UTAH SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Utah System of Higher Education
Veterinary Assisting
FY2027 / 14 Credits (480 Clock-Hours)

Foundational Courses

TEVA 1011 Introduction to Veterinary Assisting — 2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours

The Introduction to Veterinary Assistant course provides a fundamental understanding of what a veterinarian assistant/pre-technician professional does to assist a veterinarian and other veterinary staff while helping animals in need. It covers the ethical and legal issues applicable to veterinary care. The course introduces students to the safety techniques needed when interacting with animals of various species. Students who complete this course can communicate with other professionals using correct terminology and are familiar with basic safety techniques necessary for their future work in a clinical setting.

Objectives:
- Define career expectations of veterinarian assistants.
- Identify ethical and legal issues in veterinary care.
- Perform proper safety techniques.
- Practice animal management and human interaction.
- Use correct medical terminology as it pertains to animal sciences.

TEVA 1301 Vet Assisting Applications — 1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours

The Vet Assisting Applications course provides students with the foundational knowledge needed to participate in labs in the Clinical Procedures courses. The course covers various animal organs and systems necessary to be ready to perform and assist in procedures related to anatomy and physiology. Much of the course is also dedicated to introducing students to the techniques and equipment they will use in their other courses. Students who complete this course have a strong theoretical foundation of anatomy and clinical procedures upon which they can build in their clinical courses.

Objectives:
- Identify anatomy and physiology of various species.
- Identify surgical instruments and explain uses.
- Explain various surgical techniques.
- Explain various pain management techniques.
- Explain proper drug administration routes and techniques.

TEVA 1401 Emergency Critical Care/End of Life — 1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours

The Emergency Critical Care/End of Life course introduces students to a variety of animals treated in a veterinarian practice. Knowledge from all previous courses is pulled together to prepare students for work in a professional setting. The course covers how to recognize and address the physical condition of an animal and begin the care process for a sick or wounded patient. Students who complete this course will have enough knowledge and practical experience to be ready for a position as a skilled assistant.

Objectives:
- Identify emergency situations and required critical care.
- Identify emergency situations and best practices for various injuries.
- Demonstrate procedures for fluid therapy and blood transfusions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of animal dentistry.
- Identify breeds and classifications of various species.
- Explain proper care and general grooming procedures.

TEVA 1501 Clinical Procedures I — 1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours

The Clinical Procedures I course provides students with an introduction to basic skills in the classroom and practice laboratory. Students use the theoretical knowledge they have acquired in other courses in a practical setting to manage care for various species with uncomplicated conditions. The course covers additional safety measures and equipment use procedures. Students must also receive their CPR certification. Students who complete this course are able to apply their knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology in a clinical setting.

Objectives:
- Safely handle needles and syringes.
- Demonstrate proper animal restraint techniques.
- Perform hands-on dissections of various animal body parts.
- Demonstrate techniques for evaluating animal reproductive health.
- Practice proper tube feeding techniques.
- Identify common pharmaceuticals used with animal treatment.
- Demonstrate animal hardware use (collars, carriers, muzzles, bags, gloves, etc).
- Practice proper radiology positioning and safe handling of lead gear.

TEVA 1502 Clinical Procedures II — 2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours

The Clinical Procedures II course builds on skills learned in Clinical Procedures I that are required in the animal care process in the classroom and practice laboratory. Students are given more opportunities to demonstrate proper animal restraint techniques and collect various types of samples from their patients. Students also gain experience in preparing patients for surgery. Students who complete this course are prepared for many of the day-to-day responsibilities of a skilled assistant.

Objectives:
- Demonstrate advanced animal restraint techniques.
- Demonstrate appropriate and accurate use of laboratory equipment.
- Collect and evaluate animal tissue/fluid samples.
- Identify common parasites through fecal and external examination.
- Perform safe and appropriate injection techniques.
- Demonstrate surgical preparation procedures for various animal species.
- Demonstrate preparation and sterile handling of surgical instrument packs.

TEVA 1503 Clinical Procedures III **3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours**

The Clinical Procedures III course is the final clinical course for students and fills in any gaps they may have in their practical knowledge. The course provides students with the opportunity to strengthen animal care skills in the practice laboratory. The course brings together all the theoretical and practical knowledge to prepare students to be comfortable with the range of duties they will face in a practical setting. Students build on their knowledge of anatomy through a feline dissection in the lab. The course also covers some of the specialized techniques they may need for various species. Students who complete this course are prepared for a position as a skilled assistant.

Objectives:
• Demonstrate grooming procedures for various species.
• Demonstrate procedures used in ophthalmic and otic treatments.
• Demonstrate IV catheterization.
• Perform common bandaging.
• Perform specialized care treatments for birds.
• Interact comfortably with pocket pets.
• Perform feline dissection.

TEVA 2999 Clinical Externship **4 Credits / 180 Clock-Hours**

This Clinical Externship course gives students the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have obtained from their classroom and laboratory experiences. This course provides 180 hours of clinical experience in actual veterinarian animal care settings. Students will practice all the techniques and skills they have learned throughout the program with real patients and clients. Students who complete this course have real world experience applying what they have learned in a clinical setting.

Objectives:
• Demonstrate office skills involving scheduling, greeting, collecting accurate patient history, and following up with clients.
• Assist in physical examinations.
• Demonstrate proper restraint techniques and perform common bandaging.
• Demonstrate correct medical calculations.
• Demonstrate safe handling skills with needles/syringes and perform injections on animals.
• Perform accurate diagnostic imaging.
• Demonstrate appropriate and accurate use of laboratory equipment.
• Demonstrate surgical preparation procedures for various animal species.
• Demonstrate preparation and sterile handling of surgical instrument packs.
• Demonstrate appropriate grooming procedures for various species.
• Demonstrate procedures used in ophthalmic treatments.
• Demonstrate IV catheterization.

