Veterinary Medical Technology Program Technical Standards

Joliet Junior College acknowledges Purdue University and the Association for Veterinary Technician Educators for their development of the following Technical Standards.

The VMTP has established technical standards to be considered in the enrollment/admissions process in an effort to provide a framework to balance several competing interests:

1. The rights of applicants and students;
2. The safety of students, their co-workers, and veterinary patients;
3. Fulfilling the clinical training component of the curriculum;
4. Successfully completing the American Veterinary Medical Association requirements for accreditation;
5. The conditions for licensure or certification of the VMTP graduates.

These competing interests and the nature of veterinary educational activities may prevent some prospective and current students with disabilities from qualifying for enrollment or continued enrollment in the VMPT at Joliet Junior College.

Consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the VMTP will make appropriate academic adjustments and accommodations to facilitate enrollment and participation of qualified individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities. Students with disabilities will contact the Student Accommodations and Resources (StAR) Office to determine appropriate accommodations.

The technical standards set forth in this document are the minimum standards that allow an individual to perform at the lowest acceptable level in the required activity having the highest, greatest, or most complex requirement for the designated sense, function or characteristic.

Applicants and students must be able to satisfy, with or without the use of appropriate auxiliary aids (including prosthetic devices)\(^1\), the following technical standards:

I. Body Senses:

A. Vision

1. An individual must 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. **Application:** Detecting and describing a change in color of hair coat caused by licking or trauma; detecting abnormal head posture in a parakeet; monitoring respiratory rate during anesthesia; reading anesthesia monitoring equipment.

2. An individual must be able to discriminate shades of black and white patterns in which the band is not more than 0.5 mm in width. **Application:** Bacterial hemolysis on a blood agar plate; density patterns on a radiograph; ability to see ECG tracing.

3. Depth perception must 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. **Application:** Detecting tissue swelling on the hip on a smooth-haired dog; determining presence of reaction to skin testing for allergies.

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\(^1\) If one aid or prosthetic device interferes with a second aid or prosthetic device needed to carry out a single act, then the individual may be restricted in meeting the technical standard.
B. Hearing

1. An individual must be able to perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading. **Application:** Oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks.

2. An individual must be able to perceive the origin of sound. **Application:** Movement of large animals in a pen or corral; monitoring multiple patients in an ICU.

C. Proprioception

1. An individual must be able to determine the position of one hand extended from the body within +/-10 degrees when the arm is extended in any direction, the eyes are closed, and the individual is standing. **Application:** endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection.

2. An individual must be able to differentiate between four round semisolid objects having diameters of 0.5, 1, 1.5, and 2 cm and judge the shape and consistency of objects when the arm is extended and the eyes are closed. **Application:** assisting in surgery; lymph node palpation; palpation of trachea to determine proper endotracheal tube size.

II. Body function:

A. Communication

1. An individual must be able to speak English and be understood by others who cannot see the lips or facial expressions of the individual. **Application:** Oral communication in a surgery room where all occupants are wearing surgical masks; managing a patient with cardiac arrest.

2. Be able, when communicating with other individuals by speech, either in person or by telephone, to make legible and coherent written notes in English within the margins and space provided on the appropriate forms. **Application:** Recording in the medical records telephone conversations with clients, adding notes to anesthetic monitoring chart regarding a patient’s condition.

B. Coordinated movement

1. An individual must be able to hold surgical instruments in one hand and perform fine movements with such instruments. **Application:** assist in holding of hemostats or other instruments while assisting in surgery; induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient; place intravenous catheters.

2. An individual must be able to hold, manipulate, or tie materials ranging from a cloth patch to a very fine string. **Application:** Hold and manipulate a surgical sponge; tie a 00 silk suture; endotracheal intubation; intravenous injection; catheterize animals to obtain sample of urine; apply bandages.

3. An individual must 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. **Application:** Movement from danger while handling animals in confined spaces.
C. Physical Stamina

An individual must be able to lift objects and/or animals weighing 0-5 pounds constantly; 5-20 pounds frequently; 20-50 pounds occasionally. An individual must be able to lift all of the above to a height of one meter and carry the object or animal for a distance of two meters. Application: Placing a dog on a surgery table; lifting and carrying a bag weighing approximately 35 pounds of food, equipment and supplies from an ambulatory service vehicle to an animal patient in a nearby barn or lot; restrain a small animal patient for a medical procedure; restrain horses and cattle by halter, twitch, nose tongs and other techniques; administer oral medication to ruminants by balling gun or dose syringe.

D. Allergy and/or fear

1. An individual must be able to have sustained contact with multiple species of animals and the environments in which they are housed and treated. During such contact, the individual must be able to carry out routine medical care on such animals.

2. Students who are allergic to cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, horses, cows, sheep or hay must have written permission from their physician stating how the student can interact safely with these allergens. An individual’s allergies should not prohibit a student from being in the same room as and completing the AVMA essential skills required for graduation.

3. Students who have a phobia of certain species must acknowledge that they will be required to interact with all species of animals.

E. Cognitive Ability

1. Possess a willingness to assist with and perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting. Application: Euthanasia, handling of sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals.

2. Students must be able to function under stress and unpredictable conditions with significant time constraints and capable of making rapid decisions in urgent situations and meeting deadlines. Application: Triage in an emergency setting, administering medications on time and in an efficient manner, respond to cardiac arrest.

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. Application: Assemble & maintain new anesthetic machine and monitors using owner’s manual in PDF format, research and create client education material.