Veterinary Technology Program

Additional Admission Requirements

Students interested in the Veterinary Technology program at Iowa Western Community College must complete all admission requirements outlined below by the acceptance deadline. Applicants must submit Iowa Western application for admission and the *new for fall 2025* Veterinary Technology application. If the program does not fill by the deadline, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached.

The Veterinary Technology program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association:
Address: 1931 N. Meacham Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: 800-248-2862
Website: www.avma.org

Program Locations, Start Dates, and Deadlines:

Location	Semester Program Begins	Acceptance Deadline	Program Capacity
Council Bluffs	Fall (August)	January 31	75

Important: Apply to Iowa Western for your intended start term and submit the *new for fall 2025* Veterinary Technology application once all requirements are met. Ensure all documents are submitted and your application reflects the correct start term, year, and location.

Section 1: College Admission Requirements

To apply for Iowa Western, complete the following steps:
1. **Submit an Application:**
   - Apply online at www.iwcc.edu.
   - There is no application fee.
2. **Request Transcripts:**
   - Have your final, official high school transcript, HiSET/GED transcript, or college transcript sent to Iowa Western. For more details on submitting official transcripts, please refer to item 2 on the Admissions page.
3. **Optional Test Scores:**
   - Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT) are not required for admission.
   - If available, submit your most recent scores to help advisors determine placement in math and English courses.

 Note: Completing these steps ensures acceptance to Iowa Western as a General Studies AS student with a secondary program of "Prep Veterinary Technology." Students can then enroll in general education courses required for the Veterinary Technology Program. For help with registration or admission requirements, contact us at admissions@iwcc.edu or call 712-325-3277.

Section 2: Veterinary Technology Program Admission Requirements

To apply for the Veterinary Technology program, complete the following steps:

1. **Observation Requirement:**
   - Complete 24 hours of observation with a Veterinary Technician or Veterinarian and submit the Veterinary Technology Program Observation Form to Admissions. *Observation hours must be completed within 18 months of the priority deadline.*
2. **Biology Requirement:**
   - Achieve a grade of "C" or higher in BIO-112: General Biology I. *(This course requires a "C" or higher in high school biology, Introductory Biology, or Biotechnology I as a prerequisite.)*
3. **Chemistry requirement**:
   - Applicants must complete either a high school chemistry course (at least one semester) or a college course (three credit minimum).
4. **Anatomy & Physiology Requirement:**
   - Achieve a grade of "C" or higher in AGV-104 Veterinary Technology Anatomy & Physiology I.
5. *New for fall 2025* **Submit a Veterinary Technology Application***:*
   - Complete the Veterinary Technology application, ensuring all required attachments are included. Missing items will result in the application being returned for correction.

Note: Ensure all requirements are met before submitting the Veterinary Technology application. For assistance, contact the Admissions Office at admissions@iwcc.edu or (712) 325-3277.

Recommended Course Sequence

Semester	Courses	Credits
First Semester	BIO-105: Introduction to Biology (may be waived)	4
	MAT-743 Technical Math (may be waived)	4
Second Semester	*BIO-112: General Biology	4
	CHM-122: Intro to General Chemistry (may be waived)	4
	*AGV-104: Vet Tech Anatomy & Physiology I	3

Note: Classes marked with an asterisk are required for acceptance. Additional listed courses are needed to graduate from the Veterinary Technology program. Keep in mind that taking extra general education courses may impact your full-time status once you are accepted into the program.

Section 3: Acceptance Process

1. **Eligibility and Application Review:**
   - Complete the College Admissions Requirements (Section 1) and the Veterinary Technology Program Admissions Requirements (Section 2). ***Coming Fall 2025***, a separate Veterinary Technology application will also be required.
2. **Priority Deadline:**
   - Acceptance begins after the listed priority deadline:
     - **Fall Semester:** January 31
   - Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis after these dates until the program is full.
3. **Selection Process:**
   - If the number of eligible applicants exceeds program capacity, priority is given to:
     - Students with the earliest admission file completion date.
     - *Tiebreaker:* Students with the highest number of prerequisite courses completed at Iowa Western.
4. **Notification:**
   - Students accepted into the program will be notified via email approximately two weeks after the priority deadline.

