

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE

**ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM**

Informational Brochure

**Job Title**

Registered Veterinary Technician

**Job Description**

The Registered Veterinary Technician is an integral member of the veterinary health care team, enjoying a wide range of job responsibilities. The RVT's responsibilities include: animal handling, restraint and examination, vaccinations, injections, and dispensing of medications, maintenance of clinic and owner records, client education, exposing and developing of radiographs, dental prophylaxis and extractions, application of casts and splints, first aid and emergency procedures, IV catheterization, fluid administration, obtaining blood samples through venipuncture, clinical laboratory testing, identification of internal and external parasites, surgical preparation, assisting, suturing, administration and monitoring anesthetics, preoperative and postoperative care.

**Characteristics Required for Success in the Animal Health Technology Program**

The successful AHT student:

- is a team player, flexible, mature, and emotionally stable
- is able to withstand strenuous physical activity
- is a lifelong learner
- is highly motivated and dedicated to his/her work
- is able to communicate tactfully with a diverse population of individuals
- is able to carefully follow verbal and written instruction
- possesses some animal experience, previous veterinary experience helpful, but not mandatory
- is able to accept constructive criticism and perform self evaluation activities, which result in personal and professional growth
- possesses reliable transportation

**Employment Outlook**

Exciting job opportunities are continuing to be numerous due to the diverse growth in the veterinary field, as well as, a shortage of professionally trained technicians. Most Registered Veterinary Technicians are employed in private veterinary hospitals, but graduates may also work in diagnostic laboratories, biomedical research institutions, humane societies, various federal and state agencies, armed forces, zoological parks, wildlife rehabilitation facilities, aquariums, teaching facilities, specialty veterinary practices, large farms or ranches, and pharmaceutical research or sales.

**Probable Salary Range for the San Diego Area**

Starting Range: \$15,000 to 18,000 per year

Experienced: \$18,000 to 40,000 per year

**Program Director**

Peggy Fischer, DVM

7250 Mesa College Dr, P-300

[www.sdmesa.sdccd.edu/animal\\_health](http://www.sdmesa.sdccd.edu/animal_health)

619-388-2832

[pfischer@sdccd.edu](mailto:pfischer@sdccd.edu)

**Program Prerequisites**

Completion of Biology 107 and Chemistry 100/100L, or equivalent, with a grade of "C" or better. Beginning January 1, 2005 an application packet may be submitted and given a priority number with only one of the prerequisites completed, as long as, the other is "in progress". A certificate of "Course Work In Progress" must be included in the application packet.

### **Admission Requirements**

The AHT curriculum is a **full-time, two year program** with the courses arranged in a sequential manner; therefore, each new class (approximately 30 students) begins in the summer semester of the academic year. **Prior to beginning AHT course work, the completion of Biology 107 and Chemistry 100/100L (or equivalent) with a grade of "C" or better is required.** Due to the demanding nature of the program, it is highly beneficial to complete as many as possible of the general education classes required for the A.S. degree **prior** to admission in the program. Candidates are also required to demonstrate Competency in Reading and Written Expression, as well as, Competency in Mathematics (see the Academic Requirements Section of the current Mesa College Catalog available on line) prior to submission of an application packet.

### **Degree and License Requirements**

After successfully completing the program, you will be awarded an Associate of Science degree in Animal Health Technology from the San Diego Community College District. Graduates of this program are required to sit for and pass both the National Veterinary Technician Exam (NVTE) as well as the California Law Supplemental Exam in order to become a Registered Veterinary Technician in California. The passing rate for Mesa College graduates on both exams has historically been very high, in the 85-95 percentile.

*Every candidate applying to take the California board exam must certify that she/he has never been convicted or pled nolo contendere to any violation of any law of any state, the United States, or a foreign country. In addition each candidate must disclose all misdemeanors and felonies: including, but not limited to: civil, welfare, health and safety, vehicle, or penal code conviction(s) and any conviction which has been dismissed. Candidates are required to list any conviction that has been set aside and dismissed under Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code or under any other provision of law.*

### **Accreditation**

The Animal Health Technology Program is approved by the California Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine, a division of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. San Diego Mesa College is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and approved by the California State Department of Education. Currently, we do not have American Veterinary Medical Association accreditation. Out of state students interested in attending the Animal Health Technology Program at Mesa College should contact their own state's Veterinary Technician Board regarding graduation from a non-AVMA approved school. Graduates of this program are required to sit for and pass the National Veterinary Technician Exam (NVTE) as well as the California Law Supplemental Exam in order to become a Registered Veterinary Technician in California.

