

ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALLIED HEALTH DIVISION FUNCTIONAL ABILITIES

VETERINARY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

A prospective Veterinary Medical Technology candidate must demonstrate the physical and psychological ability to provide safe, competent patient care. Every prospective student must assess his or her ability prior to choosing veterinary medical technology as a career. To understand the physical and psychological qualifications needed for successful veterinary medical technology career, the functional abilities have been listed below.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential training elements, cause undue hardship, or produce a direct threat to the safety of the patient or student.

Students must certify the ability to meet the functional abilities of the profession by a signed statement in the beginning of the program.

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES (program specific)
CRITICAL THINKING	Ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be able to function in a structured environment within significant time constraints and capable of making rapid decisions in urgent situations and meeting deadlines.2. Be able to complete required tasks/functions under stressful and/or unpredictable conditions, including emergency situations.3. Be able to access information from books, reference manuals, computers, and paper and electronic medical documents to perform duties and safely use equipment without assistance.4. Be able to prioritize, organize, and utilize time-management skills to perform tasks.5. Evaluate, synthesize and communicate diagnostic information to the attending veterinarian and/or staff.6. Be able to progress toward minimal supervision as they advance through the program.
INTERPERSONAL SKILLS	Abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate professional and socially appropriate behavior; maintain cleanliness and personal grooming consistent with close human and animal contact.2. Be able to interact appropriately with clients and all members of the veterinary healthcare team.
COMMUNICATION	Abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read, write, speak and report accurately and effectively in English.2. Comprehend and carry out complex written and oral instructions given in English.3. Be able, when communicating with other individuals by speech, either in person or by

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES (program specific)
		telephone, to make legible and coherent written notes in English within the margins and space provided on the appropriate forms.
MOBILITY	Physical abilities sufficient to move in one's environment with ease and without restriction.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tolerate walking and standing for at least ten minutes at a time, multiple times per hour. 2. Lift and/or carry up to 50 pounds from floor to waist level or higher at least several times per day 3. Lift objects weighing up to 50 pounds to a height of one meter or higher and carry the object or animal for a distance of two meters without assistance. 4. Use hands and arms to handle, install, position and move materials, equipment, and supplies without assistance. 5. Handle, position, and restrain live animals of small and large animal species. 6. Be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and be amenable to learning the safe handling, restraining, and working with these animals. 7. An individual should not be allergic to any species of animals to the extent that would prohibit working in a facility that has them.
MOTOR SKILLS	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective technical skills.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be able to move his/her entire body a distance of no less than three meters within two seconds of a signal to do so, to move rapidly from danger while handling animals in confined spaces. 2. Possess fine motor movements in order to perform the essential functions of the profession. This includes the dexterity to manipulate small equipment, adjust resistance on equipment, hold hooves while cleaning and evaluating, manage syringes, catheters, and common surgical instruments. 3. Be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. This includes ability to assist in holding of hemostats or other instruments while assisting in surgery; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous and urinary catheters without assistance. 4. Be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string. This includes the ability to hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00 silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine and/or other body fluids; apply bandages without assistance.

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HEARING	Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possess auditory ability necessary to monitor and assess health status, including auscultation of heart and lungs, and hear equipment alarms and warning sounds from animals, humans, and/or equipment of impending danger or injury. 2. Recognize and respond appropriately to distress sounds from animal and alarms/warning signals on animal-monitoring equipment directly and through intercommunication systems to ensure patient safety. 3. Be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading to permit oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks. 4. Be able to perceive the origin of sound as needed to detect movement of large animals in a pen or corral; monitoring multiple patients in an ICU.
VISUAL	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in Veterinary Medical Technology.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possess adequate visual ability, with or without correction, that allows the determination of minute areas of detail, very small variations in color and adequate depth perception (size, shape and texture), including differentiation of details as viewed through a microscope. This includes ability to characterize and interpret the color, odor, clarity, and viscosity of body structures and fluids, observe variations in skin and mucus membrane color, integrity, pulsations, tissue swelling, etc 2. Possess visual ability to allow for observation and assessment as necessary in nursing care both from a distance and close by in order to recognize physical status and non-verbal responses including behaviors. 3. Be able to use a compound microscope to identify cells and organisms and be able to differentiate colors of stained objects. 4. Be able to observe movement at a distance ranging from 30-45 centimeters to 15-20 meters at a discrimination level that permits detection of subtle differences in movement of the limbs in animals. This includes ability to detect and describe a change in color of hair coat caused by licking or trauma; detect abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; ability to read anesthesia monitoring equipment. 5. Be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width. This includes ability to characterize bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; and ability to see ECG

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		tracing. 6. Possess adequate depth perception to allow detection of a 0.5 cm elevation which is no more than 1cm in diameter on a slightly curved surface having a slightly irregular surface. This includes detection of tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth-haired dog; determining presence of reaction to skin testing for allergies.
TACTILE	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.	1. Possess the ability to palpate and interpret findings, i.e. palpation of pulses, lymph nodes or trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size
ENVIRONMENTAL	Possess the ability to tolerate environmental stressors.	1. Have the ability to work in a wide variety of environments including out of doors in different weather conditions (heat and cold, rain, snow, wind, noise) and within a wide variety of animal handling facilities while exercising good judgment and making appropriate professional and procedural judgment decisions.
EMOTIONAL	Possess emotional stability sufficient to maintain composure in stressful situations and assume responsibility / accountability for actions.	1. Have the ability to exercise good judgment and make appropriate professional and procedural decisions under stressful and/or emergency conditions (i.e. unstable patient condition), emergent demands (i.e. stat test orders), and a distracting environment (i.e., high noise levels, complex visual stimuli, aggressive animals) without fear. 2. Be able to maintain a professional demeanor while in emotionally charged situations with co-workers, clients and patients.

Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College is invested in full ADA compliance. The Disability Services Office is part of the K Ray Bailey Student Services Center. For detailed information contact the Disability Support Services Office at supportservices@abtech.edu or (828) 398-7581. An appointment with the Disability Services Coordinator is recommended in order to discuss any special concerns.