Section 4: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **Does the Veterinary Technology Program have a waiting list?**

   No, we do not have a waiting list. Once you complete the College Admission Requirements and the Veterinary Technology Program Admission Requirements, you will be eligible for consideration for an upcoming term. Make sure your information, including your start term and year, is up to date with the Admissions Office.

2. **How long does it take to get into the Veterinary Technology Program?**

   Since we do not use a waiting list, the time it takes to get into the program depends on how long it takes you to complete the admission requirements. Most students can finish the prerequisite courses in one to two semesters if they begin with no prior college credit.

3. **Is there a separate application process to apply for the program?**

   Yes! *Beginning in Fall 2025*, students must complete a Veterinary Technology program application after meeting all required admission steps. Incomplete applications will be returned for correction.

4. **Can I reapply if I don't complete the requirements in time?**

   Starting with Fall 2025, you will need to submit a new Veterinary Technician application for your preferred semester once it opens.

5. **How will I know if I get accepted to the Veterinary Technology Program?**

   Accepted students will receive an email approximately two weeks after the priority deadline. If the program doesn't fill during priority acceptance, we will continue accepting qualified students until capacity is reached or the semester is about to begin.

Section 5: Top 7 Things to Know About the Veterinary Technology Program

1. **Kennel duty:**
   - Students are required to complete kennel duty mornings, evenings, and weekends during the spring and fall semesters. This is mandatory and not optional.
   - Duties must be completed regardless of weather conditions, including blizzards.
   - Kennel duty is a for-credit course.

2. **Degree Path:**
   - An associate degree in veterinary technology from IWCC is not designed as a pathway to veterinary school.
   - Most veterinary schools require at least 60 credit hours of science and other courses, with only about 10 credit hours from this program potentially transferring.

3. **Challenging Curriculum:**
   - Students must maintain a grade of 70% (C) or higher in all veterinary technology and science courses to remain in the program.
   - The program is fast-paced and requires strong time management skills—school must be a top priority.
   - Studying and kennel duty are time-intensive.
   - Focus is primarily on canine and feline species, with entry-level knowledge of other species.
   - Includes two internships (summer and final spring semester), both for credit and requiring tuition.
   - Microbiology (BIO-186 or an approved equivalent) must be completed by the end of the second semester of the freshman year.
   - Our program consistently exceeds the national average for first-time pass rates on the Veterinary Technician National Exam.

4. **Animals:**
   - Animals are provided by the Council Bluffs Animal Shelter.
   - Veterinary care is performed only on shelter animals. We are not a clinic and do not treat student or public animals.

5. **Readmission policy:**
   - Failing a course will extend your program completion by at least one year.
   - New students are only admitted in the fall, and the program does not offer a part-time option.
   - Readmission requires an interview with the Advisory Board.

6. **Financial Aid:**
   - Budget spring financial aid to cover summer courses.

7. **Cohort Experience:**
   - Students build lifelong friendships.
   - With only three instructors, you will be known on a first-name basis.

Veterinary Technology Observation Form

The purpose of the observation is to expose applicants to a wide variety of veterinary procedures performed on small and large animals by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT), Registered Veterinary Technician (RVT), and/or Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT). Applicants are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of observation in a small animal practice or large animal setting, or a combination of both. Although applicants are _encouraged_ to observe a variety of procedures, **they are _required_ to observe eight specific procedures,** which are detailed below.

To successfully complete this requirement for admission, applicants must:

1. Complete at least 24 hours of observation in a small animal practice, a large animal setting, or a combination of both. Hours submitted must be completed within 18 months of the priority deadline.
2. Complete the Required Procedures for Observation detailed below, and ensure that the supervising DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT initials and dates each Required Procedure for Observation.
3. Complete the Observation Log by documenting the times and dates for each observation.
4. Complete the Observation Details by indicating which procedures they observed and in what setting they observed those procedures by placing check marks in the appropriate boxes.
5. Ensure that the supervising DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT completes the DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT Certification section.
6. Sign and date the Applicant Certification section and submit forms to the Office of Admissions.

