

Essential functions for the veterinary technology program

Students that are accepted into the veterinary technology program must demonstrate that they are academically and physically able to complete the assigned tasks within the program. Students are required to have a C+ grade in each of the veterinary technology courses. Any grade below a C+ is considered failing. Students that fail three courses are dismissed from the program. Likewise, students that are not able to complete the essential skills that are required by the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA) are also dismissed from the program. The specific courses shall teach basic medical science, communication, critical thinking, decision-making, and clinical application skills. Integration of nursing, technical, and medical skills within the curriculum must use live animals. Whenever possible, animal nursing skills should be developed in a setting and under conditions that are a reflection of the manner in which graduates will use these skills in a veterinary clinical setting. Students are encouraged to work with the student services department to develop reasonable accommodations to assist the student in accomplishing their educational goals; however, safety of the student, animals, and other students or personnel must be a primary consideration. If you have concerns about your ability to complete either the academic or physical component of the program, please contact the disabilities office at 402-844-7343 or use this link <https://northeast.edu/Support-Services/Disability-Services/>.

For your information the essential functions are listed below

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS POLICY

FOR THE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM FOR ADMISSIONS, CONTINUATION, AND GRADUATION AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

In veterinary medicine, veterinary technicians are required to perform many essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation. In order to ensure student success in the veterinary technology program, students must also be able to perform those tasks that are essential to the veterinary technician profession. Below are listed the essential functions for the veterinary technology program. For a more detailed list of essential skills required for graduation, please visit.

<https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/cvtea-pp-appendix-i.aspx>

MOTOR SKILLS: A veterinary technician must have sufficient motor function (gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and strength) to:

- 1) Elicit information from animal patients by palpation, auscultation, manual tests, and evaluation procedures. (Frequently)
- 2) Provide general nursing care including physical strength to hold and restrain patients. (Constantly)
- 3) Lift and transfer animals up to 50 pounds. (Frequently)
- 4) Engage in procedures involving grasping, fingering, pushing, pulling, holding, extending, and rotation. (Constantly)
- 5) Provide for patient safety and well-being in all therapeutic or transferring activities. (Constantly)

- 6) Stand for extended periods of time and /or maintain awkward positions for brief periods of time. (Frequently)
- 7) Ability to bend over at the waist, twist the trunk, squat, kneel, and reach above the head. Have the body size, conformation and fitness to do the physical work required of a veterinary technician. (Frequently)

SENSORY/OBSERVATION SKILLS: A veterinary technician must have sufficient sensory abilities and observations skills to:

- 1) Observe demonstrations. (Frequently)
- 2) Observe patients. (Constantly)
- 3) Obtain an appropriate medical history directly from the animal's owner. (Frequently)
- 4) Examine the patient observing skin color, skin texture, odors, bony landmarks, and other anatomical structures. (Frequently)
- 5) See dials and meters with small print. (Occasionally)
- 6) Observation of microbiologic cultures, microscope slides and gross studies of animal tissues or fluids in normal and pathologic states. (Frequently)

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: A veterinary technician must have communication skills and be able to:

- 1) Communicate effectively and sensitively with animal owners. (Frequently)
- 2) Communicate effectively utilizing verbal and non-verbal, and written communications skills in English with faculty, peers, and other personnel in the classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings. (Constantly)
- 3) Read English, including completing reading assignments and search and evaluate literature, read charts and graphs. (Frequently)
- 4) Complete written assignments, maintain records, manually record and use computerized recording of patient information. (Frequently)

INTELLECTUAL/CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SKILLS: The veterinary technician must be able to:

- 1) Measure, calculate, interpret reason, analyze, prioritize, and synthesize data. (Constantly)
- 2) Use computers for searching, recording, storing, and retrieving information. (Frequently)
- 3) Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and spatial relationships. (Occasionally)

BEHAVIORAL/ SOCIAL SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM: The veterinary technician must demonstrate:

- 1) Attributes of empathy, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, and motivation. (Frequently)
- 2) Emotional well-being required for use of their intellectual abilities, the exercising of sound judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the evaluation and care of patients. (Constantly)
- 3) The ability to adapt to ever-changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties and stress which are inherent in the educational process, as well as the clinical problems of many patients. (Occasionally)
- 4) The ability to be assertive, delegate responsibility appropriately, and function as part of a team. (Frequently)
- 5) The organizational skills necessary to meet deadlines and manage time. (Frequently)
- 6) The ability to accept criticism. (Occasionally)
- 7) Cope with the stress of heavy workloads, weekend and evening shifts, and demanding patients. (Frequently)
- 8) Recognize and respond appropriately to individual of all ages, genders, race, socioeconomic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. (Frequently)
- 9) Personality suited to exhibit respect, concern, and compassion for both animals and humans. (Constantly)
- 10) Understanding of the requirement to work around dangerous animals, hazardous chemicals, compressed gasses, pharmaceuticals, sharp objects, radiation, and biohazards. (Frequently)

All veterinary technology applicants and students will be assessed by the same academic and professional criteria for admission, promotion, retention, and graduation. The school may require, at the appropriate time, that an applicant or student undergoes evaluation for the purpose of determining whether he/she is able to meet the essential functions, with or without reasonable accommodation. During the admissions process, qualified candidates will be considered without regard to their (dis)ability status by the program faculty. After acceptance, all candidates will be required to sign the *Acceptance and Notification of Essential Functions Form* to indicate that they have read and understood their responsibility for meeting the essential functions as outlined. This signed form becomes a permanent part of the record of all students in the veterinary technology program. If a candidate does not sign this form, he/she will not be admitted into the program.

Upon admission, all students must be able to perform the essential functions of the curriculum. Any student with a disability may receive reasonable accommodations allowing them to perform the essential functions of the curriculum and meet the standards described above. For a more detailed list of essential skills required for graduation please visit

<https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Education/Accreditation/Programs/Pages/cvtea-pp-appendix-i.aspx>

“Students with a documented disability may be eligible for certain accommodations that support their

success in the classroom. Please see Mary Balaski, Disabilities Services Coordinator, for further information. Her office is located in the College Welcome Center Room 1263, phone 844-7343.”