COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Veterinary Technology Program
Essential Standards

Columbus State Community College Health Care Programs is committed to equal access for all qualified program applicants and has identified standards essential to the delivery of safe and effective health care while enrolled as a student in Health Care Programs including the Veterinary Technology Program. The following standards are essential to the students' ability to acquire knowledge and develop the clinical skills required for success at the different levels of the curriculum. The student must meet the standards as they relate to a specific health care program's scope of practice.

All students applying to any of the Health Care Programs at Columbus State Community College including the Veterinary Technology Program, need to acknowledge their awareness of the Standards Essential for Health Care Programs, which are required of the student in order to be considered for admission. The student shall sign and submit this form to acknowledge they are able to meet each standard without difficulty or with reasonable accommodation.

General Abilities: Must have the general physical abilities and mobility required to provide safe patient care including motor skills, strength, manual dexterity, eye and hand coordination and fine motor skills. Examples include, but are not limited to: movements in the process of providing patient care including walking, twisting, stooping, squatting, bending, climbing stairs, lifting and supporting the weight of patients and objects, and standing for prolonged periods of time.

Additional(Delete?) Specific Veterinary Technology Program Essential Standards

- Maintains the ability to lift bags of animal feed or equipment weighing up to forty pounds.
- Ability to work at a computer and microscope for long periods of time.
- Ability to work where the noise level in the working and school environment is moderately high.
- Requires sufficient gross motor skills in order(delete) to perform duties while in class and at practicums.
    - This includes, but not limited to: standing, walking, stooping, kneeling, crouching, and climbing as well as to manipulate (lift, carry, and move) up to forty pounds.
- Requires sufficient small motor skills in order to perform duties while in class and at practicums.
    - This includes, but not limited to: intravenous catheter placement, venipunctures for drawing blood, suturing, fine needle tissue aspirate, operate a microscope, administer injections, prepare diagnostic samples (using pipettes, slides, eye-droppers), etc.
- Requires good hand-eye coordination to assist in surgery, monitor anesthesia, operate fine instruments such as Teno-Pen, ophthalmoscope, otoscope or a microscope.
- Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance, and color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus as needed.

- The student is routinely exposed to a variety of animal species that may bite, scratch, strike or kick while being restraining.
- The student should be able to spend 100% of time kneeling, reaching, using finger dexterity, talking, hearing, seeing and up to 33% time lifting/carrying weight zero to forty pounds for one to five minutes at a time.
- Standing up to eight hours or more at a time, reaching with hands and arms, including reaching overhead.
- Exposure to Cleaning Solutions:
    - Clean and disinfect surgical equipment, operate sterilizing equipment, clean and disinfect surgery room counters, tables, and floors.
    - Clean and disinfect exam tables, cages, and floors.
    - Calibrate and test diagnostic equipment.
    - Clean and maintain anesthesia machines.
- Feeding, watering and cleaning of animals.
- Emotionally demanding on occasions when working with uncooperative animals, clients and staff and elective euthanasia.
- Students are occasionally exposed to occupational hazards and will learn the federal safety standards of each hazard and how to minimize the risks incurred:
    - Anesthesia waste gases: Administering anesthesia of animal necessitates working with volatile gases and anesthetic agents. Long term exposure to these agents may be linked to various disease conditions.
    - Biological and 'sharp' hazards: Requires working with body fluids (blood, urine, exudates, vomit, diarrhea, mucus, saliva) and 'sharps' (needles, scalpel blades, surgical instruments). These hazards may cause physical injury and exposure to zoonotic diseases.
    - Radiograph (X-rays) hazards: Radiography comprises the majority of diagnostic medical images generated in veterinary medicine. Diagnostic radiograph machines are potent sources of radiation and can, if improperly used, result in injurious exposure to personnel over time.
    - Chemical hazards: Pharmaceuticals (including controlled substances) and chemicals used in the treatment and cleaning of animals. Knowledge of these hazards and minimizing the risk is of the utmost importance for veterinary technicians.
- As a public service profession, many veterinary clinics and hospitals are staffed twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The veterinary technician may have to work evenings, weekends, holidays, or be on call.

