

# PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION OF THE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY STUDENT

## Emotional Abilities

1. Emotional health is defined as reacting appropriately to stressful situations, withstanding everyday environmental stresses with little difficulty, using healthy coping mechanisms, and understanding one's own ability to cope with stressful situations.
2. Students should be able to respond to stress (personal, academic, interpersonal) without allowing it to interfere with patient care or responsibilities at hand.
3. Students should be able to work constructively under stressful situations.
4. Students should be able to recognize stress and seek help.
5. Students should be able to accept constructive criticism and respond effectively.
6. Students should be able to act calmly under emergency situations.

## Critical Thinking:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student should possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.
2. A student must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations and develop or participate in the development of Veterinary Medical Technology care plans.
3. A student should be able to recognize obvious changes in an animal's activity or appearance, such as hair or feather loss, refusal to eat, wounds, and depression.
4. Students must be able to make decisions to separate animals that are fighting.

## Interpersonal Skills:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.
2. Student shall establish a rapport with patients, class mates, and instructors with honesty and integrity.
3. Students should be able to handle interpersonal conflicts in a mature and professional manner.

## Communication Skills:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form.
2. Students should be able to explain treatment procedures, explain basic pet care to clients, and interpret Veterinary Medical Technology treatment plans and patient responses.
3. Students should be able to understand treatment plans and explain them to classmates and clients in terms they will understand
4. Student should be able to follow and give verbal instructions with professionalism and act as a team member.
5. Students should be able to write legibly in a medical record.

## Mobility:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess physical abilities to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, stand and walk for extensive periods of time.
2. Students must move around in patient's rooms, x-ray development room (3'X 9'), and surgical suites without compromising asepsis and treatment areas, administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation procedures on the floor.
3. Students must be able to bend down to pick up an animal, Students must be able to restrain an animal on the floor, and the student must be able to clean cages at floor level.
4. The student should be able to perform basic janitorial skills such as mopping, sweeping, dusting, and scrubbing.
5. Students should be able to sit for long periods of time for dental prophylaxis and anesthesia monitoring.
6. Students should be able to move quickly out of harm's way when handling large animals.

## Motor Skills:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective Veterinary Medical Technology care.
2. Students should be able to: calibrate and use equipment, position patients/clients, initiate, monitor and maintain IV therapy.
3. Students should be able to proficiently handle sharps.
4. Students should be able to legibly hand write an entry in a medical record. Legibility will be determined by ability of 90% of faculty members being able to read the hand writing.
5. Students should be able to obtain blood from the jugular, cephalic and saphenous veins without unnecessary pain or tissue trauma to the animal.
6. Student should be able to restrain an animal while holding off a vein.
7. Student should be able to use small laboratory equipment such as microhematocrit tubes and pipettes.
8. Students should be able to hold and appropriately use suture needles and suture material.

## Hearing:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. For example:
2. Students should be able to hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultory sounds, and cries for help.
3. Students should be able to hear the movement of animals when in a pen or herd situation
4. Students should be able to hear pulse oximeters and Doppler's during anesthetic monitoring.

## Visual:

1. Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment.
2. Students should be able to observe patient/client responses, assess changes in skin color (paleness, cyanosis, redness).
3. Students should be able to visualize animal's condition
4. Students should be able to visualize animal's body language and signs of aggression and fear.
5. Students should be able to evaluate electrocardiograph traces.
6. Students should be able to evaluate mucous membrane color and capillary refill time.
7. Students should be able to evaluate stages and planes of anesthesia.

**Tactile:** Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.

1. Students should be able to perform palpation, functions or physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, insertions of catheters.
2. Students should be able to palpate peripheral pulses and abdominal contents.
3. Students should be able to palpate differences in tissue consistencies
4. Students should be able to feel muscle mass and body conditions.
5. Students should be able to recognize appropriate forces needed to draw blood, restrain animals of various sizes, and catheter placement.

**Weight-Bearing:** Veterinary Medical Technology student shall possess ability to lift and manipulate/move 45-50 pounds on a daily basis.

1. Students should be able to lift, unassisted, a 50# dog to waist height.
2. Students should be able to restrain a 50-60# dog unassisted.
3. Students should be able to unload 40# bags of animal food or bedding.
4. Students should be able to lift the hind limb of a 1200# horse for up to 5 minutes.
5. Students should be able to squat for minimum 10 consecutive minutes, which may be needed to bandage a horse's distal limb.
6. Students should be able to properly restrain a cows head for up to 10 minutes.
7. Students should be able to move equipment of 40# or lighter unassisted.

**Cognitive Abilities:** Veterinary Medical Technology students shall possess ability to be oriented to time, place and person and organize responsibilities, make decisions.

1. Student shall assess client/patient complaints and implement appropriate plans.
2. Students should be able to read and understand basic treatment plans, laboratory test procedures, health forms, and drug labels.
3. Students should be able to recognize potentially dangerous situations and respond appropriately, such as aggressive animals or fearful animals.

**Occupational Exposures:** Veterinary Medical Technology student may be exposed to communicable disease and/or body fluids, toxic substances, medicinal preparations and shall use appropriate precautions at all times.

1. Students should be able to identify potentially dangerous animals and act appropriately.
2. Students should be able to identify and explain to clients and class mates the zoonotic organisms that are seen daily in veterinary practice.
3. Students should be able to identify biohazard materials and handle appropriately
4. Students should be able to identify dangerous chemicals and act appropriately.

EXAMPLES ARE NOT ALL INCLUSIVE For the Gaston College Health Programs Essential Functions see Appendix B.