



VETERINARY TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

2026 Admissions Handbook

INTRODUCTION

The COCC Veterinary Technician (VT) Program enrolls students annually in the fall. The number of students admitted each year is determined by the VT Program Director. The program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (AVMA-CVTEA) to prepare students for careers as veterinary technicians. Upon successful completion, students earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Veterinary Technician and are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) to become Certified Veterinary Technicians.

To be considered for Fall 2026 admission, applications must be completed online by 5:00 pm on May 1, 2026. All prerequisite courses must be in progress or completed, and all other requirements must be met by this deadline. Qualified applicants will be invited to admission interviews scheduled from late May through early June and acceptance notifications will be sent to applicants' COCC email addresses 1-2 weeks after the interview.

Applicants are assessed based on prerequisite courses, high school transcripts or GED, prior college experience and GPA, veterinary observation hours and discussion questions, veterinary assistant or relevant animal experience, and the interview. It is essential to review the application guidelines carefully and submit all required documents as outlined in the Minimum Application Criteria section. Incomplete applications or missing documents will result in forfeiture of consideration.

Veterinary Technician Program Information Sessions

VT Program Information sessions are held multiple times each year to provide an overview of the veterinary technician career, minimum application qualifications, selection criteria, and general details about the COCC VT Program. Session dates and sign-up information are available on the VT Program website.

MINIMUM APPLICATION CRITERIA

All applicants must meet the following requirements by 5:00 pm on May 1, 2026. Only completed applications submitted by the deadline will be considered for selection. Admission to the program is based on the total number of points awarded in each section listed below. While prerequisite coursework may be in progress during the Spring term of the application year, priority will be given to applicants who have completed the prerequisites before applying.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they meet all requirements before the deadline. Students are encouraged to work closely with their VT advisor to confirm that degree requirements are included in their academic plan.

Apply to COCC

Apply to COCC as a credit-seeking student by completing the COCC admissions process online (<https://www.cocc.edu/getting-started/>). Because the VT Program is a restricted entry program, applicants should initially select "Explore Health Sciences AGS" as their major. This will be updated if the applicant is accepted into the VT Program. The COCC admissions process typically takes 2-3 business days to complete.

Once admitted to COCC, applicants will receive a student identification number and a COCC email address. All communications from the COCC VT Program will be sent to the applicant's COCC email.

Transcript Submission Guidelines

If using courses from another college or university, applicants must submit official transcripts when applying to COCC. The coursework will be evaluated and articulated into the student's GradTracks (degree evaluation) account.

To ensure your transcripts are evaluated by the VT Program application deadline of May 1, 2026, applicants should submit official transcripts to Admissions & Records no later than April 1, 2026.

Veterinary Technician Program Advisor

After admission to COCC, applicants should request Beth Palmer, Veterinary Technician Program director to be their VT Program advisor by contacting the CAP Center at 541-383-7200.

Veterinary Technician Program Application

The application must be submitted online through the VT Program Website. The online application will be open on March 1, 2026. The application must be submitted by the deadline, 5:00 pm on May 1, 2026.

Prerequisite Observation Form and Discussion Questions

Applicants must complete 40 hours of observation in a veterinary clinic or hospital and provide verification of this experience with their application by submitting the attached Prerequisite Observation Form. Additionally, applicants must complete the attached discussion questions. Failure to fulfill these requirements by the deadline will result in an incomplete application, which will not be considered for admission.

It is crucial for applicants to connect with a veterinary clinic and begin their observation hours as early as possible, as clinics may not be able to accommodate last-minute requests.

Official High School Diploma or Proof of GED Equivalency

An official high school transcript must come directly from the applicant's high school. Arrange for the high school to email the official transcript to bpalmer@cocc.edu or mail the transcript to COCC Veterinary Technician Program, Atten: Beth Palmer, 1360 NE Jackpine Ave Redmond, OR 97756
The official GED score must come from the testing entity under which the applicant took the GED examination. Email or mail official scores to the address above.

Be sure to contact the high school or GED provider with enough advance notice so that they have time to provide transcripts or scores before the VT application deadline.

Prerequisite Courses

Applicants may apply to the program if they are currently enrolled in prerequisite courses Spring term in the year in which they are applying, but priority for admission will be given to applicants with completed prerequisites prior to application for admission. Applicants must submit a Midterm Grade Report at the time of application if Spring term courses are in progress.

All courses must be completed with a C or higher. The most competitive candidates will have earned a B or higher.

- Math Skill Level: Minimum placement in Math Level 18 or complete MTH 95, MTH 111 or higher
- Biological Science: BI 101 or BI 221
- Chemistry: CH 104 or CH 221
- Academic Composition: WR 121Z
- Interpersonal Communication: COMM 218Z

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION DETAILS

Applicants are evaluated using a point system. Points will be awarded in the areas below.