Communication: Must have effective communication, both spoken and written, in the English language within learning and patient care environments. Examples include, but not limited to communication with patients, families, healthcare professionals, patient and family teaching, documentation and computer literacy.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

Veterinary Technicians spend a substantial amount of their time communicating with supervisors, companion pet owners, and other staff. In addition, many technicians counsel pet owners on animal behavior and nutrition.

- Communication skills – Be able to read, write and speak fluent English, using appropriate grammar, style, and vocabulary. Correctly spell commonly used words in the English language, including specific medical terms relating to veterinary medicine.
- Intellectual ability – Accurately and consistently follow instructions delivered in an oral, written or diagram format.
- Mathematical ability – Able to add, subtract, multiply and divide; to compute rate, ratio, and percent; and the ability to convert units of measurements.
- Documenting/Recording Information – Accurately enter, transcribe, record, store, or maintain information in a written (hard copy) or electronic form.
- Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates – Professionally communicate to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates in person or by telephone, written or electronic form.
- Active Listening – Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points or instructions being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- Reading Comprehension – Understand written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents. Read and follow instructions accurately.
- Speaking – Talk to others in a manner to convey information effectively. Communicate in a clear and concise manner.
- Consistently understand and apply clinical instructions given by Veterinary Technology Department personnel.

Patient Care: Must be able to perform health care skills independently and engage in patient care over typical healthcare shifts of 6-12 hours. Examples include, but are not limited to: supporting patients during transfer, positioning, ambulation, positioning and manipulation of medical equipment, and perform cardiopulmonary rustication resuscitation (CPR) for extended periods of time.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

- Perform physical examination of animals and record findings; examine animals to determine breed and approximate age; evaluate the health of animals and determine which animals require priority care; recommend further evaluation such as taking radiographs, blood work, or other diagnostic procedures to a supervisor, client, and veterinarian.
- Provide nursing care or emergency first aid to recovering or injured animals.
- Collect laboratory samples, such as blood, urine, feces, or tissue for diagnostic testing.
- Prepare animals for surgery and other procedures, such as dental cleaning or ultrasound.
- Administer medications, vaccines and treatments as prescribed by a veterinarian.
- Perform venipunctures, injections, intravenous catheter placement smoothly enough with coordinated manipulative dexterity so as not to cause pain or injury to the animal.

Working with animals:
- o Physical Injury: Bites, scratches, kicks, and other injuries may be inflicted by animals. While most companion animals are typically domesticated, they can be unpredictable and dangerous when injured or frightened.
- o Allergies: Exposure to animal hair and dander is an occupational hazard for veterinary technicians. Individuals with animal allergies may experience severe symptoms such that they cannot function on a veterinary health care team.
- o Zoonotic disease: Diseases that are transmissible from animals to people, or may result from animal related injuries include: Rabies, Tetanus, Q-fever, Cat Scratch disease, Brucellosis, Dermatophytosis (ringworm), Leptospirosis, Rat bite fever, Giardia, Toxoplasmosis, Tuberculosis, and enteric infections such as Salmonellosis. Individuals who are pregnant or immuno-suppressed are at increased risk from these diseases.

Interpersonal Skills: Must have the ability to have positive interactions with patients, with patients' owners and families, coworkers, and other healthcare professionals from multicultural backgrounds. Examples include, but are not limited to: care without bias, great customer service, remaining calm in emergency situations, assuming responsibility for personal actions, and working well with others.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

- Witnessing abused animals or participating in the need to euthanize sick, injured, or unwanted animals is a common emotional stressor for veterinary technicians.
- Veterinary Technicians must treat animals with kindness and must be sensitive, compassionate, and nonjudgmental when dealing with owners of animals.
- Working with animals in a medical setting invokes a high-stress level. It can be distressing to deal with sick and dying animals. Clients are frequently emotionally upset and anxious. Sometimes the medical atmosphere can be very demanding and animals may need to be euthanized when treatment is impractical or too expensive. Veterinary Technicians must possess the ability to cope with rapidly changing and stressful situations.

