



Veterinarian Participation

This career-oriented program provides on-the-job training for students to prepare them for a career in veterinary medicine. The program provides students with the opportunity to work with practicing professionals in the field.

Veterinarians participating in the program teach lessons, lead activities, and supervise an apprenticeship program in their veterinary practices. Trainees volunteer for observation and work hours through a cooperative arrangement with high school and 4-H programs. This hands-on training provides students with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to become a competent veterinary aide.



Contact Information

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A Department of Homeland Security
Science and Technology Center of Excellence

Become a Veterinary Paraprofessional



A Career Explosion

Youth Veterinary Science Certificate Program

The preparatory training for the veterinary assistant provides students with the knowledge, motivation, and skills necessary to pursue their educational and career goals. This program also provides a sound platform for students who wish to pursue an associate, undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree in the veterinary sciences. Open to students at participating high schools, 4-H programs, and also as an independent self-study program.

Enrollment

High school students may enroll in junior and/or senior veterinary science courses for 1 or 2 years and receive career and technology or science course credit.

4-H students (ages 12-16) may enroll in the county 4-H veterinary science program and complete the program in 3 to 5 years.

Graduates of the program receive the title classification of Veterinary Assistant (VA) by successfully completing a course of study in veterinary science along with an apprenticeship (clinical or non-clinical) in veterinary medicine.

Youth Veterinary Science Curriculum

The curriculum for the Veterinary Science Certificate Program is available through the Texas A&M University System in collaboration with the FAZD Center, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Center of Excellence, and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, a nationally recognized curriculum that prepares students for careers as veterinary assistants.

The curriculum provides preparatory training for the veterinary assistant. Students may choose from the following career tracks.

- Veterinary assisting in clinical practice (pet, livestock, and exotic animal health care)
- Veterinary assisting in laboratory practice (animal health research and diagnostics)
- Veterinary assisting in one health (integrated animal, human, and environmental health)

Completion of the curriculum fulfills the study course requirement.



Educational Resources (publications)

- *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant* by Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS (75 lessons in basic sciences and 25 in clinical sciences)
- *One Health Science & Technology* by Heather L. Simmons, DVM, MSVPH (25 lessons in regulatory sciences)
- *Laboratory Science & Technology* by Heather L. Simmons, DVM, MSVPH (25 lessons in research and diagnostic sciences)

Ordering Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Bookstore
Phone: (888) 900-2577
<https://agrilifebookstore.org>

Distant Education (online modules)

Teacher Resources for Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant (Includes instructional videos, slide presentations, questions and activities, teacher key, and curriculum guide, and more.)

Veterinary Science modules currently under development:

- *Teacher-Assisted Program*
- *Independent-Study Program*
- *Continuing Education Program*

For course listing to register:
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Conference Services
<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>

For course access to enroll: eXtension
<http://campus.extension.org>

Youth Veterinary Science Apprenticeship

To satisfy the apprenticeship training necessary for the Veterinary Science Certificate Program, students must be accepted into a VA internship trainee position, either in a salaried or unpaid role in clinical or non-clinical career fields of the veterinary profession. After sufficient observation hours, student must gain a minimum of 500 hands-on work hours acquiring skills and competencies to complete the certificate program.

Note that completion of the certificate program (curriculum and apprenticeship) does not automatically qualify the graduate as a Certified Veterinary Assistant (CVA). Upon completion of the study course and apprenticeship, graduates become eligible for certification by examination through the Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA).