Q. What is a veterinary technician?

A. A veterinary technician is similar to a registered nurse for animals. A technician provides assistance to veterinarians in primary animal care, radiology, anesthesia, nursing, and laboratory. Technicians also assist veterinarians with client education, sales, and marketing. Veterinary technicians use their scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge. Upon graduation, students are awarded the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology. Students can then sit for the professional state and national exams.

Q. What is the difference between a veterinary technician and a veterinary assistant?

A. A technician is a person who completes a two-year program of study and obtained an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology. Technicians are responsible for the duties listed above. An assistant is primarily responsible for clerical duties, restraint, and assisting the technician.

Q. How long will it take to complete the program?

A. This 71-credit hour program is taken sequentially over a 5-semester period of time. The first four semesters will be spent in the classroom. The fifth semester is a preceptorship in a veterinary clinic where you will practice your clinical skills. It culminates in the awarding of an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Veterinary Technology. Following this, the student can take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) given by the Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB). Upon successfully completing this examination, the student will be classified as a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT).
Q. **What can I do with this degree after I graduate?**

A. While the majority of veterinary technicians are employed in private practice, the demand for technicians is rapidly expanding to include new employment opportunities in human and animal health-related areas and specialties such as:

- Specialty practices
- Universities
- Biomedical research
- Military service
- Food safety inspection
- Teaching
- Zoo animal and wildlife care
- Diagnostic laboratory support
- Veterinary supply sales
- Animal control and Humane Society animal care
- Drug and feed company
- Technical service and sales

Q. **Are night classes or online classes offered?**

A. Many of the basic education courses for this degree are offered at night or online. All of the veterinary technology courses are taken on campus during the day. The schedule for each semester in the veterinary technology program has set requirements and class meeting times starting in the Fall semester.

Q. **Will I be able to find a job after I graduate?**

A. Veterinary technicians are in demand. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, veterinary technicians are listed as number two in the top 20 occupations projected to grow the fastest during 2008-2018, with a 41% projected nationwide job growth for that 10 year period. Statistics show that there are a minimum of 5 jobs available for every graduate.

Q. **What should I do if I am interested in becoming a Certified Veterinary Technician?**

A. Please contact the Veterinary Technology Department at ASU-Beebe at vettech@asub.edu for more information. You may fill out and submit the application available on this website for admissions to the Veterinary Technology Program. Then contact the college admissions office at (501) 882-8860 for more information about applying to the college.