from our program to transfer to UVM and earn a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science from that institution if that is an avenue they would like to pursue.

Students in this program, if they meet the requirements, may be eligible for the **Vermont Trades Scholarship Forgivable Loan Program** which "...covers up to full tuition, initial licensing fees and exam fees for qualified recipients enrolled in industry-recognized training and certification programs ..." (<https://www.vsac.org/pursue-career-skilled-trades-tuition-free>)

Students should look forward to a lot of animal handling experience as all of our core Vet Tech curriculum is in-person and hands-on in nature. Labs with animal handling/contact will begin by the first or second week of the semester.

The Orientation Program during the summer months will be an excellent opportunity to explore our facilities, in addition to getting all of your important questions answered. More information will follow with the pertinent details of the mandatory orientation. At these sessions, important topics will be discussed, including the required human rabies prophylactic vaccination and other expectations outlined in the Veterinary Technology Student Handbook. The handbook is full of very useful information on all program requirements. Our goal in providing all this information is to assist students in making a successful transition into the program.

Before enrolling, it is important that each student consider the following regarding the academic and physical demands of the Veterinary Technology program. Academically, students are enrolled in a very challenging curriculum that is heavily science and math based, in as many as 18 credit hours per semester. During their two- year program of study, students are expected to complete over 300 tasks required by the American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation standards, many of which are performed on live animals. In



addition, other physical requirements include hands on care of the program teaching animals each semester in the first year and one semester in the second year. This is accomplished through enrollment in VET 1051 and 1052, Animal Care 1 and 2, and VET 2720, Vet Supervisor. First year students are partnered with classmates and are supervised by second year students in addition to the class instructors. Morning animal care shifts begin at 6:00 a.m. and evening shifts start at 5:00 pm, with each shift lasting approximately 2 hours. Noontime dog walk shifts are also part of caring for teaching animals. All of this work with our animals helps their adoption to their forever homes at the end of the semester. Thus, the program is both challenging and rewarding in many ways.

I strongly recommend that each student do a “job shadow” at a veterinary practice, where they can observe a veterinary technician as they go through the day. This is one of the best means of seeing what is involved in veterinary technology as a career path. Most veterinary practices are very amenable to students coming in and the insight gained can be very valuable.

I hope that you will take some time to think about all of the information I have provided and use it to help make a good decision about your academic future. I look forward to meeting you at orientation. If you have any questions at any time regarding the program curriculum or requirements, please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached via email, Craig.Stalnaker@VermontState.edu, or by phone, (802) 728-1309.

Sincerely,

Craig Stalnaker, M.Ed. CVT

Program Coordinator

Veterinary Technology

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
Randolph Center, VT 05061

To: Incoming Veterinary Technology Freshman

From: Veterinary Technology Program

Re: **Required items**

The Veterinary Technology program looks forward to your arrival for the fall semester. In preparation for your classes and labs, the following items are required (Most of the listed items can be purchased at a farm/feed store or online, except YOUR vaccines).

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1. Stethoscope: Flathead or dualhead are fine. You do not need the most expensive while a student.
2. Black rubber boots, minimum 10" high, pullover type and *NO* laces. Any color!
3. Blue long sleeve coveralls
4. White lab coat. Long sleeves, long (thigh/knee) length (not waist/hip length)
5. Thermometer - digital
6. Tetanus vaccination
7. Human rabies Prophylaxis Vaccine
8. Name tag for coveralls, lab coat (one removable tag would be sufficient)
9. Wristwatch with a second hand or digital readout for taking vital signs.
10. Scrub top for first year labs, full scrub suit for second year surgical lab.

It is required that you receive a human *prophylactic* rabies vaccine. The cost to an individual for the vaccine series varies, so it is suggested you contact your primary healthcare provider and health insurance company as soon as possible. The cost is typically \$300+ per shot, if your insurance doesn't cover it, and three shots may be needed. Dr. Stephanie Dorosko, Veterinary Technology Program Director, is happy to provide a letter for you to give to your insurance company if needed. The Veterinary Technology student handbook contains more information about the rabies vaccine and other program policies.

It is also suggested that you make financial allowances for your 300-hour summer externship between program year 1 and 2, since it falls outside the regular academic year and you may not be financially compensated at your chosen site.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us at (802) 728-1281 and we will try to assist you.