Academics

Prerequisite Courses (Completed with a C or higher)	Points (10 points Max)			
Math Skill Level 18 or MTH 95, 111 or higher	A= 2 pt. B= 1 pt. C = 0 pt.			
CH 104 or CH 221	A= 2 pt. B= 1 pt. C = 0 pt.			
BI 101 or BI 221	A= 2 pt. B= 1 pt. C = 0 pt.			
WR 121Z	A= 2 pt. B= 1 pt. C = 0 pt.			
COMM 218Z	A= 2 pt. B= 1 pt. C = 0 pt.			
College Education	Points (9 points Max)			
Additional courses in sciences (biology, chemistry, animal science, allied health) Recommended courses: BI 231, BI 232, BI 233, BI 234, AH 111	GPA	3+ courses	2+ courses	
	3.5 + GPA Average (A)	3 pt.	1.5 pt.	
	3.0 + GPA Average (B)	2 pt.	1 pt.	
	2.0 + GPA Average (C)	1 pt.	0.5 pt.	
College degree or certificate (Points awarded for one of the degrees)	BS/BAS	BA/other	Associate	Certificate
	4 pt.	3 pt.	2 pt.	1 pt.
	Demonstrates ability to pass all classes taking a full academic course load (12 + credits)* with at least one science or upper-level math-based course.			
	0.5 pt. per term (max 2 pt.)			
<i>*The admissions committee evaluates the applicant's ability to successfully complete a full academic load that includes science or math-based courses since that is how the Veterinary Technician program is structured.</i>				
High School GPA (only considered for those without college education points)	Points (1 point Max)			
3.5 + Average	1 pt.			
3.0 + Average	0.5 pt.			

Experience (optional)

Students who have experience in the veterinary medical field or with animal handling will be awarded points based on the type of animal experience. Students must provide verification of volunteer/work hours. Please note that animal experience is **not** a requirement to apply to the VT Program.

Veterinary Assistant Experience (4 Points Max in this Section)	
Minimum of 160 hours documented paid work experience as a veterinary assistant with direct patient contact*.	160 hrs = 1 pt 480 hrs = 2 pt 960hrs = 3 pt 1380 hrs = 4 pt
Animal Experience (2 Points Max in this Section)	
Minimum 120 hours of documented paid work experience as a kennel assistant or working in a boarding facility, daycare, or grooming facility with direct animal contact**.	1 point for every 120 hours worked
Minimum 120 hours of documented volunteer or paid work experience in a licensed humane society, animal shelter, wildlife rehabilitation center, or zoo with direct animal or patient contact.	1 point for every 120 hours worked or volunteered
Minimum 120 hours of documented paid work or volunteer experience at a large animal (cattle, equine, llama, alpaca, etc.) facility with direct animal contact or patient.	1 point for every 120 hours worked or volunteered
Minimum one-year documented experience with direct animal-related 4-H or FFA (training, teaching, or showing).	1 point per year

**Direct Patient contact- experience with working hands-on with animals providing veterinarian prescribed medical treatment and clinical care (i.e., restraint, injections, administering medication, obtaining lab samples, patient monitoring, etc.).*

***Direct Animal contact- direct hands-on experience with animals (i.e., walking, monitoring the health status while boarding, medicating, restraint, feeding, bathing, nail trims, hoof trims, trotting for lameness exams, calving, lambing, etc.).*

Interview

(13 points maximum)

An interview is required for admission to the program. Qualified applicants will receive an email invitation to attend an interview. This interview allows the Admissions Committee to assess each applicant's knowledge of veterinary technology, academic and professional goals, preparedness, commitment, teamwork skills, and values. It also gives the committee an opportunity to gather specific information about the applicant's animal experience. All interviews will be scored using a grading rubric. Please note that not all applicants will be invited for an interview. Interviews are scheduled for late May or early June.

SELECTION PROCESS

In-District and Out-of-District Residency Status

The number of students admitted to the VT Program is determined biennially by the VT Program Director. Students will be admitted to the VT program through a point-based system. One-half or 50% of the allotted seats are reserved for students within the College's district (in-district students). These students must meet minimum application requirements and are subject to the point-based system as outlined in this handbook. The remaining in-district students not offered admission to these reserved seats but who meet minimum application requirements will be grouped with out-of-district students and offered admission to the remaining seats based on the point-based system. If there are fewer qualified in-district students than the number of seats reserved, the seats will be offered to out-of-district qualified applicants through the point-based system.

In-district Residency status will be determined according to the COCC Residency Policy. To qualify, an applicant must be classified as an in-district resident for the term in which they will be admitted to the program.