Supplemental Courses Varies by Institution

Bridgerland

TEVA 1111 Patient Management and Nutrition **3 Credits / 90 Clock-Hours**

The Patient Management and Nutrition course introduces students to the essential skills needed to maintain gainful and satisfying employment in veterinary assisting careers. Students learn the basic anatomy and physiology of various species encountered in a veterinary practice. Common medical treatments for typical injuries and ailments of various animals are covered. Students also learn to understand and comprehend the reasons for animal behavior; the symptoms and signs to watch for in animal behavior; and how to individualize the care for each patient. Students who complete this course are prepared for an entry-level position in the field. They also have the necessary knowledge and skills to participate in an externship.

Objectives:
• Explain the major concepts of anatomy and physiology.
• Evaluate diets for nutritional needs of various animal species based on knowledge of nutritional needs.
• Use problem-solving skills.
• Perform safe, competent, and individualized care on various animal species.
• Perform accurate medical calculations.
• Describe behaviors of various animal species and how they affect care methods.

TEVA 1201 Vet Assist Clinical Sciences **1 Credit / 30 Clock-Hours**

The Vet Assist Clinical Sciences course provides students with knowledge and skills used in clinical settings for diagnosis and care of many conditions and diseases found in a variety of animal species. This course covers hematology and clinical chemistry for animals. Students learn specific microbiology and how to understand urinalysis for their patients. Parasites and their relationships with animals are covered. The course instructs students on the fundamentals of anesthesia and appropriate analgesics and preventative medicine for animals. Students who complete this course have a strong theoretical foundation of chemical and biological information upon which they can build in their clinical courses.

Objectives:
• Identify the concepts related to hematology, hemostasis processes, and clinical chemistry.
• Explain the concepts related to microbiology, cytology, and urinalysis.
• Explain the impact of pathology and pharmacology on various animal species.
• Recognize parasites, their hosts, and the relationship between them.
• Explain principles of preventive medicine as it relates to animal sciences.
• Explain procedures for diagnostic imaging.
• Explain procedures for anesthesia and perioperative analgesia.

Snow

TEVA 1010 Introduction to Animal Science **4 Credits / 120 Clock-Hours**

This basic course introduces students to the importance of food animal production and the value of companion animal care in our modern society. Application of animal health, nutrition through feeding and feed management, production, reproduction as they relate to our food production system and companion animal values and needs.

Objectives:
• Discuss food animal production systems and the numerous contributions animals make to our society for food and companionship.
• Understand the companion animal relationships with societies' needs and values.
• Identify nutritional needs of various animal species.
• Perform safe, competent, and individualized animal care.
• Describe animal behaviors.
• Identify the concepts of microbiology, cytology, and urinalysis.

TEVA 2200 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals **4 Credits / 120 Clock-Hours**

This class is a study of the anatomy of domestic animals and the functions of various systems. Each system is studied separately with emphasis on the skeletal, circulatory, digestive, respiratory, and reproductive systems. The scientific method will be explored as it relates to the ever-increasing knowledge of how to manage domestic animals/livestock for maximum health and optimum production and companionship. Students will know and understand terminology used to describe an animal's anatomy and physiology. This laboratory setting allows students to physically examine domestic animal tissues, organs, and systems.

Objectives:
• Discuss the basic biology of cells and their function as they relate to the anatomy and physiology of animals.
• Identify the structures of animal systems.
• Describe physiology of animal body systems
• Through seeing and handling of animal organs, identify the size, shape, and function of parts of organs, organs, parts of systems and systems.
• Apply names and terms used in class to actual animal organs and systems.
• Discuss the complexity of organ physiology as part of the animal systems.

TEVA 2400 Animal Nutrition Management **4 Credits / 120 Clock-Hours**

Different digestive tracts of farm and companion animals related to digestive physiology will be studied. Animal nutrient needs for health and production are applied to each animal species. Feed composition and feed uses, feed costs along with feed analysis are performed, analyzed, and applied in balancing feed least cost rations are developed to meet production goals for each livestock species and pets using a pencil, a calculator, and a computer.

Objectives:
• Apply animal feeding principles associated with different animal species and livestock operations.
• Collect and prepare feed samples for nutrient analysis.
• Analyze feedstuffs and interpret feed analysis reports for protein, energy, fats, macro and micro minerals and water.
• Completers will balance rations for various livestock species that meets production goals.
• Explain the economics of livestock feeding and develop least-cost rations for various livestock species and production goals.
• Discuss animal nutrition, animal health, and relationships between "disease" nutrient deficiencies.

TEMA 1080 Medical Terminology **2 Credits / 60 Clock-Hours**

Medical Terminology provides instruction on how to interpret and understand the technical language of medicine. Students learn the basic structure of medical terms including prefixes, suffixes, word roots, special endings, plural forms, abbreviations, and symbols. Emphasis is placed on the correct spelling, definition, application, and pronunciation of each term.

Objectives:
• Identify the four types of word parts in forming medical terms.
• Demonstrate construction of medical terms by correctly spelling, pronouncing, defining, and identifying selected terms.
• Identify and apply acceptable medical abbreviations.
• Use knowledge of word parts to define unfamiliar medical terms.

USU-Eastern

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