Sensory: Must possess the ability to assess patients in the delivery of safe care. Examples include, but are not limited to: identification and interpretations of sounds, detection of audible alarms, equipment alarms, and detection of unusual odors such as smoke, detection of changes in body temperature, palpation of pulses, edema, and visual detection of changes in skin color and integrity, ability to visualize patient's medical records, computer records, medication vials, syringe calibrations, cardiac monitors, and colors on testing equipment and reagents.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

- Perform laboratory tests, such as urinalysis, fecal analysis, cytology and blood counts.
- Veterinary Technicians must be detail oriented and be precise when recording information, performing diagnostic tests, and administering medication.
- Be able to read and apply appropriate instructions in charts, records, requisitions, and computer applications.
- Read a patient's identification on an ear tag, ID collar or cage.
- Read and interpret information from a laboratory requisition form.

- Differentiate stopper colors of common blood collection tubes and know which are used for each diagnostic test.
- Read, understand and perform procedures a described in laboratory manuals and package inserts.
- Read and apply information on product and pharmaceutical packaging.
- Visually able to utilize information from radiographic images specific to resolution, contrast, and anatomy.
- Able to detect audio alarms on patient monitoring equipment and devices. Able to hear various equipment and background sounds during routine radiographic procedures. Correctly respond to directions of health personnel in a surgical setting.
- Able to hear and respond to verbal telephonic messages.
- Able to hear and respond appropriately to co-workers.

Professional and Ethical behavior: Veterinary technicians must be morally and ethically responsible, and accountable for their actions and behaviors. Examples include, but are not limited to: respectful to others, maintain confidentiality (The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act {HIPAA}, federal law established in 1996), exhibit honesty, integrity, and compassion. The student must dress appropriately, adhering to individual Health Care Program standards. The student must adhere to course syllabi, CSCC Health Care Program Handbook (Medical Assisting Student Handbook), CSCC Code of Conduct, and CSCC policies, procedures, and requirements given in the CSCC catalog.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

- Students must be able to accurately perform clinical duties in a stressful environment. This includes, but not limited to: identifying and responding to emergencies and other non-routine situations.
- Be flexible and show initiative with unexpected events, such as emergency surgery or changes in the appointment schedule.
- Be able to work in stressful situations while maintaining composure.
- Be adaptable to unpleasant situations common in a clinical setting.
- Be able to prioritize tasks to ensure completion of assigned work.
- Provide professional service when interacting with clients of diverse age, gender, sexual orientation, race and religion, and nationality, physical or mental condition.

Clinical Judgement: Must have the ability to critically think, assess, analyze, interpret, problem solve, identify cause and effect relations, and make clinical judgments and decisions for delivery of safe patient care. Examples include, but are not limited to: collecting data, measuring, calculation, prioritizing, reasoning, recognizing urgent and emergent situations, correlate data, and respond appropriately to changes in patients' conditions.

Additional Specific Veterinary Technology Program Standards:

- Organizational skills – Student demonstrates a systematic approach in carrying out assignments. The student is very orderly and excels at cutting through confusion and turning chaos into order.
- Problem-solving skills – Student demonstrates a strong ability to identify, analyze and solve problems and translate problems into practical solutions.
- Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work – Develops specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplishing work.
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems – Analyzing information and evaluating results to choose the best solution to resolve problems.
- Monitor Processes, Materials, or Surroundings – Monitoring and reviewing information from materials, events or the environment, to detect or assess problems.
- Critical Thinking – Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- Observation skills – Observes the behavior and condition of animals.
- Administer anesthesia to animals and monitor responses.
- Assist in surgery or procedures and anticipate the veterinarian's needs.
- Collect and record patient's case history.
- Veterinary technicians need strong observation and problem-solving skills in order to identify injuries and illnesses in animals, prioritize care, and offer the appropriate treatment.

If a student demonstrates an inability to perform any of these required essential functions, the student will be notified and documentation will be placed in the student's file. After three documentations, the student **may** be removed from the program. They may be advised to pursue additional academic courses, counseling, or developmental avenues that will help them perform the essential functions of the Veterinary Technology program.

If you have questions about the accommodations process at Columbus State Community College you may contact the Office of Disability Services, Eibling Hall 101, 550 East Spring Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215, (614)287-2570 or disability@cscc.edu.

I hereby attest that I have read this form and understand the Standard Essentials for Health Care Providers necessary for successful program completion. I further attest that I am able to meet these standards, without difficulty or with reasonable accommodations, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 (ADA). Applicant's signature does not guarantee progression in the Health Care Program (Veterinary Technology).

_____
Student Name (Please PRINT)

Student Cougar ID# _____

_____   _____
Student Signature   Date