Veterinary Science

Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant

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The Profession of Veterinary Medicine

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Objectives

- Define veterinary medicine
- Describe the different career opportunities in veterinary medicine
- Discuss the role of veterinary medicine in animal health

Profession of Veterinary Medicine

- To learn and accomplish
  - Specific diagnosis (accurate) (diagnostician)
  - Specific treatment regimen (correct, effective)
    - Drug therapy (Pharmacologist)
    - Surgical therapy (Surgeon)
    - Physical therapy (Physiologist)
    - Dietary therapy (Nutritionist)
  - Specific prevention, control and eradication protocols (Epidemiologist)

- To understand advanced sciences
  - Know why, not just what and how
  - No guess diagnosis
  - No shotgun therapies

- To improve the quality of life of people and animals
  - Foster health and well-being of animals
  - Enhance production of animal populations
  - Increase economic efficiency and profitability of animal operations
  - Improve production of safe and wholesome food
  - Improve the recreational or working relationship of owners and their animals
    - Companionship, human-animal bond, pleasure

Careers in Veterinary Medicine

- Positions of employment
  - Veterinarian – 8 years college
    - 4 yrs pre-vet college, 4 yrs vet college
    - DVM Degree
  - Veterinary Technician – 2 years college
    - Associate Degree
  - Veterinary Assistant – study course, work experience
    - Certificate of Completion
      - 4-H Veterinary Science Program
      - Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
      - Online Veterinary Science Program

- Fields of employment
  - Companion animal health
  - Exotic animal health
  - Food animal health
  - Laboratory animal health
  - Human health

- Kinds of employment (types)
  - Private veterinary practice
    - Clinical service – individual animals, animal populations
    - Laboratory service
    - Consultant service

- Public veterinary practice
  - Education – teaching, extension (university)
  - Research (university, military)
  - Clinical service (university, military)
  - Laboratory service (university, government)
  - Regulatory (government)
- Industry (Corporate) veterinary practice
  - Research
  - Laboratory service
  - Clinical service
  - Sales

Professional Career Development
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

- Evaluate interests and abilities
    - Advanced sciences
    - Animal well-being
    - Kinds of employment
    - Involvement of sick, diseased animals (live and dead) (blood, odor)
    - Compassion and caring for people and animals

- Communication skills (people person) (people skills)
- Business skills (private practice)
- Long work days (night, week-end emergencies - private practice)

    - Not based on: "I love animals."

- Make commitment (focus, blinders)
  - Highly motivated and dedicated
- Work with veterinarians
  - Develop veterinary experience
- Work with animals
  - Develop animal experience

- Plan HS curriculum with advanced sciences
  - Calculus
  - Physics
  - Chemistry
  - Zoology (genetics, nutrition, biology)
  - Microbiology
  - Animal science (Ag Sc)

- Participate in extra-curricular leadership and citizenship activities
  - 4-H Veterinary Science Program
  - Ag Sc Veterinary Medical Applications Course
  - Online Veterinary Science Program
  - 4-H animal projects
  - FFA animal projects
  - Ag Co-op program
  - Animal associations/societies memberships
  - Animal publication subscriptions
  - Animal show/performance clubs

- Initial enrollment
  - Junior college
  - Senior college
    - Know how to study
    - Study habits
    - Time management
    - Focused
    - Large classes

Academic Preparation
Pre-professional College Academic Programs

- Pre-requisites completed in 2 – 4 years
  - Biology
  - Microbiology
  - Genetics
  - Nutrition
  - Inorganic chemistry
  - Organic chemistry
  - Biochemistry
  - Calculus
  - Physics
  - English
  - Animal Science

Professional Preparation

- Leadership activities
- Citizenship activities
- Veterinary experience
- Animal experience
- Academic rigor
- Course loads