

Veterinary Technology Program 2026 Application Guide



Overview

Located on the Loudoun Campus, NOVA's Veterinary Technology program is designed for individuals who want to master the latest techniques and skills in pursuit of a meaningful career as a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT). Upon acceptance into the program, students will combine their scientific aptitudes and compassionate natures to become patient advocates trained in blood draws, X-rays, laboratory samples, anesthesia, dental treatments, surgical preparation and assistance, medication administration and animal nursing techniques.

Accreditation

Our program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). We award an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) Degree and prepare you for the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), a national exam required for licensure to practice veterinary medicine under the directive of a veterinarian.

Prerequisite Requirements

We are committed to accepting students who show the strongest academic foundation. We expect our students to enter the program with excellent skill sets in writing, math, critical thinking, communication, teamwork, interpersonal/social skills, study skills, organizational skills and time management.

You must be at least 18 years of age or older with a high school diploma/GED, with completion of the following courses with a "C" letter grade or higher (a "C-minus" does not meet this requirement):

- SDV101 Orientation to Veterinary Technology or SDV elective
- ENG111 College Composition I.
- CHM101 Introductory Chemistry or CHM111 General Chemistry
 - Note: For program admissions purposes, we focus primarily on your academic performance in one of these two CHM courses; however, if you are considering a bachelor's degree in the future, be sure to talk with an academic advisor about which of these CHM courses would work best for your goals.
- MTH133 Mathematics for Health Professionals
 - Note: For program admissions purposes, we can accept a different NOVA math course; however, there's a chance you may still be required to take MTH133 if the formal course substitution request you submit with your VET faculty advisor is denied.
- VET111 Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals
 - VET111 is only available at the Loudoun campus. There are no substitutions for this course.

General Education Requirements

The required curriculum for Veterinary Technology students includes some General Education courses. These courses can either be taken prior to entering the program or after being accepted to the Program:

- CST110 Intro to Communications or CST126 Interpersonal Communications
- Humanities/Fine Arts Elective
- Social Science Elective

Refer to the [current NOVA course catalog](#) for the list of courses that fulfill these general education elective requirements.

Veterinary Technology Course Requirements

Once accepted into the program, students are program-placed by the Loudoun campus and receive emailed instructions regarding when to register for the Veterinary Technology specific (VET-prefixed) sequence of courses.

Work Requirement

All veterinary technology program students are required to work in the field and have a veterinarian and/or LVT as a mentor at the time of their application.

- Full-Time Program: Requires students to work in the field an average of 10 hours per week or 150 hours per semester.
- Part-Time Program: Requires students to work in the field an average of 20 hours per week or 300 hours per semester.
- Selecting a Mentor
 - Since you will be working closely with your mentor to set goals and to continue practicing hands-on skills once you've learned them in class, we recommend asking an LVT or DVM you work with closely to be your primary mentor.
 - You can choose to have up to two additional mentors who can help you practice skills at your clinic; however, only a primary mentor is required.

Financial Aid

As you are preparing your Veterinary Technology Program application, contact a financial aid counselor on any campus to discuss the financial aid process, G3 Funding, and other financial aid options.

- Information about financial aid offices at all NOVA campuses can be found on [NOVA's Financial Aid website](#).
 - The Loudoun Campus financial aid counselors are located in the Reynolds building, LR237.

- Call toll-free 1-855-323-3199 or email finaidssupport@nvcc.edu first to confirm their weekday walk-in hours before you visit.
- The six-digit identification code for Northern Virginia Community College is **003727**.

Application Process

The Full-Time and Part-Time Program application process is completed online and will open April 15th. Print out the **2026 Admissions Checklist** to ensure that you meet and have completed all the requirements and are including all the supporting materials needed to apply to your preferred (Full-time or Part-time) Program.

To apply, you must complete the following:

1. Transcript Evaluation

- a. If not previously completed during your general application to NOVA: Submit a [Transfer Credit Evaluation Request Form \(Form 125-049E\)](#) which must be completed online as part of [NOVA's Transfer Credit Evaluation Process](#).
 - i. This form should be completed for any coursework from other VCCS schools, coursework from other colleges and universities, and any professional test scores (e.g., AP, IB, CLEP, etc.).
 - ii. Contact the [College Records Office](#) with any questions about completing the form or submitting your transcripts
- b. All international high school and international college transcripts must first be evaluated for course-by-course credit by an evaluation agency. Once you have received the completed course- by-course evaluation, follow the steps listed above to request final evaluation through NOVA Student Services. Below are the recommended private services to use for international transcript translation and review:
 - i. [World Education Services \(WES\)](#)
 - ii. [International Education Research Foundation \(IERF\)](#)

2. Resume

- a. Resume must be single-spaced, 12-pt font, and a maximum of 2-pages.
- b. List your employment history, diplomas/degrees, certifications, skills, memberships, and extracurricular activities.
- c. The [Career Services Office](#) offers several resources for resume development, including appointments with career counselors, for all NOVA students

3. Letter of Intent

- a. Letter must be single-spaced, 12-pt font, and a maximum of 2-pages
- b. **New applicants (Both Programs):** Describe how your personal background and experiences (including coursework, work history, life skills, etc.) have led to your interest in becoming a professional Licensed Veterinary Technician.

- c. **Re-applicants (Both Programs):** We want the students in our Veterinary Technology Program to maintain a vested interest in their own academic success. Please write an essay explaining why you feel that you are ready to return to the program, including the following:
- i. The date and reason(s) you withdrew
 - ii. How you and/or your circumstances have changed
 - iii. Specific actions you have taken to ensure success moving forward
 - iv. Any personal goals that will help you achieve success in your academic career at NOVA

4. Mentor Forms

- a. Download and read through the [NOVA Vet Tech Mentor/Student Commitments](#) with your mentor(s).
- b. Complete the following forms:
 - i. [Clinical Externship Affiliation Agreement](#)
 - All seven pages must be filled out leaving only the Provost's signature blank.
 - ii. [Mentor/Student Acknowledgement Form](#)

5. Department Communications

- a. Once you submit your application, all future communications from the Veterinary Technology Department will be sent to your VCCS email address, including:
 - i. Notification of any missing requirements in your application
 - ii. Admissions Decisions
 - iii. Information and reminders for NSO/rabies vaccinations

Important Dates

- **April 15th - May 18th:** Applications accepted for Veterinary Technology Program
- **May 26th - July 1st:** The Admissions Committee will meet to discuss applications
 - Applicants may be asked to come in for a supplemental interview
 - Final decisions will be made by July 1st
- **August 10th:** New Student Orientation (NSO) and deadline for submitting proof of rabies vaccination
 - For accepted students only (attendance is mandatory--there are no exceptions)
- **August 11th - August 23rd:** Accepted students are program-placed and may register for VET coursework
- **August 24th:** First day of Fall 2026 semester
 - VET-prefixed classes have the same schedule as all other 15-week term NOVA courses