
DATE: November 12, 2021

TO: Lisa Eshman, Faculty, Veterinary Technology
Elaine Kuo, College Researcher

FROM: Wendy Lee, Research Analyst

RE: Vet Tech Alumni and Employer Surveys, 2020

Overview

Alumni of the Veterinary Technology (VT) program were surveyed to assess their current employment and satisfaction with the program. Employers affiliated with the VT program were also surveyed to obtain their satisfaction with program graduates. Of graduates, alumni, and employers surveyed, (15) recent graduates [Y0], (15) one-year alumni [Y1], (13) three-year alumni [Y3], and (16) employers [Employers] responded.

Overall Highlights

Highlights from alumni and employers of graduates from Foothill's veterinary technology program [Employers] are listed below.

- How well Foothill's program prepared them for a career in veterinary technology, and if employers believed Foothill graduates possessed good basic knowledge and clinical skills.
 - "Extremely Well" (40% Y0, 60% Y1, 31% Y3)
 - "Very Well" (48% Y0, 40% Y1, 38% Y3)
 - 94% of employers indicated that Foothill graduates generally possess good basic knowledge and clinical skills.
- Across the four groups surveyed, trends in the best and least prepared skills indicated by respondents emerged.
 - Best prepared skills
 - Anesthesia (16% Y0, 17% Y1, 16% Y3, 9% Employers)
 - Basic Clinical Skills (18% Y0, 19% Y1, 11% Y3, 17% Employers)
 - Medical Nursing (20% Y0, 7% Y1, 11% Y3, 9% Employers)
 - Least prepared skills
 - Pharmacy and Pharmacology (33% Y0, 16% Y1, 6% Y3, 3% Employers)
 - Diagnostic Imaging (18% Y0, 19% Y1, 3% Employers)
 - Office and Supply Procedures (12% Y0, 16% Y1, 6% Y3)
 - Respondents indicating a career as a veterinary technician related job as their primary occupation (100% Y1, 69% Y3)
 - "Yes," respondents would recommend Foothill's program (88% Y0, 87% Y1, 85% Y3)

- 94% of employers indicated “Yes” when asked if they would hire graduates of Foothill’s veterinary technology program, with 6% indicating “Maybe.”
 - *Foothill graduates far exceed other program graduates. I also appreciate that they are taught soft skills along with the clinical skills.*
 - *Generally very smart graduates. They are well trained.*
 - *I would love to have more interns at canyon creek pet hospital. I went to foothill, and I know that they are getting the best teaching, and we can mold them to the best techs.*
- Suggestions for improvement from alumni
 - Incorporate more hands-on or real-life scenario practice (internships, etc.)
 - 50% Y0
 - 44% Y1
 - 44% Y3
 - 15% Employers

Graduating Students Year 0 Highlights

- (15) recent graduates completed the graduating student survey
- 48% (8) of respondents indicate that Foothill's veterinary technology program prepared them "Very Well" and 40% (6) indicating "Extremely Well" for a veterinary technology career.
- "Medical Nursing" (20%), "Basic Clinical Skills" (18%), and "Anesthesia" (16%) are areas the students feel they are best prepared for by the veterinary technology program
- "Pharmacy and Pharmacology" (33%) "Diagnostic Imaging" (18%) and "Clinical Pathology" (15%) are the areas students feel they are least prepared by the program.
- 75% of the graduating students are now employed full time following graduation.
- 88% of the students recommend Foothill veterinary technology program to others:
 - *Foothill has prepared me so well for this career I recommend it to anyone interested. The instructors are passionate about teaching and the field. Being from Foothill, clinics interest is immediately peaked because they know that I will be well trained and prepared.*
 - *I've already highly recommended this program to anyone who is remotely interested in joining the vet tech field. Passed my VTNE on the first try by 15% margins and had an overall great experience (despite all the hardships thrown at us). I always tell people that you will not find instructors more dedicated for their students like you will at Foothill :)*
 - *The vet tech program was extremely beneficial in helping me prepare for this career. The instructors are all very committed, going above and beyond my expectations and always willing to help students in every situation. I have never had such a great experience working with such instructors and am so thankful for their amazing work they put into this program. Highly recommend!*
- 80% (12) of respondents gave comments/suggestions for improving the program:
 - 50% (6) of the above respondents wanted more opportunities to get more hands-on experiences or real-life scenario practice (internships, etc.)

