

Delgado Community College Veterinary Assistant Program

General Physical Requirements

Students must possess the physical ability to:

- tolerate walking and standing for at least ten minutes at a time, multiple times per hour.
- lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level or higher at least several times per day
- lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds to a height of one meter or higher and carry the object or animal for a distance of two meters without assistance.
- use hands and arms to handle, install, position and move materials, equipment, and supplies without assistance.
- handle, position, and restrain live animals of small and large animal species.
- be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and be amenable to learning the safe handling, restraining, and working with these animals. An individual should not be allergic to any species of animals to the extent that would prohibit working in a facility that has them.

Cognitive Ability

Students must:

- be able to function in a structured environment within significant time constraints and capable of making rapid decisions in urgent situations and meeting deadlines.
- possess a willingness to assist with and perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting; including humane euthanasia and handling of sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals without fear
- be able to complete required tasks/functions under stressful and/or unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations.
- be able to access information from books, reference manuals, computers, and paper and electronic medical documents to perform duties and safely use equipment without assistance.
- be able to prioritize, organize, and utilize time-management skills to perform tasks.
- evaluate, synthesize and communicate diagnostic information to the attending veterinarian and/or staff.
- be able to progress toward minimal supervision as they advance through the program.

Communication Skills

Students must:

- read, write, speak and report accurately and effectively in English.
- comprehend and carry out complex written and oral instructions given in English.
- be able, when communicating with other individuals by speech, either in person or by telephone, to make legible and coherent written notes in English within the margins and space provided on the appropriate forms.

Professionalism and Interpersonal Skills

Students must:

- demonstrate professional and socially appropriate behavior; maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close human and animal contact.
- be able to interact appropriately with clients and all members of the veterinary healthcare team.
- have the ability to exercise good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural judgment decisions under stressful and/or emergency conditions (i.e. unstable patient condition), emergent demands (i.e. stat test orders), and a distracting environment (i.e., high noise levels, complex visual stimuli, aggressive animals).

Manual Dexterity and Mobility

Students must:

- be able to move his/her entire body a distance of no less than three meters within two seconds of a signal to do so, to move rapidly from danger while handling animals in confined spaces.
- possess fine motor movements in order to perform the essential functions of the profession.
- be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. This includes ability to assist in holding of hemostats or other instruments while assisting in surgery; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous and urinary catheters without assistance.
- be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string

Auditory, Olfactory, and Visual Skills

Veterinary Assistants must have functional use of senses to safely and correctly assess patients and interpret and record data.

Students must:

- possess adequate visual ability, with or without correction, that allows the determination of minute areas of detail, very small variations in color and adequate depth perception (size, shape and texture)
- possess visual ability to allow for observation and assessment as necessary in nursing care both from a distance and close by in order to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behaviors.
- possess auditory ability necessary to monitor and assess health status, including hearing equipment alarms and warning sounds from animals, humans, and/or equipment of impending danger or injury.

- recognize and respond appropriately to distress sounds from animal and alarms/warning signals on animal-monitoring equipment directly and through intercommunication systems to ensure patient safety.
- detect and respond appropriately to odors in order to maintain environmental safety and patient needs.
- be able to observe movement at a distance ranging from 30-45 centimeters to 15-20 meters at a discrimination level that permits detection of subtle differences in movement of the limbs in animals.
 - be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width.
 - possess adequate depth perception to allow detection of a 0.5 cm elevation which is no more than 1cm in diameter on a slightly curved surface having a slightly irregular surface.
 - be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading to permit oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks.
 - be able to perceive the origin of sound as needed to detect movement of large animals in a pen or corral

Reasonable Disability Accommodations

Request for reasonable accommodations must be initiated by the student. Reasonable accommodations may be provided for students with documented disabilities upon submission of appropriate documentation. Documentation must include the names, titles, professional credentials, license number, addresses, and phone numbers of the medical professionals that evaluated the student as well as the date of the evaluation. The evaluation report must include a summary of the assessment procedures and evaluation instruments used to make the diagnosis and a narrative summary of evaluation results. The evaluation must list specific accommodations requested and the rationale for those accommodations. Documentation for eligibility must be current, preferably within the last three years. The age of acceptable documentation is dependent upon the disabling condition, the current status of the student and the student's specific request for accommodations. Students may be required to re-submit this documentation each semester to allow for review of continuing eligibility for accommodations.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disability as a substantial limitation of a major life function. A temporary medical condition does not qualify as a disability and is not covered under the ADA of 1990 or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act because the extent, duration, and impact of the condition is not permanent.

Accommodations may not provide an unfair advantage to the students, fundamentally alter the nature and substance of the curriculum, present an undue hardship for the institution, pose a direct threat to the safety of patients, or compromise the academic integrity of the program. Students may be required to cover the cost of such accommodations and should be aware that a potential employer may not be amenable to use of accommodations that result in undue hardship to the employer. Students receiving

accommodations must be aware that these may not be available from a prospective employer. Veterinary practices with small numbers of employees may be exempt from the requirements of the ADA.

Examples of reasonable accommodations that may be available to students that qualify under the ADA for performance of required skills could include the following:

- Portable speech amplifier
- Hearing aids
- Clear surgical masks
- Magnifying headsets
- Non-allergenic gloves

****Please note student should keep the section above for his or her records and return only the acknowledgement on the following page.***

**VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
PHYSICAL STANDARDS POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

This is to certify that I have received, read, and understand the Physical Standards policy for the Delgado Community College Veterinary Technology Program.

Student Signature

Date _____