

About This Program

The Veterinary Assistant program is 36 weeks in length and prepares students with the skills to help animals when they need it most. This in-depth training covers animal patient care including lab tests, radiology procedures, veterinary dentistry, critical care, and surgical assisting. Curriculum also focuses on communication skills involving pet owner education, sick animal counseling, and wellness/preventative measures. Students receive hands-on training under the direct supervision of a Registered Veterinary Technician or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Externship includes various animal care environments to give students real-world experience.

Careers in Veterinary Assisting

Employment positions determined to be in field, to calculate the graduate employment rates required by the State of California, for graduates of the Veterinary Assistant program are: Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers (31-9096.00), Office Clerks, General (in a medical/veterinary setting) (43-9061.00, and Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants (in a medical/veterinary setting) (43-6013.00).

More information on these careers may be found at onetonline.org/crosswalk/ using the career title or the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) number.

Knowledge and Skills

Upon completion of the Veterinary Assistant program, graduates will be able to:

- Perform the duties pertaining to veterinary clinic reception, office management, and general computer skills
- Perform the various duties of a veterinary assistant, such as venipuncture, administering of injections, placing of IV catheters, and the monitoring of anesthesia in a surgical setting
- Perform dental prophylaxis, with capability to instruct and demonstrate in-home dental care, providing detailed explanation for future recommendations
- Perform and apply laboratory procedures, as well as radiographic film processing regarded as diagnostic contributions in animal healthcare
- Demonstrate confidence in the execution of exam room protocols, such as proper pet restraining techniques, obtaining vitals, accurate recording of patient history and client communication within the examination process
- Relate and apply concepts of communication, reasoning, critical analysis, ethical behavior and appropriate interpersonal interaction to situations in his or her career and personal life
- Demonstrate the social skills, professional appearance, attitudes, and behavior that employers expect of graduates

The program culminates in a Certificate of Achievement.



*Your Path to
the Career
You're Made For*

Carrington College's academic catalog, available at carrington.edu/catalog, provides the most current and detailed program information, including admission and graduation requirements.

VETERINARY ASSISTANT



Campus Based: Bakersfield and Fresno

Veterinary Assistant Campus-Based Program Requirements

TECHNICAL COURSES		LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	EXTERN HOURS	SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS
VA100	Introduction to the Veterinary Assisting	30	15	0	2
VA110	Introduction to Life Sciences	45	0	0	3
VA130	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology I	45	0	0	3
VA120	Animal Nursing	30	15	0	2
VA140	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology II	45	0	0	3
VA150	Veterinary Pharmacology	45	0	0	3
VA160	Veterinary Laboratory Procedures	60	30	0	5
VA170	Veterinary Radiology	30	15	0	2
VA180	Veterinary Surgical Assisting	60	30	0	5
VA190	Veterinary Dentistry and Critical Care	30	15	0	2
VA500	Clinical Externship	0	0	135	3
VA510	Certification Prep	15	0	0	1
GRS100	Graduate Readiness Seminar	30	0	0	2
TOTAL FOR CERTIFICATE		465	120	135	36

Approximate time to complete certificate program: 36 weeks (not including breaks)

Accreditation and Disclosures

Carrington College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, 428 J Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education.

Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at accjc.org.

For comprehensive information on Carrington College's accreditation and approvals, visit carrington.edu/accreditation. Visit carrington.edu/sci for important information on program outcomes.

Program availability varies by location. Carrington College reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. For the most updated information, visit carrington.edu.