



"Alternate Route" to State Board Eligibility

Information Sheet

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The following information and advice is provided by the Program Director of the Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program as a service to the veterinary technician community and is not sanctioned by the Veterinary Medical Board (VMB) Registered Veterinary Technician Examining Committee (RVTEC). The VT Program has attempted to provide reliable information and sound advice however, the reader is cautioned that only they are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the information they collect and act on is accurate and current.

- ✓ The reader must contact the RVTEC to obtain the official information on the State Board Examination Eligibility Requirements including information about the "Alternate Route".

The RVTEC can be contacted at (916) 263-2613

1420 Howe Avenue, Suite 6, Sacramento, CA 95825

- ✓ In addition, an *Alternate Route Workbook* (available for \$10.00) has been published by the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to assist those individuals attempting to complete the requirements for board eligibility by the "Alternate Route". This workbook is strongly recommended! It is a "must have"!

The CVMA can be reached at (916) 649-0599 or staff@cvma.net

Requirements for RVT Certification in the State of California

To be eligible to take the examination to become a Registered Veterinary Technician in California, the applicant must be at least 18 years of age and meet any one of the following five criteria:

1. Be a graduate of a two-year American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited RVT (Registered Veterinary Technician) or VT (Veterinary Technician) program (**Foothill College VT Program Graduates**).
2. Be a graduate of a California accredited RVT program and have 18 months of practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. (**Western Career College Program Graduates**)
3. Be a licensed, certified or registered RVT or VT in another state with 36 months of practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian and have not been the subject of adverse civil or criminal judgments resulting from the practice of animal health care (**Out of state VT program graduates**)
4. Have a Bachelor of Science degree in a field or major related to animal health technology and have 12 months of practical experience under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian (**Bachelor's Degree Holders**).
5. Complete a combination of practical experience and post-secondary education in compliance with the following criteria ("**The Alternate Route**").

The Alternate Route Category

Essentially, **you are responsible** for compiling a "portfolio" of course work and experience combining continuing education courses, college science courses and VT courses in order to meet the following requirements set forth by the RVTEC:

Note:

The equivalent Foothill College Science and VT courses and the quarter they are offered are included in the tables below. Alternate Route Candidates are permitted to take selected VT program courses without enrolling in the entire program with the permission of the VT Program Director. Contact Dr. Peter by phone @ 650-949-7203 to discuss your individual qualifications and degree of "readiness" to take a program course.

Students must be adequately prepared to take these courses. Examine the VT Program curriculum at www.foothill.fhda.edu/bio/programs/vettech and take note of the sequence of courses required for the VT Program students and the unit value of individual courses).

You may also meet the requirements by attending "Approved" Continuing Education Programs.

- a. ***"The post-secondary instruction shall consist of a total of 20 semester units, 30 quarter units, or 300 hours of instruction to be accumulated in the fundamentals and principals of all of the following subjects:"***

RVTEC REQUIREMENT	FOOTHILL VT PROGRAM COURSE
1. Dental prophylaxis and extraction.	VT72—Dentistry for Veterinary Technicians (Spring)
2. Anesthetic instrumentation, induction and monitoring.	VT84—Anesthesiology for Technicians (Winter) Prerequisite = VT 83—Pharmacology (Fall)
3. Surgical nursing and assisting including instrumentation, suturing techniques and application of splints and casts.	VT55—Animal Care & Management I (Fall) VT 56—Animal Care & Management II (Winter)
4. Radiology and radiation safety.	VT70—Diagnostic Imaging (Fall)
5. Diseases and nursing of animals including zoonotic diseases and emergency veterinary care.	VT 61—Animal Diseases Prerequisite = Bio 41—Microbiology (F/W/S) VT 85—Emergency Medicine for Technicians (Spring)

- b. ***"These subjects may be contained within other courses or obtained as separate courses."***

RVTEC REQUIREMENT	FOOTHILL VT PROGRAM COURSE
Mathematics	VT 53B—Medical Calculations (Winter)
Biology	Bio 10—Intro to Biology (Other Biology Courses?)
Microbiology	Bio 41—Microbiology (Fall/Winter/Spring)
Anatomy and Physiology	Bio 40A, B, C—Anatomy & Physiology (F/W/S)
Medical Terminology	VT 53A—Veterinary Medical Terminology (Winter)

- c. ***"All the instruction in (a) and (b) shall have been completed within 5 years prior to the date of the examination."***

- d. ***The practical experience shall consist of 36 months (4,680 hours) under the direct supervision of a California licensed veterinarian and shall have been completed within 5 years prior to the examination.***

(You must document and a Veterinarian must verify these hours)

e. The practical experience in (a) shall have provided the applicant with knowledge, skills and abilities in the areas of communication with clients, patient examinations, emergency procedures, laboratory procedures, diagnostic imaging, surgical assisting, animal nursing, nutrition, dentistry, animal behavior, and pharmacology. The supervising veterinarian(s) shall complete a check list attesting to proficiency in specific areas within the preceding categories.

(The VT Program Internship and Animal Care requirements fulfill these requirements— You will be required to complete a "Task List" documenting your technical skills and abilities with your Veterinarian.)

As you can see, the "Alternate Route" is not an easier way to become eligible for the RVT Examination and obtain your license. It is not intended to be—It is instead, a way for an experienced, unlicensed veterinary assistant to become licensed without having to attend a structured two year RVT program.

The requirements of the "Alternate Route" are intended to be roughly equivalent to the requirements of the veterinary technology programs.

Another major difference between the "Alternate Route" and the Foothill College VT Program is that our graduates earn an Associates Degree in Veterinary Technology. In order to earn the AS Degree they must also complete all of the Foothill College's General Education Requirements (find these requirements at: www.foothill.fhda.edu) If you already have a degree, it may be possible to actually become a graduate of the program as you complete the requirements for the alternate route).

Sit down and carefully compare the Foothill College VT Curriculum with the "Alternate Route" requirements and this will all start to make sense! As you study the VT Program's requirements it may be helpful to think of it as having three parts to complete:

1. General Education Requirements (English, Math, Social Science, Fine Arts, etc.)
2. Required Science Requirements (Chem, A&P, Micro)
3. Veterinary Technology (VT) Courses (The good stuff! ☺)

Contact a Program Counselor to discuss the General Education Requirements
Brenda Johnson or Vivian Cohen (650-949-7777).

You may attend the VT Program as a part time student by completing the three parts of the program as listed above. (i.e. you may choose to finish your General Education and Required Science courses first and then apply to the VT Program and complete the VT Courses in two to three years. Some students find this plan a logical way to become eligible for the state Board Exam and become a graduate of the Foothill College VT Program at the same time.

We are proud of you for wanting to go to school and become a licensed professional. It is our hope that this information has been helpful to you. Please contact the VT program if we can be of any further help.

Sincerely,

Dr Peter, Dr. Mac Dougall and the RVT Faculty