

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN (VTE)

About the Program

Throughout this two-year diploma program you will gain the knowledge and skills to assist and support veterinary practitioners, public health officers and biomedical research scientists.

You will study a variety of subjects, including nutrition, clinical pathology, microbiology, radiography, anatomy, physiology and genetics. These studies will provide you with a strong grasp on animal behaviour, nursing and care.

The curriculum is taught by expert faculty who collaborate with students, graduates and industry professionals on applied research projects in the sector (<http://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/school/health-sciences.html#applied-research>).

To practice in Ontario as a Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), you must meet and maintain the qualifications set by the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (<http://oavt.org/becoming-an-rvt/steps-to-becoming-an-rvt/>). You must also complete the Veterinary Technician National Examination (<http://www.aavsb.org/vtne-overview/>).

For more information on RVT qualifications, please visit oavt.org (<http://oavt.org/>).

Credential Awarded

Ontario College Diploma

Duration

4 Semesters (2 Years)

Starts

September

Program and Course Delivery

This program is offered in Seneca's hybrid delivery format with some courses available in Seneca's flexible delivery format. Some coursework is online and some must be completed in person. Students will need to come on campus to complete in-person learning requirements. For courses offered in the flexible delivery format, professors use innovative learning spaces and technology to teach students in a classroom or lab and broadcast in real time to students attending remotely. In flexible courses, students have the choice of coming on campus or learning online.

Work Experience

Field Placement

As a student in this program, if all academic requirements are met, you will have the opportunity to participate in a professional Field Placement for course credit. Field placements take place in a veterinary setting external to the college or your employer. Your first three semesters of the Veterinary Technician program include internal clinical placement shifts in our Animal Health Centre to build proficiency and confidence prior to your external field placement in fourth semester.

Your Career

When you graduate from this program, these are the types of career options you can explore:

- Hospitals
- Research institutes
- Wildlife services
- Government agencies
- Industry sales

Affiliations/Associations

You will also have the opportunity to become affiliated with the following associations:

- Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians (OAVT) (<https://oavt.org/>)
- Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) (<https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/>)
- College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) (<https://cvo.org/>)
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) (<http://omafra.gov.on.ca/>)
- Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) - Good Animal Practice (GAP) registration (<https://www.ccac.ca/>)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) (<https://www.avma.org/>)

Program of Study

Course Code	Course Name	Weekly Hours
Semester 1		
APY112	Veterinary Comparative Anatomy and Physiology	6
BOA112	Behaviour of Animals	3
CCA112	Clinical Care of Animals I	2
CLP100	Veterinary Clinical Laboratory Procedures I	2
COM101 or COM111	Communicating Across Contexts Communicating Across Contexts (Enriched)	3
ETY100	Veterinary Etymology	1
MED101	Medical Clinics I	4
VMT112	Veterinary Pharmaceutical Mathematics I	1
plus: General Education Course (1)		3
Semester 2		
BUG200	Parasitology	4
CCA212	Clinical Care of Animals II	2
CLP200	Veterinary Clinical Laboratory Procedures II	3
MED200	Medical Clinics II and Diseases	6
NOA212	Nutrition of Animals I	1
PMY200	Pharmacology	4
RAD212	Introductory Radiography	3
VMT200	Veterinary Pharmaceutical Mathematics	2
plus: General Education Course (1)		3

Semester 3

CCA312	Clinical Care of Animals III	3
CLP303	Veterinary Clinical Laboratory Procedures III	4
LAS312	Large and Small Mammal Studies	4
MED300	Medical Clinics III: Dentistry	2
RAD312	Advanced Radiography	3
SGT312	Veterinary Anaesthesia and Surgical Techniques	8
VPL300	Introduction to Clinical Field Placement	1
plus: General Education Course (1)		3

Semester 4

CCA412	Clinical Care of Animals IV	3
CLP400	Veterinary Clinical Laboratory Procedures IV	3
EXO412	Exotics	3
GEB312	Genetics and Bioethics	3
MED400	Medical Clinics IV and Dentistry	2
NOA412	Nutrition of Animals II	1
SGT412	Surgery II	4
VPL400	Field Placement	7
VTE400	Hospital and Career Management	2

Note: The following course will not fulfil a General Education requirement: NAT160 Natural Science: Nutrition.