COCC In-District Residency Policy: An individual who, for one full year prior to beginning taking credit classes, has either: a) owned property (or if under the age of 24, whose parent/guardian owns property); or b) maintained a permanent and continuous residence in the district will be classified as an in-district resident. The COCC District consists of Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson Counties, the northern portion of Klamath and Lake Counties, and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in Jefferson and Wasco Counties. If a student is classified as a non-resident, their residency status will convert to in-district two calendar years after the term in which they began classes. Any questions concerning residency status should be directed to the Assistant Director of Admissions & Records. Students may be required to provide in-district residency verification at any time to confirm residency status.

Selection Procedure

The VT Program will review all application packets and will award points as indicated above. Admission will be granted to the top point recipients based on academics, animal experience, and the interview. The next four highest point recipients will be considered alternates. The highest cumulative GPA in prerequisite courses will be used if a tiebreaker is needed. If a tie still exists after evaluating GPA, the highest overall college GPA or high school GPA will be used.

The VT Program Director will notify candidates of their status via COCC email only; admission status will not be given over the telephone or in person. If an applicant is selected, they are conditionally admitted to the program pending completion of the following steps:

- Letters of Acceptance/Agreement and Deposit: All students admitted to the VT Program must sign a *Letter of Acceptance and a Letter of Agreement*, indicating their acceptance of program policies. Selected applicants will have approximately two weeks (exact date in Welcome Email) to indicate their acceptance via signature and return of the above letters of agreement, as well as pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit to the COCC admissions department. This deposit will be used towards tuition upon entering the VT Program.
- All students admitted to the VT Program must provide official documentation of required immunizations. The VT Program Welcome Email that will be sent will contain information and deadlines.
- All admitted students will undergo drug screening and criminal history check with the vendor-approved by Central Oregon Community College prior to entrance into the VT Program. Students will be administratively withdrawn from the program, and the seat given to an alternate student if the required screenings are not initiated with the specified vendor by the due date indicated in the

VT Program Entrance Policies and Technical Standards Handbook. Students with a positive urine drug screen or a positive criminal history will be disqualified from entering the VT Program at Central Oregon Community College. The Program Director will notify the student of positive drug screens or positive criminal history and their resulting disqualification from the VT Program.

- The application process for state licensure as a veterinary technician also requires answers to questions concerning the conviction of a criminal offense. If this circumstance pertains to you, contact the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board to determine your eligibility for licensure: Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board, 800 NE Oregon, Suite 407, Portland, Oregon 97232; phone 971-673-0224 or ovmeb.info@state.or.us. Be aware that abuse of drugs, alcohol, or other substances or criminal activity may result in loss or denial of licensure by Oregon law.
- Immunizations
 - Required
 - Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Vaccination
 - Pre-Exposure Rabies Vaccination (Students must be vaccinated against rabies to attend the program. A waiver is not available for this vaccine.)

Academic and Technical Standards: If admitted, students must meet the COCC VT Program Expectation of Abilities to begin the program. A copy of these standards is available online (<https://www.cocc.edu/programs/vet-tech/files/abilities.pdf>).

Please contact Beth Palmer bpalmer@cocc.edu for more details.

Dropping out of the Program: Students who begin the VT Program but are unable to complete the first or second year of the program successfully will be treated as first-time applicants if they choose to re-apply in a future year.

Program Costs: After admission into the VT Program, tuition (in-district), program fees, books, and miscellaneous expenses (uniforms, shoes, stethoscope, etc.) are estimated between \$15,000 - \$16,000 for completion of the AAS degree. Students are encouraged to apply for financial aid (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>), submit an application for COCC's Foundation Scholarship, and utilize the available resources <https://www.cocc.edu/departments/financial-aid/>. If financial concerns exist about completing the program, please schedule an appointment with COCC's Financial Aid Advisor at 541-383-7410. Please note that financial aid has a credit maximum.

Alternates: Alternates will be notified and granted conditional admission if an admitted student declines; alternates may be granted admission as late as the first week of the Fall term.

Applicants Not Selected: Those applicants not selected for admission will need to submit a new application for each selection process. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any new application prerequisites have been met and that their official transcripts are on file with COCC

Questions regarding the application and selection process can be answered by contacting the VT Program Director, Beth Palmer, at bpalmer@cocc.edu or 541-318-3724.

APPLICATION WORKSHEET: Use this worksheet to assess if the Fall 2026 application requirements have been met.

