

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

Informational
Brochure

Job Title

Registered Veterinary Technician

Job Description

The Registered Veterinary Technician is an integral member of the veterinary health care team, enjoying a wide range of job responsibilities. The RVT's responsibilities include: animal handling, restraint and examination, vaccinations, injections, and dispensing of medications, maintenance of clinic and owner records, client education, exposing and developing of radiographs, dental prophylaxis and extractions, application of casts and splints, first aid and emergency procedures, IV catheterization, fluid administration, obtaining blood samples through venipuncture, clinical laboratory testing, identification of internal and external parasites, surgical preparation, assisting, suturing, Induction and monitoring anesthetics, preoperative and postoperative care.

Characteristics Required for Success in the Animal Health Technology Program

The successful AHT student:

- is a team player, flexible, mature, and emotionally stable
- is able to withstand strenuous physical activity
- is a lifelong learner
- is highly motivated and dedicated to his/her work
- is able to communicate tactfully with a diverse population of individuals
- is able to carefully follow verbal and written instruction
- possesses some animal experience and previous veterinary experience is helpful.
- is able to accept constructive criticism and perform self-evaluation activities, which result in personal and professional growth
- possesses reliable transportation

Employment Outlook

Exciting job opportunities continue to be numerous due to the diverse growth in the veterinary field, as well as, a shortage of professionally trained technicians. Most Registered Veterinary Technicians are employed in private veterinary hospitals, but graduates may also work in diagnostic laboratories, biomedical research institutions, humane societies, various federal and state agencies, armed forces, zoological parks, wildlife rehabilitation facilities, aquariums, teaching facilities, specialty veterinary practices, large farms or ranches, and pharmaceutical research or sales.

Starting Salary Range for the San Diego Area

Starting Range: \$26,000 to 30,000 per year

Experienced: \$32,000 to 42,000 per year

Program Director

Jeaneal Davis, DVM
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Program Prerequisites

Completion of Biology 107 and Chemistry 100/100L, or equivalent, with a grade of “C” or better. The application packet must show both pre-requisites either completed or in progress at the time of submission. Prerequisites must have been taken within the **last 5 years**.

Admission Requirements

The AHT curriculum is a **full-time, two year program** with the courses arranged in a sequential manner; therefore, each new class (approximately 52 students) begins in the summer semester of the academic year.

Prior to beginning AHT course work, the completion of Biology 107 and Chemistry 100/100L (or equivalent) with a grade of “C” or better is required. Due to the demanding nature of the program, it is highly beneficial to **complete as many as possible of the general education classes required for the A.S. degree prior to admission in the program.**

Transcripts

Official transcripts are required from each college where prerequisites were taken. We will accept unofficial (E-Grades) transcripts for prerequisite courses taken at Mesa, City or Miramar Colleges. Transcripts should be sent to San Diego Mesa College; Attention: Special Admissions Clerk Dulce Lopez.

Degree and License Requirements

After successfully completing the program, you will be awarded an Associate of Science degree in Animal Health Technology from the San Diego Community College District. Graduates of this program are required to sit for and pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) in order to become licensed as a Registered Veterinary Technician in California. VTNE applicants must **complete an Associates of Science degree in Animal Health Technology** prior to scheduling the licensing exam (VTNE).

The passing rate for Mesa College graduates on both exams has historically been very high falling in the 83-95 percentile.

Every candidate applying to take the VTNE (Veterinary Technician National Exam) must certify that she/he has never been convicted or pled nolo contendere to any violation of any law of any state, the United States, or a foreign country. In addition, each candidate must disclose all misdemeanors and felonies: including, but not limited to: civil, welfare, health and safety, vehicle, or penal code conviction(s) and any conviction which has been dismissed. Candidates are required to list any conviction that has been set aside and dismissed under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code or under any other provision of law.

Accreditation

The Animal Health Technology Program is approved by the California Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine, a division of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. San Diego Mesa College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges and is approved by the California State Department of Education. Currently, **we do not have American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation.**

Out of state students interested in attending the Animal Health Technology Program at Mesa College should contact their own state’s Veterinary Technician Board regarding graduation from a non-AVMA approved school.

Graduates of this program are required to sit for and pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) in order to become licensed as a Registered Veterinary Technician in California.

Program Orientation

Orientation sessions are scheduled to brief the prospective student about the program, expectations, and selection procedure. Typically, they are on Friday evenings from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. They are held at the Animal Health Technology Facility (P-300) in Room P-308. The facility is at the corner of Genesee Avenue and Marlesta Drive.

Attendance at an Orientation Session is **mandatory**. A sign in sheet will be used as proof of attendance. The orientation dates can be found on the AHT web page of the Mesa College web site – <http://www.sdmesa.edu/academics/schools-departments/allied-health/>

Special Admissions Clerk for Animal Health Technology

The Special Admissions Clerk for the Allied Health Programs at San Diego Mesa College is: Dulce Lopez dlopez@sdccd.edu. She can be reached at or 619-388-2686.

Fees and Expenses

Tuition costs are based on class credit hours and residency status. Certain exemptions may apply. Consult the current college catalog for fee structure. Due to the special nature of the AHT program, you should anticipate costs for medical books, professional attire, stethoscopes, coveralls, rubber boots, and miscellaneous supplies (in addition to registration fees). Expenses are typically higher the first semester, and decrease over the course of your training.

Each entering student must provide proof of by the start of the Fall Semester:

- **Current tetanus toxoid vaccination (within 8 years)**
- **Tuberculosis test results (test administered within 30 days prior to the first day of the semester).**
- **Physical Exam**

| Program Expenses | Cost |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Tuition and fees | \$6,000 to \$7,000 |
| Vaccines and Physical Exam | \$95 to \$105 |
| Textbooks First Year | \$700 |
| Textbooks Second Year | \$365 |
| Work Experience expenses | \$250 to \$300 |
| - Complio (\$24) | |
| - Drug Screen (\$42) | |
| - Background check (\$70) | |
| - Dosimetry (\$100) | |
| Veterinary Tech supplies | \$150 |
| Veterinary Licensing Exam Application Fee | \$310 |
| Veterinary Licensing Exam Fee (VTNE) | \$325 |
| Total** | \$8,260 to \$9,320** |

**Program costs are subject to change.

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|-----------------|------------------------------|--------|---|
| ANHL 205 | Diseases of Domestic Animals | 3 lect | 3 |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--------|---|

Fall Semester – Second Year

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------|---|
| ANHL 135 | Veterinary Pharmacology | 2 lect | 2 |
| ANHL 225 | Animal Nursing & Anesthesiology | 3 lect | 3 |
| ANHL 227 | Surgical Nursing Procedures 1 | 3 lab | 1 |
| ANHL 270 | Veterinary Work Experience | ** | 3 |

Spring Semester – Second Year

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|-----|
| ANHL 215 | Veterinary Radiography | 3 lect | 3 |
| ANHL 215L | Veterinary Radiography Laboratory | 3 lab | 1 |
| ANHL 229 | Surgical Nursing Procedures 2 | 3 lab | 1 |
| ANHL 260 | Laboratory Animal Medicine | 2 lect | 2 |
| ANHL 260L | Laboratory Animal Medicine Lab | 1.5 lab | 0.5 |
| ANHL 270 | AHT Work Experience | ** | 2 |

**60-75 hours for each unit depending on if “paid” or “unpaid” hours

For more information about each individual course, please refer to the San Diego Mesa College Catalog available on-line.

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