

Comprehensive Program Review Report



Program Review - Veterinary Technician

Program Summary

2020-2021

Prepared by: Allison Vander Plaats

What are the strengths of your area?: 1. Launch of a Veterinary Assisting certificate. After evaluating which existing classes would fit best, and talking with industry partners and other members of academia, a Veterinary Assisting certificate was launched with lots of support from faculty and staff, and to great student excitement. 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. Cleaning and reorganization of B-118, the previous Veterinary Technology lab. When the move from the Linwood location occurred, all supplies and equipment were boxed up and placed in the back room and cabinets of B-118. Over the course of a week, Dr. Vander Plaats sorted through all these boxes, identified usable equipment and supplies, and disposed of a lot of out of date or damaged supplies. These supplies were reorganized into existing cabinets and labeled appropriately so that all supplies are now easily located. Equipment and machinery was also inventoried and compared to old invoices.

3. Growing interest in veterinary-related classes. VT 109 and VT 216 were offered for the 2019-2020 academic year. VT 109 was at capacity and VT 216 was half filled. As word spreads of the existence of this program and its hands-on focus, these classes will fill. Informal student surveys at the end of each semester indicated interest in similar classes and great enjoyment of the labs. ASCI 117 Veterinary Terminology will be taught for the first time in Fall 2020. 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.

4. Clarification of Veterinary Assisting versus Veterinary Technician. In Fall 2019, we held a lunch and learn for COS counselors to hear a little bit more about each of the programs within the Ag Division, including the then-in-development Veterinary Assisting Certificate. Counselors appreciated learning about this new program, how it differs from the previous Veterinary Technician Program, and how to best direct students to and through this certificate.

What improvements are needed?: 1. Changing the VT prefix either to Veterinary Science or 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.

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.

6. Continued incorporation of large animal medicine and handling into the program. As it currently stands, this program is geared towards companion animal (cats and dogs) medicine. There are a lot of opportunities in equine and farm animal medicine to act as a veterinary assistant, and some students have expressed interest in especially the equine side. Reworking course curriculum to include more large animal veterinary techniques and interaction (different than what exists in ASCI courses) would also help to draw students into the program.

Describe any external opportunities or challenges.: OPPORTUNITIES

1. Student interest in this field of study is high, and students are overall motivated and enthusiastic.
2. 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.
3. 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: 2020-2021 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

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:

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

Program Review - Veterinary Technician

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

Leave Blank:

Implementation Timeline: 2020 - 2021

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: