

FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

Functional Ability Categories and Representative Activities/Attributes for the Associate Degree Veterinary Technician Program

The Federal American with Disabilities Act (ADA) bans discrimination of persons with disabilities. In keeping with this law, Gateway Technical College makes every effort to ensure quality education for all students. However, we feel obliged to inform students of the functional abilities demanded by a particular occupation.

Students should have the ability to:

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS:

- Move within confined spaces
- Maintain balance in multiple positions
- Reach above shoulders (e.g., IV poles)
- Reach below waist (e.g., plug electrical appliance into wall outlet)
- Reach out front

FINE MOTOR SKILLS:

- Pick up objects with hands
- Grasp small objects with hands (e.g., IV tubing, surgical instruments)
- Write with pen or pencil
- Key/type (e.g., use a computer)
- Pinch/pick or otherwise work with fingers (e.g., manipulate a syringe)
- Twist (e.g., turn objects/knobs using hands)
- Squeeze with finger (e.g., eye dropper)

PHYSICAL ENDURANCE:

- Stand, kneel, squat, bend, or sit for extended periods (e.g., at patient side during surgical, diagnostic, or therapeutic procedure)
- Sustain repetitive movements (e.g., CPR)
- Maintain physical tolerance (e.g., work on your feet a minimum of 8 hours)

PHYSICAL STRENGTH:

- Push and pull 50 pounds (e.g., position patient, move equipment)
- Support 50 pounds of weight (e.g., walk patient with towel support)
- Lift 50 pounds (e.g., lift patient to table, lift large bags of animal feed)
- Carry equipment/supplies

PHYSICAL STRENGTH (cont'd):

- Use upper body strength (e.g., perform CPR, physically restrain a patient)
- Squeeze with hands (e.g., operate fire extinguisher)

MOBILITY:

- Twist
- Bend
- Stoop/squat
- Move quickly (e.g., response to an emergency)
- Climb stairs
- Walk
- Crawl/climb (e.g., enter/exit animal cages or stalls)

HEARING:

- Hear normal speaking-level sounds (e.g., person-to-person report)
- Hear faint voices
- Hear faint body sounds (e.g., blood pressure sounds, heart and lung sounds, assess placement of tubes)
- Hear in situations when not able to see lips (e.g., when masks are used)
- Hear auditory alarms (e.g., monitors, fire alarms, warning sounds from animals)

VISUAL:

- See objects up to 20 inches away (e.g., information on computer screen, skin conditions)
- See objects up to 30 feet away (e.g., horse in field)
- Use depth perception
- Use peripheral vision
- Distinguish color and color intensity (e.g., color codes on supplies, variation in hair/skin color)

TACTILE:

- Feel vibrations (e.g., palpate pulses)
- Detect temperature (e.g., skin, solutions)
- Feel differences in surface characteristics (e.g., skin turgor, rashes)
- Feel differences in sizes, shapes (e.g., palpate vein, identify body landmarks)
- Detect environmental temperature

SMELL:

- Detect odors (e.g., foul smelling discharge, anesthetic gas leak)

ENVIRONMENT:

- Tolerate exposure to allergens (e.g., latex gloves, animal dander, hay/straw)
- Tolerate strong soaps
- Tolerate strong odors
- Tolerate handling bodily fluids and solids (e.g., urine, feces)

READING:

- Read and understand written documents (e.g., treatment plans, directions)
- Read digital displays

MATH:

- Comprehend and interpret graphic trends
- Calibrate equipment
- Convert numbers to and from metric, apothecaries', and American systems (e.g., dosages)
- Tell time
- Measure time (e.g., count duration of seizures, CPR etc.)
- Count rates (e.g., drips/minute, pulse)
- Read and interpret measurement marks (e.g., measurement tapes and scales)
- Add, subtract, multiply, and/or divide whole numbers
- Compute fractions and decimals (e.g., medication dosages)
- Document numbers in records (e.g., charts, computerized data bases)

EMOTIONAL STABILITY:

- Establish professional relationships
- Establish therapeutic boundaries
- Provide client with emotional support
- Adapt to changing environment/stress
- Deal with the unexpected (e.g., client condition, crisis)
- Focus attention on task
- Cope with own emotions
- Perform multiple responsibilities concurrently
- Cope with strong emotions in others (e.g., grief)
- Be able to complete required functions under stressful conditions (e.g., emergencies)
- Be willing to assist with a wide variety of procedures, including humane euthanasia

ANALYTICAL THINKING:

- Transfer knowledge from one situation to another

ANALYTICAL THINKING (cont'd):

- Process and interpret information from multiple sources
- Analyze and interpret abstract and concrete data
- Evaluate outcomes
- Problem solve
- Prioritize tasks
- Use long-term memory
- Use short-term memory

CRITICAL THINKING:

- Identify cause-effect relationships
- Plan/control activities for others
- Synthesize knowledge and skills
- Sequence information
- Make decisions independently
- Adapt decisions based on new information

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS:

- Establish rapport with individuals, families, and groups
- Respect/value cultural differences in others
- Negotiate interpersonal conflict
- Demonstrate socially appropriate behavior
- Maintain personal grooming consistent with close human and animal contact

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- Teach (e.g., client/family about veterinary health care)
- Influence people
- Direct/manage/delegate activities of others
- Speak English
- Write English
- Listen/comprehend spoken/written word
- Collaborate with others (e.g., veterinary team members, peers)
- Manage information