

# VETERINARY ASSISTING

New program begins Fall 2009

The Veterinary Assisting program is offered through Matanuska-Susitna College.

## Occupational Endorsement Certificate, VETERINARY ASSISTING

A Veterinary Assistant plays a vital role within the veterinary profession. In the Veterinary Assisting Occupational Endorsement Certificate Program, students learn how to assist and support the veterinarian and the veterinary technician in their daily tasks. Students will learn the fundamentals required for the care, treatment, and management of both the animals as patients and people as clients. Students learn the fundamentals of good customer service, communication skills, and the essentials of clerical responsibilities. They further learn the fundamental skills of proper handling, nutrition, and nursing care for both large and small animals. Students are introduced to clinical patient management and laboratory procedures.

## Occupational Endorsement Certificate Outcomes

Upon completion of the Occupational Endorsement Certificate, students will demonstrate:

- Knowledge of veterinary practice administration
- Basic ability to handle and restrain large and small animals
- Understanding of basic medical terminology
- Introductory understanding of animal anatomy and physiology
- Entry-level skills for laboratory procedures
- Effective customer service and communication skills

## Admission Requirements

See Occupational Endorsement Certificate admission requirements in chapter 7.

## Occupational Endorsement Certificate Requirements

In order to receive the Veterinary Assisting Occupational Endorsement Certificate, students must achieve a grade of C or better in all courses required for the Occupational Endorsement Certificate.

1. Complete the following required courses:

VETT A101	Introduction to the Veterinary Profession	1
VETT A103	Veterinary Office Procedures	3
VETT A122	Basic Handling and Behavior: Small Animals	2
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VETT A124	Introduction to Small Animals	3
VETT A125	Introduction to Large Animals	3
VETT A201	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology	4
VETT A295	Veterinary Assistant Practicum	3

2. A total of 21 credits are required for this Occupational Endorsement Certificate.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### VETT A101 Introduction to the Veterinary Profession (1)

#### Fall semester

Introduction to the veterinary profession for individuals considering a career in this field. Introduces responsibilities and expectations as well as legal boundaries of a veterinary health care team.

### VETT A103 Veterinary Office Procedures (3)

#### Fall semester

Provides the student with current information in veterinary practice office management. Students will apply concepts, principles, and skills to situations specific to veterinary office procedures.

### VETT A122 Basic Handling and Behavior: small animals (2)

#### Spring Semester

Introduces general topics in the veterinary field: small-animal breeds and behavior, safe animal handling and restraint, grooming, nutrition and vaccination. Additional topics include exam room procedures (physical exam and history taking), facility maintenance, surgical assisting, and laboratory assisting

### VETT A123 Basic Handling and Behavior: large animals (2)

#### Spring Semester

Introductory course for student considering a career in large-animal health-care. Introduces large animal nutrition, care, behavior, and restraint, including working safely with large animals.

### VETT A124 Introduction to Small Animals (3)

#### Spring Semester

Introductory course for students considering a career in small-animal health care. Topics include an introduction to restrain, clinical pathology, diagnostic imaging, emergency medicine, anesthesia, pharmacology, and pain management, surgical and medical nursing, dentistry and other applicable skills.

### VETT A125 Introduction to Large Animals (3)

#### Spring Semester

Introductory course for students considering a career in large-animal health care. Introduces clinical patient management and procedures, laboratory procedures, anesthesia, pharmacology, and surgical and medical nursing specific to large animal species.

### VETT A201 Veterinary Anatomy & Physiology (4)

#### Fall semester

Introductory anatomy and physiology course for students considering a career or furthering their education in the veterinary field. Introduces comparative anatomy and physiologic processes for both small- and large-animal species. Include lecture and lab components.

### VETT A295 Veterinary Internship/Practicum (3)

#### Summer semester

Students gain practical experience in a workplace setting. The faculty, practicum supervisor, and student collaboratively develop an individualized plan for workplace training to reflect the student's occupational objectives.