Program Learning Outcomes

This Seneca program has been validated by the Credential Validation Service as an Ontario College Credential as required by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

As a graduate, you will be prepared to reliably demonstrate the ability to:

- Perform basic patient examinations and collect data on vital signs.
- Restrain and manage small animals in clinical situations.
- Administer medications by common drug routes and prepare pharmaceutical as prescribed by the veterinarian.
- Prepare anaesthetic delivery systems, induce anaesthesia, and monitor patients under anaesthesia.
- Prepare and maintain the surgical area and assist during surgical procedures.
- Perform dental prophylactic procedures on dogs and cats.
- Produce standard diagnostic radiographs.
- Collect and process samples of diagnostic laboratory work.
- Perform common veterinary diagnostic tests, such as blood chemistries, differentials, culture and sensitivities and EKG's.
- Perform basic veterinary practice management including computer applications.
- Recognize behavioural signs of small animals.
- Counsel clients especially in the area of pet nutrition.

Admission Requirements

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD), or equivalent, or a mature applicant (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/mature-applicants.html>)
- English: Grade 12 C or U, or equivalent course
- Mathematics: Grade 12 C or U, or Grade 11 U or M, or equivalent course
- Biology: Grade 11 C or U, or equivalent course
- Chemistry: Grade 12 C or Grade 11 U, or equivalent course
- online applicant profile that details related education, experience and volunteer involvement

Preadmission testing is not permitted to meet (or satisfy) the academic prerequisites for this program.

Details on how and when to submit your online applicant profile will be shared with you after applying to the program.

Admission to this program is highly competitive. Applicants are ranked based on academic and online profile strength. Only the top ranked applicants will be offered a seat in the program.

Recommended upgrading for applicants who do not meet academic subject requirements (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/registrar/canadian-applicants/admission-requirements/upgrading-options.html>).

Additional Information

To be eligible for promotion into semester two, students must have a completed a "Clearance Review" through Concise Health (<https://www.concisehealthsolutions.ca/seneca-veterinary-program/>) that includes:

- Prophylactic vaccination against rabies in accordance with Health Canada guidelines
- Bloodwork confirming immunity against rabies (antibody titre # 0.5 IU/mL)

Non-Medical Requirements

- Ability to lift 25 kilograms unassisted.
- Ability to demonstrate physical restraint of species ranging in weights from less than one kilogram to more than 500 kilograms.

Animal Care

Caring for animals on campus is a mandatory component of the Veterinary Technician program. All students will be assigned clinical shifts in order to immerse themselves in the hospital environment. Students will work with and care for a range of species. Shifts will be between two and eight hours in length and may start as early as 6:30 a.m. and end as late as 7 p.m. Students may also be required to work weekends. All students must participate in their assigned shifts throughout the program.

Transportation

Clinical field placements are in a variety of locations. Students will be instrumental in choosing their host location. Placements may be eight to 12-hour days starting as early as 6:00 a.m. and may include weekends and evenings. Students are required to provide their own transportation.

Notes

Ontario Veterinary Technician programs are responsible for providing their enrolled students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, behaviours, attitudes and clinical skills required to enter into the profession of Registered Veterinary Technology in Ontario.

The description of the essential requirements is included in the published bylaws of the Ontario Association of Veterinary Technicians.

These standards are not intended to exclude individuals who may require reasonable accommodation to achieve competency development. It is advisable to discuss such accommodations and/or learning support with the Counselling & Accessible Learning Services ([https://students.senecapolytechnic.ca/spaces/122/accessible-learning-services-](https://students.senecapolytechnic.ca/spaces/122/accessible-learning-services-and-counselling-services/home/)

[and-counselling-services/home/](https://students.senecapolytechnic.ca/spaces/122/accessible-learning-services-and-counselling-services/home/)) during the pre-admission or admission phase.

After admission but before beginning classes, students must obtain a pre-exposure immunization for rabies.

To succeed in the program, you must be able to demonstrate the ability to lift 25 kilograms and restrain animals unassisted.

Pathways

As a leader in academic pathways, we offer a range of options that will allow you to take your credential further in another Seneca program or a program at a partner institution.

To learn more about your eligibility, visit the Academic Pathways (<https://www.senecapolytechnic.ca/pathways.html>) web page.

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