

Comprehensive Program Review Report



Program Review - Veterinary Technician

Program Summary

2021-2022

Prepared by: Allison Vander Plaats

What are the strengths of your area?: 1. First completer of the Veterinary Assisting certificate. In 2020-2021, despite COVID, 1 student completed the requirements for the Veterinary Assisting Certificate. The goal of this certificate is to provide students with a foundation of knowledge and basic laboratory and animal handling skill that would make them an asset to any veterinary team. This certificate also incorporates other courses within the Animal Science curriculum, which allows for moderate overlap in the Veterinary Assisting Certificate and Animal Science degrees/certificates.

2. Growing interest in veterinary-related classes. VT 109 and VT 216 were offered for the 2020-2021 academic year & had excellent student involvement despite COVID requiring modification of course & lab schedules. ASCI 117 Veterinary Terminology was taught for the first time in Fall 2020, with high student interest & good student performance. It will be offered as a Distance Education course for 2021-2022. Some of these courses (VT 109) have also been worked into the Animal Science certificates and degrees as an elective course, increasing course overlap and encouraging students to take these courses.

3. Incorporation of large animal topics into VT 109, VT 216, & ASCI 207 (formerly ASCI 117). In the first iteration of the course, it was focused on small animals. With the access to livestock we have, Dr. Vander Plaats has adjusted the curriculum & labs to incorporate a more well-rounded understanding of both small & large animals.

What improvements are needed?: 1. Relocating all VT classes under the ASCI prefix. The VT prefix is still very confusing for our students, and many still think that this is a veterinary technician program. Because veterinary science is just a subset of animal science, it would be beneficial to change all VT courses to ASCI. This would reduce student confusion about what this program actually entails and also make evident the connection of veterinary science to animal science. This action is supported by the Advisory Committee.

2. Continued recruiting. While VT 109 was a full course, VT 216 and the classes-in-development will need the same amount of enthusiasm to make this program a success. Making clear to students in VT 109 that there are other classes with similar material that can lead to a certificate is crucial.

3. Continued clarification with counselors and encouragement of students to complete the paperwork for the certificate. Many of our COS counselors were in attendance for our lunch and learn, but this took place before the certificate became official. Another meeting with them to clarify the goals of the certificate, and to encourage them to encourage students to complete the course sequence and paperwork to make the certificate official, is essential to program growth.

4. Continued development of the program. As it stands, there are three veterinary specific courses (VT 109, VT 216, and ASCI 117), with support ASCI courses to round out the certificate. The eventual goal of faculty is to make this a certified veterinary assisting course that is backed by the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA). In order to do this, our program must ensure students must work through a checklist of skills and the program would go through a certification process. While not an immediate goal, it is something to work towards.

5. Continued inventory of machinery and equipment and either recycling or replacement of out-of-date equipment. While B-118 is now organized, there is some expensive equipment that is now considered out of date that either needs to be recycled or replaced with newer equipment that students can learn on.

Describe any external opportunities or challenges.: OPPORTUNITIES

1. Move all VT courses under the ASCI prefix to increase clarity that this is NOT a veterinary technician curriculum & improve understanding of the connections between veterinary science & animal science.
2. Student interest in this field of study is high, and students are overall motivated and enthusiastic.
3. Continued emphasis of veterinary medicine as a subset of animal science and its relation to not only the pet industries but animal agriculture as well.
4. Outreach to local high schools with veterinary 4H programs in place to recruit students.

CHALLENGES

1. COVID-19. Due to the very hands-on nature of the veterinary program, students in VT 216 during spring semester were unable to experience many of the planned labs, which negatively affected their educational experience and deprived them of some important basic skills. We hope to modify labs in the coming year to ensure student safety while still providing them with those essential learning opportunities.
2. Clarification of Veterinary Assisting certificate and differentiation from now-dead Vet Tech program. In Spring of 2020, we met with counselors to discuss what the Veterinary Assisting certificate is, but we need another meeting or more outreach to clarify certificate goals and differentiate the Veterinary Assisting program from a Veterinary Technician program.

Overall SLO Achievement: Developing program. Assessment is planned for the end of next academic year (2021-2022), which should provide enough data (third semester for VT 109).

Changes Based on SLO Achievement: Development of more concise, program-based SLOs.

Overall PLO Achievement: Developing program. Assessment is planned for the end of next academic year (2021-2022), which should provide enough data (third semester for VT 109).

Changes Based on PLO Achievement: NA

Outcome cycle evaluation: Developing program. SLOs will be assessed every third semester once data is available.

Action: 2021-2022 Improve counselor understanding of Veterinary Assisting certificate

Remind counselors of Veterinary Assisting certificate and describe what the goal of this certificate is.

Leave Blank:

Implementation Timeline: 2020 - 2021, 2021 - 2022

Leave Blank:

Leave Blank:

Identify related course/program outcomes:

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Allison Vander Plaats

Rationale (With supporting data):

Priority: High

Safety Issue: No

External Mandate: No

Safety/Mandate Explanation:

Update on Action

Updates

Update Year: 2021-2022

08/26/2021

Status: Continue Action Next Year

Ongoing issue. COVID has complicated the ability to disseminate information clearly with real-time feedback, though some emails have gone out in attempt to clarify.

Impact on District Objectives/Unit Outcomes (Not Required):

Action: 2020-2021 Convert ASCI 117 Veterinary Terminology to online course

ASCI 117 Veterinary Terminology has been taught remotely due to COVID, and should stay an online course

Leave Blank:

Implementation Timeline: 2020 - 2021

Program Review - Veterinary Technician

Leave Blank:

Leave Blank:

Identify related course/program outcomes:

Person(s) Responsible (Name and Position): Allison Vander Plaats

Rationale (With supporting data):

Priority: Medium

Safety Issue: No

External Mandate: No

Safety/Mandate Explanation:

Update on Action

Updates

Update Year: 2021-2022

08/26/2021

Status: Action Completed

ASCI 207 (formerly 117) has been approved as a Distance Education course

Impact on District Objectives/Unit Outcomes (Not Required):