



Veterinary Assistant Program

The Veterinary Assistant program prepares students to assist the veterinarian in all aspects of animal care. Veterinary Assistants provide surgical and nursing care to animals in clinics, as well as field settings. They also provide basic care, perform laboratory procedures, and assist in the veterinary clinic with other functions. Veterinary Assistants work in a variety of settings including animal hospitals and clinics, animal shelters, laboratories, zoos, and animal parks.

Program content requires the application of basic math and technical reading skills. Students in the Veterinary Assistant program will learn about the care of animals as well as how to recognize signs of illness and disease. This program also covers interpersonal communication, interaction with clients and their animals, as well as assisting the veterinarian during examinations.

Administrative duties, such as fee collection, banking, and accounts payable will be emphasized, and the student will learn basic information about pet insurance. The veterinary assisting course is a vital asset to the student who wishes to work in this exciting and rewarding career field. This program meets for 12 weeks for a total of 60 hours.

What is a veterinary assistant?

Here is a quick overview of the skills and duties a Veterinary Assistant will be able to perform in a veterinary clinic/hospital or related animal health care environment upon completion of the program.

- ❖ Professional Conduct
- ❖ Laws and their implications
- ❖ Front Office Procedures
- ❖ Animal Restraint
- ❖ Examination Room Procedures
- ❖ Pharmacy Skills
- ❖ Laboratory Skills
- ❖ Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging
- ❖ Medical Nursing
- ❖ Surgical Tasks
- ❖ Grooming
- ❖ Facility Maintenance

CRN: 1569 HMED M7077

Date: Saturdays, April 18-July 25, 2009

Time: 11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m.

Fee: \$ 1200.00 Course fee does not include textbooks.

Instructor: Dr. Peter Embriano

The Veterinary Assistant Program is coordinated by Peter J. Embriano, MD, MBA. Dr Embriano worked for four years as a Veterinary Assistant, and 8 years as a clinical research assistant in an animal research laboratory during his career. We designed this curriculum after thoroughly researching all the Veterinary Assistant programs that are being offered throughout the country and talking to local veterinary professionals to determine what skills they believe are important to work successfully in the field. This has allowed us to design a course that is comprehensive and can be completed in a timely manner. We will also be bringing in area veterinary professionals to guest lecture as well as utilizing demonstration videos prepared by leading veterinary professional from around the country. We will also be organizing a practical, on site externship in an area veterinary facility to supplement what you learn in the course with real life - practical, hands on experience. This is an important aspect of the course that is not part of the online courses presently being offered by other institutions. Our ultimate goal is to prepare students to work competently and confidently in the field, and give them the tools to develop into viable candidates for employment in the local veterinary community.