

**VE177**  
**Veterinary Medical Assistant Practicum**  
**3 Credits**

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## **VE177 Version: 2**



# **Veterinary Medical Assistant Practicum**

## **Calendar Description**

Students are placed in approved veterinary clinics or alternatives (such as a humane society) for a four week period at the end of the formal instruction at Lakeland College. During the practicum, students gain experience with exposure to the workings within the veterinary profession and have the opportunity to become part of the working team. This experience enhances their skills and helps prepare them for the work force.

## **Rationale**

This is a required course for the Veterinary Medical Assistant program. Each student has the opportunity to choose the location of their placement. Students work along with the veterinary team to use the skills they obtained in school and put them into practical application in a real life setting.

## **Prerequisites**

Students must pass all courses; have a cumulative GPA of 2.0, and a good attendance record in order to qualify to participate in the practicum.

## **Co-Requisites**

None

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. restrain patients (both large and or small) for various procedures such as physical examinations, blood collection and treatments.
2. have client interaction within the business including answering phones, sales, booking appointments and directing client questions.
3. provide kennel care to animals as required.
4. wrap surgical packs and autoclave them as needed.
5. contribute to the sanitation and disinfection of the facility.
6. assist with equipment maintenance as needed.

7. assist with inventory management.
8. maintain patient medical records as required.
9. follow safety procedures when working within the facility.
10. assist with taking radiographs, managing x-ray files and log books.

## **Resource Materials**

### ***Required Texts:***

None

### ***Reference Texts:***

None

## **Conduct of Course**

1. Students must complete a minimum of 4 weeks and 160 hours at the practicum location. Any missed days are required to be made up to fulfill the total work hours.
2. Students work on mutually agreeable schedule with the practicum location.
3. Students adhere to the dress code of the chosen practicum location.
4. Students must log into the discussion board on D2L and answer the weekly questions as well as log their weekly hours.

## **Evaluation Procedures**

This course is a pass fail and is based on fulfilling the set requirements and the evaluation provided by the practicum site staff as well as completing the D2L discussion entries and timesheet.

## **Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements**

This course is graded as a pass "P" or fail "F".

## **Attendance**

Regular attendance at the veterinary clinic or alternate practicum placement is necessary for success in the course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing duties and set requirements of the practicum site staff. Poor attendance may result in the suspension of a student from the course. Students may be required to withdraw and will automatically receive a "RW" (required withdrawal) for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. (RW is a failing grade.)

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate and complete the required number of hours at the same location or an alternate practicum location.

## Course Units/Topics

The student is required to work on a mutually agreed schedule for a minimum of 160 hours at the participating veterinary clinic or alternative placement (such as a humane society) over a four week period. During the practicum students are assigned duties and responsibilities by the veterinary staff that allows them to use the skills they learned in the program. Students are evaluated as a pass/fail by the practicum site staff on the form provided by Lakeland College.



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