We prefer you scan your documents into a PDF/Word file and submit them (admissions@iwcc.edu). There are many free scanning apps that can be downloaded on most smartphones. If submitting a picture of a document, it must meet the following guidelines:
- Pictures may not be at an angle. Pictures of documents must be taken straight on
- Pictures may not cut off any part of the document.
- No part of the picture may contain any shadow or glare.
- The document must be easily readable.

***If your picture does not meet the criteria above you will be required to resubmit your document.

To be completed by the student and signed by the participating Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician.

Student name (print or type): _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

REQUIRED Procedures for Observation

The following procedures are required for observation. Applicants may observe these specific procedures in a small animal practice or a large animal setting, or a combination of both. The supervising DVM, LVT, RVT, or CVT must initial and date next to each observed procedure. All "Procedure Required for Observation" must be completed to be considered for admission. If needed, observation hours can be completed at multiple locations. A form is required for each office location.

Procedures REQUIRED for Observation	Supervising DVM, LVT, RVT, or CVT Initials	Date of observation
Prepare fecal specimens/floats		
Urinalysis		
Restraint techniques		
Anesthesia machine operation		
Euthanasia		
Surgical Procedure		
Post-operative care		
Cleaning cages, equipment & clinic		

Observation Details

Applicants are required to document each procedure they observed by placing check marks next to each of the procedures they observed during their 24 hours of observation. It is not *required* to observe all the items listed below; however, applicants are *encouraged* to observe a wide variety of procedures.

Small Animal Procedures

ITEM	√	ITEM	√
Obtain patient history		Heartworm tests	
Check temperature/pulse/heart/lungs		Cystocentesis	
Communicate with client		Gram stain	
Collect/prepare fecal specimens/floats		Diff-quick stain	
Analyze fecal specimen for parasites		Taking radiographs	
Express anal glands		Developing radiographs	
IV catheter		Restraint techniques (feline/canine)	
Urinary catheter		Restraint techniques (other animal)	
IV or IM anesthetic		Administer pills	
Anesthesia machine operation		Force-feeding	
Mask animal for anesthetic		Administer subcutaneous fluids	
Intubation		Euthanasia	
Cephalic blood draw		Operate & maintain autoclave	
Jugular blood draw		Apply/remove bandages & splints	
Blood draw-inner/outer rear legs		Therapeutic bathing/basic grooming	
Lab analysis of blood - PCV/TP		Cleaning cages, equipment & clinic	
Blood chemistry machines		Use of clinic software (access records/set appointments)	
Blood smears		Access client/patient files	
Urinalysis		Misc. paperwork, filing & records	
Surgical preparation		Trim nails	
Post-operative care		Spay/neuter	
Routine dental prophylaxis		De-claw	

Large Animal Procedures

ITEM	√	ITEM	√
Mobile ambulance inventory/cleanup		Collect/examine blood specimens	
Prepare squeeze chutes/head gates		Collect/examine urine specimens	
Restraint techniques		Collect/examine fecal specimens	
Tagging, tattooing, identification		Take/develop radiographs	
External parasite examination		Surgical preparation	
Use of balling gun		Anesthesia	
Gastric tubing		Embryo transplant	
Drenching		Cesarean section	
Dipping		Post-operative care	
Injections		Euthanasia	
Implanting		Necropsy	
Dehorning		Artificial insemination	
Castration		Pregnancy check	
Dock tails		Semen collection	
Trim hooves			

Observation Log

Applicants must document the times and dates of their observation hours using the log below.

Date	Time In	Time Out	Hours
		Total Observation Hours	

DVM, LVT, RVT and/or CVT Certification

This section must be completed by the supervising DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT

By signing below, I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is true and accurate.

Signature(s) of DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT: _____

Printed Name(s) of DVM, LVT, RVT, and/or CVT: _____

Name of Clinic or Facility: _____

Address of Clinic or Facility: _____

Phone Number of Clinic or Facility: _____

Applicant Certification: By signing below, I hereby certify that all information on this form is true and correct.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

*Admissions Requirements are subject to change. Contact the Office of Admissions with questions.

Non-Discrimination Clause:

Iowa Western is committed to providing an inclusive environment. Please review our Annual Notice of Non-Discrimination for the latest information.

Admissions Contact Information:

Admissions Office:

- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Phone: 712-325-3277
- Email: admissions@iwcc.edu