

Student Academic Achievement Committee (SAAC) Standardized Report Form

INTRODUCTION

Program /Discipline Title:

Veterinary Technology Associate of Applied Science Degree

Time Period:

Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Summer 2007

Program goals, objectives, and/or mission:

Vision:

The Veterinary Technology Program will be the premier training center for veterinary technicians in New Mexico with recognition for excellence by national, state and local organizations, practitioners, and other employers of veterinary technicians.

Mission:

- A. Fulfill the need for veterinary technicians in local and regional communities.
- B. Provide an educational environment which fosters self-awareness, self-confidence and promotes professional growth in each student.

Goal:

The TVI Veterinary Technology Program endeavors to develop and graduate students of high integrity and professionalism; students prepared to provide excellent care to animals small and large, motivated toward a career, and committed to lifelong learning as they pursue the veterinary technician profession.

Exit Competencies:

1. Office and hospital procedures, client relations, and communication
2. Pharmacy and pharmacology
3. Nursing
4. Anesthesia
5. Surgical nursing
6. Laboratory procedures
7. Imagining
8. Laboratory animal procedures
9. Avian, exotic, and fish procedures

Upon completion of the CNM VT Program, graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

- I. participate in facility management utilizing traditional and electronic media and appropriate veterinary medical terminology and abbreviations; communicate in a professional manner in all formats – written, oral, non-verbal, and electronic; and follow and uphold applicable laws and codes of ethics of the veterinary technology profession to provide high quality care to patients.
- II. administer prescribed drugs to patients safely and effectively.
- III. demonstrate and perform patient assessment techniques in a variety of animal species; understand and demonstrate husbandry, nutrition, therapeutic and dentistry techniques appropriate to various species.
- IV. demonstrate the ability to manage patients in all phases of anesthetic procedures safely and effectively; select, utilize and maintain anesthetic delivery and monitor instruments and equipment in a safe and effective manner.

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- V. understand and integrate all aspects of patient management for common surgical procedures in a variety of animal species; understand and provide the proper instruments, supplies and environment to maintain asepsis during surgical procedures.
- VI. package, handle and store specimens for laboratory analysis properly, and carry out analysis of laboratory specimens properly.
- VII. produce diagnostic radiographic and nonradiographic images safely and effectively.
- VIII. handle laboratory animals commonly used in animal research safely and effectively.
- IX. understand the approach to providing safe and effective care for birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, rabbits, and ferrets.

Core Competencies:

Under the auspices and direction of David Licht, using Perkins funds, job shadowing of Registered Veterinary Technicians was done in 2007. As a result, the first available Job Profile for Veterinary Technicians was developed creating an level standard for four WorkKeys Skills: Observation, Teamwork, Listening, and Locating Information. This information was then used to help develop additions to syllabi, and testing techniques to augment the Core Competency goals.

Life Skills: During the orientation for the Veterinary Technology Program, students are given their first assignment: Define the term “professionalism”, and how it applies to Veterinary Technology. Professionalism and ethics are discussed, directed, and monitored in every term. In the 3 clinical courses, behavior as it relates to the job is measured on a rubric by both Clinical Coordinator and Preceptor veterinarian.

Technology: Students are expected to be relatively facile with the keyboard and the internet on entry into the Program. The course, VT 2096, “Preparation for Professional Success”, is a recommended DL course offered to students the summer prior to entering the VT Program, and requires use of computers (as a distance course). In the VT Program, in VT2610, specific technical instruments are used to familiarize students with understanding and use technology in the VT profession.

Interpersonal Skills/Teamwork: The Work Keys – Keytrain module has been added to the third term. Students are required to take the test as part of their grade, and are expected to meet the minimum skill level which was determined to be entry level on the VT Job Profile.

Critical thinking: Case Study problems and practice scenarios are used in several courses to encourage students to develop step-wise logical approaches to problem solving. Laboratory settings short answer, essays and papers are used to measure critical thinking skills.

Communication: Listening and Locating Information are two WorkKeys skills which are taught in the VT Program, and measured using the WorkKeys tests. Certificates are awarded to the students who complete and improve their scores.

RESULTS

Introduction and discussion of assessment efforts:

The registered veterinary technician (RVT) is the “right hand” of the veterinarian, with skills which cover all areas of the veterinary profession, including clinics, laboratory settings, laboratory animal settings, zoos, drug research, and many other fields. The training of the RVT must cover the 9 competencies described by the accrediting body (American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Activities and Education/ AVMA-CVTEA).

Assessment is a critical component to assure that the students have the knowledge and skills needed to pass the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), state examinations, and to work well in the many different scenarios presented by veterinary medicine.

Graduation occurs once a year in April. To this point, (November 2007) there have been 2 graduating classes consisting of 20 students total.

Presently in the five term Program, 18 ‘seniors’ look forward to completing their studies in April 2008; and 23 students are completing their first term of studies. The Program accepts 24 students as a new cohort each Fall term to begin their studies for the Associate of Applied Science Veterinary Technology Degree.