### **Program Orientation**

Orientation sessions are scheduled to brief the prospective student about the program, expectations, and selection procedure. Please make an effort to attend one of the sessions. Typically, they are on Saturday mornings from 9-11 AM. They are held at the Animal Health Technology Facility (P-300) in Room P-308. The facility is at the corner of Genesee Avenue and Marlesta Drive. Attendance at an Orientation Session will count favorably during the special admissions process. The orientation dates can be found on the AHT web page of the Mesa College web site – [www.sdmesa.edu](http://www.sdmesa.edu).

### **Special Admissions Clerk for AHT**

Currently the position of Special Admissions Clerk for all of the Allied Health Programs at San Diego Mesa College is vacant. James Arnegard in the Admissions Office is handling the position during the interim. He can be reached at [jarnegar@sdccd.edu](mailto:jarnegar@sdccd.edu) or 619-388-2686 or 619-388-2684.

### **Fees and Expenses**

Tuition costs are based on class credit hours and residency status. Certain exemptions may apply. Consult the current college catalog for fee structure. Due to the special nature of the AHT program, you should anticipate costs for medical books, professional attire, stethoscopes, coveralls, rubber boots, and miscellaneous supplies (in addition to registration fees). Expenses are typically higher the first semester, and decrease over the course of your training. These supplementary expenses average approximately \$600-\$700 per semester (double that the first semester). Each entering student must provide proof of current tetanus toxoid vaccination (within 10 years) and tuberculosis test results (test administered within 30 days prior to the first day of the semester).

### **The Special Admissions Procedure for Animal Health Technology**

- 1) Prior to submitting an application, the candidate must first apply for admission to San Diego Mesa College. This must be done on-line at <http://studentweb.sdccd.edu>.
- 2) The current application is uploaded every September 1<sup>st</sup>. It must be downloaded and completed prior to submission.
- 3) Dead line for submission of the completed application packets is February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Packets can be mailed to the Special Admissions Clerk or delivered in person during normal Admissions Office hours.
- 4) **Completed** packets are numbered as they are submitted. The following constitute a "complete" packet: Application, Official Transcript(s), Orientation Certificate (optional), Competency Documentation, and "Work In Progress" certificate if currently enrolled in a prerequisite course.
- 5) Any candidate wishing to change their application status (withdraw or cancel) must provide immediate written communication to San Diego Mesa College Special Admissions Clerk.

### **ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNOLOGY**

### **TWO YEAR PROGRAM**

#### **Course**

#### **Hours**

#### **Units**

#### *Summer Session – First Year*

<b>ANHL 115</b>	Veterinary Office Procedures	2 lect	2
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#### *Fall Semester – First Year*

<b>ANHL 100A</b>	Animal Care & Management	4.5 lab	1.5
<b>ANHL 155</b>	Fundamentals of Animal Health Tech	3.5 lect	3.5
<b>ANHL 155L</b>	Fundamentals of Animal Health Tech(lab)	6 lab	2
<b>ANHL 145</b>	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology	3 lect	3
<b>ANHL 145L</b>	Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology Lab	3 lab	1

#### *Spring Semester – First Year*

<b>ANHL 100B</b>	Animal Care & Management	4.5 lab	1.5
<b>ANHL 125</b>	Clinical Laboratory Techniques	3 lect	3
<b>ANHL 125L</b>	Clinical Techniques Laboratory	6 lab	2
<b>ANHL 140</b>	Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology	2 lect	2
<b>ANHL 205</b>	Diseases of Domestic Animals	3 lect	3

#### *Fall Semester – Second Year*

<b>ANHL 135</b>	Veterinary Pharmacology	2 lect	2
<b>ANHL 225</b>	Animal Nursing & Anesthesiology	3 lect	3
<b>ANHL 227</b>	Surgical Nursing Procedures 1	3 lab	1
<b>ANHL 270</b>	AHT Work Experience	**	2

*Spring Semester – Second Year*

<b>ANHL 215</b>	Veterinary Radiography	3 lect	3
<b>ANHL 215L</b>	Veterinary Radiography Laboratory	3 lab	1
<b>ANHL 229</b>	Surgical Nursing Procedures 2	3 lab	1
<b>ANHL 255</b>	Laboratory Animal Medicine	2 lect	2
<b>ANHL 255L</b>	Laboratory Animal Medicine Lab	3 lab	1
<b>ANHL 270</b>	AHT Work Experience	**	2

\*\*60-75 hours for each unit depending on if "paid" or "unpaid" hours

For more information about each individual course please refer to the San Diego Mesa College Catalog available on-line.