MINIMUM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS	Complete:
Apply to COCC as a credit-seeking student: choose Associate of General Studies major	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed Veterinary Technician Program Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed Prerequisite Observation Form and Discussion Questions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Official High School Transcripts or proof of GED equivalency	<input type="checkbox"/>
Official College Transcripts (For prerequisite and college coursework not taken at COCC)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREREQUISITE COURSES (C) or higher:	
Math Skill Level 18 or MTH 95, MTH 111 or higher	<input type="checkbox"/>
CH 104 or CH 221	<input type="checkbox"/>
BI 101 or BI 221	<input type="checkbox"/>
WR 121Z	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm 218Z	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed Midterm Grade Report (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION CONSIDERATIONS	
College Education or High School GPA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Assistant Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal Handling Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interview (to be scheduled by the admissions committee)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Admissions Committee will determine all Points.	

The information in this document reflects an accurate description of the VT Program selection criteria and process at the time of its publication. However, conditions can and do change; therefore, the College reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the information contained in this packet.

It is the policy of the Central Oregon Community College Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, ethnicity, color, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, citizenship status, veteran status or any other classes protected under the Federal or State statutes in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and nondiscrimination should contact the Equal Employment Officer, c/o COCC's Human Resources office, (541) 383-7216. Faculty, staff, and students are protected from discrimination and harassment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Students attending classes or events who need accommodation for a specific disability should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services at 541-383-7583 or sas@cocc.edu.



Veterinary Technician Program
2600 NW College Way
Bend, OR 97703

Dear Practice Manager,

This letter is to introduce you to _____, a prospective Central Oregon Community College Veterinary Technician Program applicant.

Prospective Veterinary Technician Program applicants are required to spend a minimum of 40 hours observing various veterinary medical procedures before they can apply to the program. The purpose of the observation hours is to expose the applicant to the veterinary technician's role and to the activities that occur in veterinary hospitals, illustrating some of the physical, emotional, and business aspects of veterinary medicine.

We respectfully request that you allow this applicant to observe the 40 hours in your hospital. We are requesting only that they observe and not do actual work so that there will be no liability concerns relative to your patients and/or the person observing. The prospective applicant has been provided with a list of tasks to observe and topics for discussion and will be asking you or your staff to check off those tasks after they have been observed.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and support of this prospective applicant's education.

Sincerely,

Beth

Beth Palmer, MEd, CVT
Veterinary Technician Program Director
Central Oregon Community College
541-318-3724
bpalmer@cocc.edu



Prerequisite Observation Form

To apply to the Veterinary Technician Program at Central Oregon Community College, you are required to provide evidence that you have observed a **minimum of 40 hours** for the tasks listed on the following page and complete the discussion questions.

You **must schedule** your observation hours with a facility **ahead of time**, arrive on time, dress and act professionally at all times.

This Prerequisite Observation Form lists the tasks required to observe prior to applying for entrance to the Veterinary Technician Program. The intention is to make you aware of some of the physical and emotional challenges associated with this profession. It is a very rewarding yet very challenging profession.

CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIABILITY WAIVER

Applicant's Name: (please print) _____ COCC ID Number _____

I, the undersigned, hereby release and discharge CENTRAL OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE ("COCC"), its employees, agents, officers, and directors for any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damage, loss of services, costs, and expenses in any way resulting from any and all injury to person or property arising directly or indirectly out of the participation in the above activity.

Further, the undersigned agrees to indemnify and hold forever harmless COCC, its employees, agents, officers, and directors from any and all injuries, damages, costs, attorney's fees whatsoever which may arise out of the participation in the above activity. This release of liability and indemnification agreement shall be binding on the heirs, successors, and personal representatives of the student and the undersigned.

I have read the foregoing release of liability and the indemnification agreement and acknowledge that the provisions are contractual and not a mere recital, and I understand I am bound by the terms hereof by placing my signature hereon.

Signature _____

Date _____

Submit online with your veterinary technician application. **Due Date: May 1, 2026**



Applicant Name _____ COCC ID Number _____

Discussion Questions

The COCC Veterinary Technician Program and the field of veterinary medicine are very mentally and physically challenging. To be successful as a veterinary technician, you must be able to multi-task, work in a team environment, have excellent communication skills, solve challenging mathematical problems correctly and efficiently, complete tasks in a thorough sequential manner, and remain calm in an emergency situation. Veterinary technicians are expected to work with people and animals respectfully and cooperatively. As a veterinary technician, you must be able to lift, bend, and have the flexibility to move objects and/or restrain animals. These movements are physically demanding and are a necessary part of the career.

After completing your observation hours, answer all the following questions (maximum of 250 words per answer). **Submit online with your veterinary technician application.**

1. What employment opportunities exist for veterinary technicians other than private practice?
2. Describe the challenges associated with being a veterinary technician.
3. List at least five positive aspects of being a veterinary technician.
4. What is the expected hourly wage for a veterinary technician in the city you are planning to work?
5. What is the typical schedule for a veterinary technician (including weekends and holidays)?

Submit online with your veterinary technician application. **Due Date: May 1, 2026**