SPC ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

# Veterinary Technology Program

# Technical Standards and Accommodation Policy

## Main Office

Location: 12376 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33774

Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone : 727-302-6711

## Contact Information


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## Accessibility Services

https://go.spcollege.edu/accessibility/

## Technical Standards for Veterinary Technology Program

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ensure that qualified applicants have the ability to pursue program admission. However, all students must meet the essential skills and technical standards required of the St. Petersburg College Veterinary Technology Program with or without reasonable accommodations for admission and completion of the program to prepare for the profession of study. Each student will be held to the same standards with or without reasonable accommodations. Our focus is the student and to best prepare him or her for the profession. Our goal is for them to enter and complete the program without barriers.

**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. This includes the dexterity to manipulate small equipment, adjust resistance on equipment, hold hooves while cleaning and evaluating, manage syringes, catheters, and common surgical instruments.
- Possess tactile ability necessary for physical assessment and to perform nursing duties in a timely manner. This includes performing palpation during physical exams; administering oral, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intravenous medication; insert and remove tubes; collect organic samples from live animals and perform wound care.
- Possess the ability to palpate and interpret findings, i.e. palpation of pulses, lymph nodes or trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size.
- 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. This includes the ability to hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00 silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine and/or other body fluids; apply bandages without assistance.

**Auditory, Olfactory, and Visual Skills**

Veterinary technicians 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), including differentiation of details as viewed through a microscope. This includes ability to characterize and interpret the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body structures and fluids, observe variations in skin and mucus membrane color, integrity, pulsations, tissue swelling, etc
- 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 auscultation of heart and lungs, and hear 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 use a compound microscope to identify cells and organisms and be able to differentiate colors of stained objects.
- 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. This includes ability to detect and

describe a change in color of hair coat caused by licking or trauma; detect abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; ability to read anesthesia monitoring equipment.

- Be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width. This includes ability to characterize bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; and ability to see ECG tracing.
- 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. This includes detection of tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth-haired dog; determining presence of reaction to skin testing for allergies.
- 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; monitoring multiple patients in an ICU.

**Accessibility Services:** St. Petersburg College recognizes the importance of equal access for all students. Accessibility Services is the campus office that works with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. Instructors may not grant accommodations without proper notification from this Office. Due to the nature of all health programs, including the Veterinary Technology Program, accommodations requested for labs and/or a clinical will be determined by a committee that includes the HEC Accessibility Coordinator, Academic Chair, Dean, and other professionals deemed appropriate and on a case-by-case bases. These requests must be made prior to the semester starting or the in the first few weeks. Students registered with Accessibility Services are encouraged to contact their instructors early in the semester. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. learning disability, ADD/ADHD, psychiatric, medical/orthopedic, vision, and/or hearing), are invited to contact Accessibility Services for a confidential discussion at 727-341-3721 (V/TTY) or at silvers.stefanie@spcollege.edu. Additional information is available at the college-wide Accessibility Services website: http://go.spcollege.edu/accessibility

# Office of Accessibility Services

| Accessibility Services Coordinators by Campus | | |
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| **Coordinators** | **Phone** | **Campus** |
| Aimee Stubbs<br>Director | 727-341-3398 | Collegewide |
| Jeff Zeigler | 727-791-2710 | Clearwater Campus |
| Ray Hollowell | 727-341-4316 | St. Petersburg/Gibbs |
| Dr. Tonya (TJ) Williams | 727-341-7913 | EpiCenter and SPC Downtown |

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|---|---|---|
| Amy Mullarkey | 727-712-5789 | Tarpon Springs |
| Stefanie Silvers | 727-341-3721 | Health Education Center |
| Kelli Mitchell | 727-394-6289 (TTY) | Seminole Campus |
| Lisa Gould | 727-398-8284 (TTY) | Midtown/Allstate Campus |