

VS210

Practicum

3 Credits

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VS210 Version: 4



Practicum

Calendar Description

Second year Animal Health Technology students are placed in veterinary clinics for a six-week period. They gain practical experience in a working clinic situation as a "novice" animal health technologist. A shift as clinic supervisor in the Small Animal Clinic on the college campus is also a component of VS210. P/F.

Rationale

This is a required course for students in the Animal Health Technology program. It allows students to apply theoretical knowledge and practical skills in a clinical situation. The opportunity to work closely with veterinarians and veterinary technologists in practice gives valuable experience and insight into the duties of an animal health technologist.

Prerequisites

VS204, VS206, VS208, and VS221

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. participate in the daily functions of a veterinary clinic.
2. apply laboratory skills, such as hematology, urinalysis, cytology, microbiology, and parasitology to a clinical situation.
3. use the technical skills of radiography, anesthesiology, surgical procedures, and nursing care in a veterinary clinical situation.
4. function effectively in a variety of clinical situations.
5. complete 2 comprehensive exams to prepare for the VTNE.

Resource Materials

The co-operating veterinarians and their staff.

Conduct of Course

Students work six weeks in an approved veterinary clinic or facility. The veterinarian and technical staff of the clinic co-ordinate and supervise the duties assigned to the student.

This requires the student to work the hours that the clinic is open for business and may sometimes require the student to work out of normally scheduled office hours.

Students may select their own practicum placement, but cannot do their practicum where work experience hours were obtained, or where they have been previously employed.

Students are encouraged to experience a different Veterinary clinical setting from one they have been in before

A general Veterinary facility is recommended, though it may be a strictly small animal practice; this will give the opportunity for a student to practice all aspects of their training.

To do a practicum at a specialty practice such as 100% equine, Emergency/critical care, Holistic/rehab, or zoo/wildlife, special permission is required.

Evaluation Procedures

A Lakeland College evaluation form encompassing all aspects of technologists' duties is completed by the supervising veterinarian or staff member in charge. The evaluator goes through the evaluation form with the student approximately halfway through the practicum. The completed form is returned to the practicum coordinator for the Animal Health Technology program for review. **The course is evaluated on a pass/fail basis.**

If a student fails the practicum, a second attempt may be allowed with the permission of the instructor. Only two attempts are allowed to pass the practicum.

Students are also evaluated on their performance as clinic supervisor, on clinic duty, and on patient assignments. Students are given a pass/fail grade based on the completion of their clinic duty requirements.

Students must also pass 2 comprehensive multiple choice exams that are created to mimic the Veterinary Technician National Exam that is a requirement for registration in Western Canada. Each exam will cover different sections of material -- and students must obtain a **70%** on each exam to be considered a pass. The exam will be posted on D2L and students are allowed unlimited attempts to achieve the 70%. **The student will receive a pass/fail grade for this component.**

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A "Pass" grade is required in this course to graduate.

Attendance

Attendance is considered vital to the learning process and as significant to the student's evaluation as examination and reports. Therefore, absenteeism will be recorded.

Students having an unexcused absence of 10 percent for the scheduled course hours will automatically receive "0" for the course, regardless of any other evaluation results. Students having a combination of excused and/or unexcused absence of 20 percent for the scheduled course hours will not pass the course.

An excused absence is one that is verified by either a note from your doctor regarding illness, or prior authorization by the instructor.

The hours of work are subject to change and should be mutually agreed upon by the practicum supervisor and the student.

Course Units/Topics

The student is required to work during the normal business hours of the participating clinic or placement. This is usually Monday to Friday for 8 hours per day. Special permission may be granted for those individuals working in practices that operate outside of these hours. A total of 240 hours (minimum) at the work place must be completed by the end of the practicum.

Two comprehensive exams are completed prior to going on practicum



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