

# Comprehensive Program Review Report



## Program Review - Veterinary Technician

### Program Summary

#### 2023-2024

**Prepared by:** Kyle Thompson and Russell McKeith

**What are the strengths of your area?:** Prepared by: Russell McKeith, Kim Pitigliano and Kyle Thompson

1. We able to hire a replacement ASCI instructor since Dr. Allison Vander Plaats decided to leave. It was critical that we were able to hire a replacement position because our FTES and student enrollment supports the replacement position. Additionally, if you are relying on adjuncts, your program could potentially begin to suffer some with no stability in that position. Therefore, it has been a seamless transition between Dr. Allison Vander Plaats and Dr. Kyle Thompson.

2. Students remain excited about Animal Science courses, and course enrollment and participation has remained high. For Fall 2023 we had full waitlists in our ASCI 001 sections, so some students were not able to join the class like in years past. In the future, we are thinking about adding a fourth section of ASCI 001 for the Fall semester, which would allow us to teach 5 sections of ASCI 001 throughout the academic year.

3. The Veterinary Assisting Certificate continues to gain traction, with more students currently pursuing certificates than previous years with a total of 57. This program is still geared towards preparing students for assistant roles in the veterinary practice by providing them with crucial background information and a set of basic laboratory and animal handling skills. We have noticed many of these students want to complete an ASCI degree after completing their Veterinary Assisting Certificate.

5. With the help of our Animal Science Advisory, our DSCI classes are now completely cross-listed as ASCI classes. This has lead to increase enrollment for DSCI 101 for Fall 2023, as well as make it easier for students to enroll in DSCI classes.

6. Post COVID, ASCI student enrollment continues to increase. For the 2022-2023 academic year there were 278 ASCI majors which is an increase of 30 majors from 2021-2022 (248 ASCI majors). If you take into account Veterinary Assisting there was enrollment of 335 ASCI students for 2022-2023 compared to 282 ASCI students for 2021-2022. We believe this increase is due to the fact that many young people have a passion for animals/livestock, as well as that we continue to offer most classes in a Face-to-Face modality because we understand the importance of "hands-on" education.

7. Annual review of animal health and handling protocols for our livestock units. These protocols continue to be an excellent source of information for both students & faculty. Development of a more formal student training program via Canvas would be ideal, but it has proved difficult to organize information & make it required for student herdsman who are not part of an official class. Instead, we have started videoing common procedures & will likely start by posting videos for review by students. These protocols are still in existence even after Dr. Vander Plaats left.

**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

**Describe any external opportunities or challenges.:** 1. Continued student participation in high level internships like the Kentucky Equine Management Internship, Seaboard Foods, American Foods Group, UC Davis VMTRC, and more.

2. Our continued collaboration with the Tulare County Fair with students helping facilitate and assist in running the Livestock shows and Junior Livestock Auction. This gives students a different "hands-on" experience in Animal Science while contributing back to their community.

**Overall SLO Achievement:** Students this past academic year were very successful (87.5%) in completing VT 109 and VT 216. These courses have been revamped to offer applicable relevant vet assisting industry knowledge to enable students to be successful.

**Changes Based on SLO Achievement:** No changes currently need to be changed.

**Overall PLO Achievement:** We are still waiting on data to show how many completes of the Vet Assisting Certificate there are. To my knowledge I know of 3 this past year, but no data can currently be found in Data Mart.

**Changes Based on PLO Achievement:** Continue to encourage students to complete the Vet Assisting Certificate along with encouraging them to take classes towards the ASCI Degree if desired.

**Outcome cycle evaluation:** All classes are current in regards to outcome assessment.

**No Action were returned for this Unit based upon the selected parameters.**