

Veterinary Technology Diploma

Frequently Asked Questions

The Veterinary Technology Diploma program (VTEC) is currently only available as a full-time option. In the full-time in-person cohort, you'll study on the Coquitlam Campus and will graduate in two years (4 semesters + practicum).

Q: Why are applications to the part time hybrid stream currently closed?

A: In November 2024 Douglas College made a difficult decision to suspend the further intake of applications to the part time hybrid stream, due to a funding shortfall. We are actively lobbying the provincial government for funding and hope to reopen the part time stream as soon as possible. *Therefore, we are currently only accepting applications to the full-time cohort.*

Q: Are international students accepted into the Douglas College Veterinary Technology Program

A: Yes, we have a small number of seats available in the full-time program for international students. Please contact [Douglas College International](#) for more information.

Q: When is your next information session?

A: Dates and times for information sessions are found [HERE](#). They are usually held monthly September to June. Information Sessions are mostly held online through Zoom with some in-person information sessions.

Q: How are applications evaluated?

A: After the application deadline all applications are scored according to education, work experience and the questionnaire. Most of the points in the scoring system are allocated to academic achievements and work experience. It is therefore very important to make sure we receive transcripts for ALL your academic achievements (including incomplete undergraduate degrees), as well as a log of ALL your animal-related work experience. Once all the applications have been scored, they are ranked. Seat offers are then sent out according to these rankings.

Q: I missed the deadline for application submission, or I am still upgrading my courses. Can I still be offered one of 30 seats for next September?

A: You will not be able to submit an application after the January 15th deadline if our program is fully subscribed. Applications that are incomplete at the time of the application deadline will not be assessed or scored.

Q: What are my chances of being accepted into the VTEC diploma program? Is it “first come, first served”?

A: No: we use a “Preferential Admissions” process. The applicants that submit their completed applications by the application deadline are reviewed and “scored” on all the components of the application. Seats are offered to the top 30 candidates for each cohort based on those scores.

Q: I have worked in a vet hospital for several years, but I never took biology or math in high school. Do I really have to take this to be admitted?

A: Yes, you do. The prerequisite courses are in place to ensure you can be successful in the program and successfully write the VTNE's (Veterinary Technology National Exam).

Q: Is my work experience acceptable for the minimum 80 hours of veterinary volunteer/work experience that is required for admission?

A: All applicants must spend 80 hours working or volunteering in a veterinary hospital or clinic, observing or working with an RVT (Registered Veterinary Technologist) and/or veterinarian so that the Task Observation Form can be completed. Confirmation of hours worked must be signed off by a veterinarian, RVT, or hospital manager.

Please log ALL animal related work experience e.g. volunteer work in rescues, shelters or with wildlife, work experience at a dog daycare, boarding facility or pet store, farm work, horse riding etc. The more work experience hours *and the wider the variety of work experiences you have*, the stronger your application to the VTEC program will be.

Q: What is reviewed in the preferential admissions process?

A: Criteria reviewed for scoring include:

- required high school courses and grades (higher grades = higher score)
- additional post-secondary courses, certifications or degrees (please submit transcripts for ALL post-secondary academic qualifications, completed undergraduate courses, etc)
- short answer questionnaire
- veterinary hospital work experience hours (80 hours required, more hours = higher score)
- other animal work experience or volunteer hours (optional, more variety = higher score)

Q: Is there a waitlist for applicants?

A: Yes, there is typically a waitlist for applicants that do not receive the first seat offers. If a spot becomes available over the summer, waitlisted applicants are contacted according to their application score. However, we do not hold over a waitlist from year to year.

Q: Do I need to re-apply if I am not accepted the first time?

A: YES: you can apply for the following year using the same documents, but you must let the Registrar's office know that you intend to do this.

A: If you do not get offered a seat in the VTEC program and wish to reapply the following year, we strongly recommend you take the time to obtain additional work experience e.g. by applying for a job as a veterinary assistant in a veterinary hospital. Other alternatives include completing a Veterinary Office Assistant certificate program (typically 6 months). These are offered at many BC Colleges including [Douglas College](#). If you improve your application in this way, you will need to re-submit new documents to the Registrar's Office to update your application.

Q: What is the salary range for VTs?

A: Starting salary for new graduates in the lower Mainland of BC is typically ~\$30/hour depending on where you work (general practice, emergency, specialty medicine etc). An experienced or specialised RVT may be paid over \$40/hour.

Q: How do I become a registered veterinary technologist after I graduate?

A: Upon successful completion of the Douglas College VTEC Program, graduates are eligible to write the Veterinary Technologist National Exam (VTNE). Once this exam is successfully written, you can apply to your

provincial veterinary technologist association. Once accepted you will be a [registered veterinary technologist](#) (RVT).

Q: How do I gain experience working with different species?

A: Please be aware that we do not have an animal colony and do not house animals overnight on-campus. Therefore, many of our Labs are off-site at various locations around the lower mainland, especially for equine, farm animal and exotic species. The College does not provide transport and *students are responsible for their own transport to all off-site Labs, field trips and practicum locations.*

Q: What is an essential skill?

An essential skill is a skill that is mandated by our governing body, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), which approves our VTNE Accreditation. All students must show competency in all CVMA mandated essential skills in order to graduate.

Q: Costs

A: Detailed costs are available on the Douglas College website – specifically the [tuition fee charts](#) [100 and 200 level courses].

The VTEC program has addition costs such as laboratory fees and equipment, required textbooks and/or proctoring fees (for online courses only).

Student loans: be sure to check your [student loan eligibility](#) for both part-time and full-time programs using the [BC student aid online calculator](#).

Questions? Email the VTEC Program coordinator Dr Jenny Wakeling vtec@douglascollege.ca