Assessment Plan (Who, what, when and how assessment took place):

Assessment of skills and knowledge is done every semester at the end of each course with written examinations, and, where applicable, laboratory practical examinations. The nine exit competencies are evaluated as follows: (refer to description of competencies above) Attached is a chart summarizing tools used to assess each competency

- I. Work Keys Listening Skills test first term, Work Keys Observation test second term, filing tests, mock up phone calls in VT1006. Work Keys Teamwork test is given in third term.
- II. VT2803 midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors
- III. VT 2674, VT2874 midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors Clinical Evaluation Tools
- IV. VT2672, VT2874 midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors, Clinical Evaluation Tools
- V. VT1272 gown folding rubric, pack preparation and instrument identification evaluations, assist in surgical procedure in clinical setting rubric, clinical evaluation tools.
- VI. VT2010 urinalysis rubric, fecal rubric, final examination skill tests; VT2610 unopette rubric, differential rubric, final hematology and blood chemistry portfolio, midterm and final laboratory practicals Clinical Evaluation Tools
- VII. VT1274 final practical examination; portfolio or student generated films, radiology rubric, Clinical Evaluation Tools
- VIII. VT2819, VT2874, Clinical Evaluation Tools
- IX. VT2819, VT2874, Clinical Evaluation Tools

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Exit Competencies

Veterinary Technology

The competencies listed below are for:

Associate of Applied Science: Veterinary Technology

Catalog Year: 2006 – 2007

At the completion of this program, students will be able to demonstrate the following knowledge, skills and behaviors.

Competency	Evaluation
I. Office and hospital procedures, client relations, and communication (coursework focus in first year, Fall and Spring term)	Work Keys Listening Skills test – first term Work Keys Observation test – second term VT105 – filing tests, mock up phone calls
II. Pharmacy and pharmacology (coursework focus in second year, Spring term)	VT213 - Midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors
III. Nursing (coursework focus in second year, Fall and Spring term)	VT205L, VT217L - Midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors Clinical Evaluation Tools
IV. Anesthesia (coursework focus in second year, Fall term)	VT203L - Midterm and final examinations; clinical applications with preceptors Clinical Evaluation Tools
V. Surgical nursing (coursework focus in first year, Spring term)	VT112L - Gown folding rubric, pack preparation and instrument identification evaluations; assist in surgical procedure in clinical setting rubric Clinical Evaluation Tools
VI. Laboratory procedures (coursework focus in second year Summer and Fall term)	VT109L – Urinalysis rubric, fecal rubric, final examination skill tests VT207L – Unopette rubric, differential rubric; Midterm and final Lab Practicals Clinical Evaluation Tools
VII. Imaging (coursework focus in first year, Spring term)	VT114L – Final practical exam; portfolio of student’s films; perform radiology rubric Clinical Evaluation Tools
VIII. Laboratory animal procedures (coursework focus in second year, Spring term)	VT219, VT217L - Clinical Evaluation Tools
IX. Avian, exotic and fish procedures (coursework focus in second year, Spring term)	VT219, VT217L - Clinical Evaluation Tools

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Exit Competency Results:

The Program was accredited by the AVMA in June 2005.

A total of **20 students have completed** their veterinary technology studies at CNM. Thirteen graduated April 2007. **All of those students have passed the VTNE**; 17 are now licensed as RVTs in New Mexico.

Core Competency Results:

Technology Rubric: All students in the VT Program can navigate the internet and use email with attachments at a Level 4 on the Technology Rubric. These skills are required to stay in the program past the second semester. Most of the students use Word Processing to create the reports required in third and fourth semesters. There has been no requirement for spreadsheets in the VT Program as yet, so this skill has not been adequately measured.

Critical Thinking Rubric: Many students enter the VT Program at a level 2 on the Critical Thinking Rubric, being unable to properly identify the key points or main concepts. By fourth term, most students have developed a level 3 skill, being able to evaluate relevant information, identify key concepts, and prioritizing variables. Some have achieved the level 4.

Discussion of changes in support of student learning for PAST year based upon your assessment results:

Using the Job Profile developed by David Licht, to determine the entry skill level of Listening, Teamwork, and Observation, faculty members have incorporated KeyTrain modules and topic lectures.

Case Study activities (“applied” Problem Based Learning) and role playing were instituted in Fall 2007 in order to encourage students to develop critical thinking skills. Internet and email assignments have been incorporated into courses to encourage students to increase prowess in the area of technology.

Discussion of proposed changes in support of student learning for COMING year based upon your assessment results:

Consideration is being given to incorporating the actual Core Competency rubrics into a testing for grade format.

Consideration is being given to developing an assignment using a spreadsheet to encourage students to develop skills in that area.

Plans for assessment of all Core Competencies

The third Core Competency, Teamwork, has been added to the curriculum, and is measured by the WorkKeys skill level test as a part of the course grade. In some courses, students are expected to work in teams, either in gathering information, or in coming to conclusions about a course of action. This is done either as a learning exercise, or for a grade.

The Communication Writing Rubric is used in Office Skills course, but has earned the instructor criticism for applying it. There are some definite lacks in the ability to properly use the English language among the students when they enter the Program, even though English 101 with a grade of C or better is a prerequisite.

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Students resist being required to use proper Writing and Grammar knowledge when they feel they are supposed to be learning about veterinary technology. Consideration is being given to raising the grade in English 101 as an entry requirement. The Listening part of the Communication rubric is tested by listening tests in Office Skills.

See above proposed changes for spreadsheet in Technology Competency.

DATA

What tools did you use to measure the Exit Competencies?

Rubrics for Urinalysis, Fecal analysis, Surgical skills, Target Task lists of individual skills in specific courses.
Veterinary Technology National Examination
State Licensing

Please attach Core Competency Rubrics if modified.

Additional assessment results:

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Histograms of Core Competency Results:

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