Vet Tech Program Technical Standards

The Vet Tech Program at BTC prepares the graduate to function as a veterinary technician/nurse to meet the needs patient care and assessment for multiple species (dog, cat, horse, cow, birds, small mammals, reptiles). To progress and graduate from the Vet Tech Program, students must meet knowledge and skills competencies in the areas of Nursing Judgment, Client Interaction, Teamwork and Collaboration, Informatics and Technology, Patient Handling/Restraint, and Professionalism.

This statement of Technical Standards identifies the functional abilities that the faculty have determined to be necessary in the provision of safe, effective, professional veterinary nursing care as outlined by the AVMA Essential Skills Requirements.

Students with disabilities who have questions about or who may require reasonable accommodation in meeting the Vet Tech Program Technical Standards should contact BTC Accessibility Resources. The student must be able to meet the following Technical Standards independently, with or without reasonable accommodation.

Assessment and Observational Ability

Vet Tech students must be able to:

- Collect, use, and interpret information from physical assessments which includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - detect changes in skin color or condition.
  - discriminate between abnormal and normal color of body fluids or exudates.
  - use diagnostic and assessment tools such as, but not limited to, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, automated vital signs monitor, and thermometer.
  - other modes of patient assessment in the context of laboratory studies, medication administration, radiologic studies, and other patient care activities.
- Detect, interpret, and communicate sounds related to bodily functions which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - detect audible alarms with the frequency and volume ranges of the sounds generated by mechanical systems that monitor bodily functions.
- Detect a fire in a patient care area.
- Draw up the correct quantity of medication into a syringe.
- Decipher fine print such as medication and equipment labeling.
- Detect odors such as foul-smelling bodily fluids, spoiled foods, or smoke from burning materials.
- Detect changes in skin temperature and detect unsafe temperature levels in heat producing devices used in patient care.
- Detect anatomical abnormalities (changes in skin from air accumulation, masses, or fluid accumulations), palpate pulses and percuss/palpate other body areas.

Communication Ability

Vet Tech students must be able to:

- Comprehend, communicate, and document information in the English language.
- Communicate accurately and effectively with:
    - Animal owners / livestock managers
    - other professionals in veterinary settings.
    - instructors, supervisors, classmates, and various health or educational team members in both clinical and classroom settings.
- Elicit, receive, and accurately interpret information from others:
    - collect, document, and convey relevant information to others.
    - learn, understand, and use healthcare terminology.
    - comprehend and follow directions and instructions.
    - accurately record patient medical information, write, and manage patients' plans of care, maintain reports.
- Present information in a professional, logical, and organized manner.
- Provide client education and instructions to effectively care for animals and prevent zoonotic disease transmission

Motor Abilities

Vet Tech students must be able to:

- Perform physical assessments and diagnostic/therapeutic maneuvers necessary and required in the curriculum and of a future Licensed Veterinary Technician.
- Perform animal care activities, including, but not limited to:
    - insertion of urinary catheters
    - insertion of nasogastric tubes
    - insertion of intravenous catheters
    - hanging of blood products/other intravenous infusions
    - lifting animals from floor or cage
    - moving and restraining dogs and cats
    - moving and restraining livestock species with appropriate equipment usage
    - moving equipment to various heights
    - disposing of needles in sharps containers
    - accurately placing and maintaining position of stethoscope for detecting sounds of bodily functions
    - manipulating small equipment and containers, such as syringes, needles, vials, ampules, and medication packages
- Respond to emergency patient care situations in a timely manner and provide emergency care, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.
- Possess the physical endurance necessary for extended periods of activity that are required for safe performance in clinical and classroom settings.

- Demonstrate the ability to comply with all safety standards in all clinical settings, including, but not limited to, infectious control precautions (universal, contact, airborne) and use of emergency equipment (crash cart, fire extinguisher, evacuation chairs).
- Wear PPE such as a respirator, N95, KN95, surgical mask, face shield, gown, gloves, lead shielding, head covering, etc., for long periods and complete N95 fit testing or approved alternative.
- Capable of moving within and among veterinary/animal environments without compromising the safety of animals or humans.

Cognitive, Conceptual, and Quantitative Abilities

Vet Tech students must have the capacity to:

- Develop and refine critical thinking, decision making and problem-solving skills that are crucial for safe and effective veterinary nursing practice using, but not limited to, the following processes:
    - capability to measure, quantify, calculate, question, analyze, conceptualize, reason, integrate, and synthesize information to make timely decisions reflecting sound clinical judgment, and to determine appropriate clinical decision making.
    - interpret the clinical indications of evidence-based research.
    - learn from other individuals.
    - comprehend, integrate, and apply new information.
    - make sound clinical decisions.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Vet Tech students must be able to:

- Communicate effectively, respectfully, and with cultural humility, with all individuals whom they encounter.
- Demonstrate behaviors associated with compassion, respect, concern for others (humans and animals), integrity, ethical comportment, sound clinical judgment, and accountability for their responsibilities and actions.
- Accept the supervision of an instructor and/or preceptor.
- Accept constructive criticism or feedback.
- Modify behavior based on feedback.
- Adapt quickly to rapidly changing situations/environments, to uncertain circumstances and to withstand human trauma and its effects.
- Correctly judge when assistance is required and seek appropriate assistance in a timely manner.
- Exercise good judgment.
- Function cooperatively and efficiently with others.

Professional, Legal, and Ethical Conduct

Vet Tech Students are expected to exhibit professional behavior, personal accountability, compassion, integrity, concern for others, and care for all animals in a respectful and effective manner, minimizing

animal stress whenever possible. Individuals whose performance is impaired by abuse of alcohol or other substances are not suitable for progression in or graduation from the Vet Tech Program.

Vet Tech students must be able to:

- Function within the legal and ethical principles of the professional standards of practice.
- Display behaviors that conform to the ethical role of a Licensed Veterinary Technician in all interactions with animals, faculty, staff, students, and the public.
- Meet guidelines established by veterinary clinics/practices where they will be engaged in clinical experiences.

I hereby acknowledge and confirm that I meet the BTC Veterinary Technician Program Technical Standards.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the terms and conditions outlined above.

Student Signature: _____Date:_____

Student ID Number:_____