Alumni Year 1 Highlights

- (15) Year 1 alumni graduates completed the graduating student survey.
- 100% (15) are currently employed at a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.
- 61% (9) of the graduates are working as a RVT or a veterinary technician related profession.
- 80% (12) of the respondents are currently holding full-time positions. 30% (3) are holding part-time positions.
- 53% (8) of the graduates have been holding their current position for at least a year.
- 93% (14) are working in California. 87% (13) work in in the Bay Area.
- 48% (10) “Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet” was the most common description of respondents’ current practice.
- 40% (6) indicated being “Very Well” prepared for a career in veterinary technology by the program, with 60% (9) indicating “Extremely Well.”
- “Basic Clinical Skills” (19%), “Anesthesia” (17%), and “Treatment Room Procedures” (13%) were the top three areas respondents indicated they were best prepared for in their career as a veterinary technician.
- “Diagnostic Imaging” (19%), “Dentistry” (19%), and “Pharmacology” (16%) were the areas respondents indicated they felt least prepared for in their career as a veterinary technician.
- 40% (6) of the respondents indicate that they are making \$20-\$25 per hour in their current position. 40% (6) of the respondents are making \$25-\$30 per hour.
- “Paid Vacation” (16%), “Reduced Fees” (16%), and “Medical or Hospitalization Plan” (14%) are the top three benefits included by the respondents employment
- 13% (2) of the respondents volunteered in a veterinary technician-related position.
- 87% (13) graduates indicated that they would recommend Foothill’s veterinary technology program to others:
 - *I loved every minute of the Foothill VT program. The biggest factor was having professors that actually care about this program and our education so much; its obvious. This Program prepared me well for real life scenarios in the work force. Program had a great mix of lecture vs. hands on learning with animals.*
 - *The instructors really care about the students and work hard so that the students understand the material. They were always available for any questions.*
 - *Overall, the program prepares you well for the clinical setting. The majority of your experience is something you’ll gain at your internship or jobs. The biggest plus is that the program provides you with the opportunity to do internships that will allow you to gain practice.*
- 60% (9) respondents submitted ideas for improving the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a veterinary technician:
 - 44% (3) respondents ask for more awareness or support in terms of mental and emotional health from the teachers and the staff.
 - 56% (5) respondents asks for more hands on experience

Alumni Year 3 Highlights

- (13) Year 3 alumni graduates completed the graduating student survey.
- 69% (7) are currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.
- 54% (7) of the respondents work full-time. 20% (2) works part-time.
- 31% (4) have held their current position for more than two years. 38% (5) have held their current position for less than two years.
- 54% (7) of the graduates are working in California. 86% (6) of these respondents work in one of the counties located in the Bay Area.
- 90% (9) “Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet” is the most common description of respondents’ current practice.
- 69% (9) indicated being “Extremely well” and “Very well” prepared by Foothill’s program.
- “Anesthesia” (16%), “Medical Nursing” (11%), “Pharmacy and Pharmacology” (11%), “Basic Clinical Skills” (11%), and “Treatment Room Procedures” (11%) were the main areas respondents felt best prepared in their career by Foothill’s program.
- “Dentistry” (17%), and “Surgical Nursing” (17%) were the main areas respondents felt least prepared in their career by Foothill’s program.
- The majority (46%) of respondents indicated making \$20-\$30 per hour at the current practice.
- “Reduced Fees” (15%), “Professional License Fees or Dues Paid” (15%), and “Continuing Education Paid” (15%) are the top benefits included by the respondents employment
- 8% of the graduates volunteered at a veterinary technician-related position.
- 85% of all graduates indicated that they would recommend Foothill’s veterinary technician program to others:
 - *2-year program with faculty who use time highly efficiently with focused lectures, productive lab time, and helpful oversight and assistance with the mandatory internship. The rigorous pace helped me feel prepared for the VTNE and even with learning material in vet school.*
 - *I had a wonderful experience in the program and felt that it adequately prepared me for working in the veterinary clinic*
 - *It's the best! I've worked with RVTs who went to other schools and their skill level and work ethic are not on the same level as Foothill graduates.*
- (9) respondents submitted ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a veterinary technician:
 - 22% (2) respondents ask for more awareness or support in terms of mental and emotional health from the teachers and the staff.
 - 55% (5) respondents want more hands-on or real-life scenario practice (internships, etc.) to be incorporated into the program

Employer Highlights

- (16) employers completed the veterinary technology program employer survey
- 100% of the respondents indicated their practice is located in the Bay Area
- 46% (18) “Small Animal Dog and/or Cat Exclusive” and 25% “Other” are the most common descriptions of respondents’ current practices.
- “Basic Clinical Skills” (17%), “Office and Hospital Procedures” (9%) “Medical Nursing” (9%), “Pharmacy and Pharmacology” (9%), “Treatment Room Procedures” (9%), “Anesthesia” (9%), and “Exam Room Procedures” (9%) are the main areas where employers indicate Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates.
- “Surgical Nursing” (19%), “Anesthesia” (13%), and “Dentistry” (13), are the main areas where employers indicate Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are least prepared compared to other program graduates.
- 94% of the employers indicated they would hire another Foothill College’s veterinary technology graduate:
 - *Foothill graduates far exceed other program graduates. I also appreciate that they are taught soft skills along with the clinical skills.*
 - *Generally very smart graduates. They are well trained.*
 - *I would love to have more interns at canyon creek pet hospital. I went to foothill, and I know that they are getting the best teaching, and we can mold them to the best techs.*
- 50% (8) of the employers had a starting hourly wage of \$15-\$20 per hour for veterinary technicians. 44% (7) of the employers had a starting hourly wage of \$20-\$25 per hour.
- 50% (8) of the employers had a hourly wage of \$20-\$25 per hour for veterinary technicians. 31% (5) of the employers had a hourly wage of \$25-\$30 per hour.
- “Communication Skill.” (47%), and “Interpersonal Relationships” (31%) were characteristic indicated by employers as the preferred soft skills when hiring new veterinary technicians.
- (6) Respondents gave open-ended responses to further improve Foothill’s program
 - 18% (2) employers asked for the students to gain more hands on experience.
 - 18% (2) employers made an interesting note to provide additional training in areas such as career planning and clinical experience.

Graduating Students Year 0

Program Preparedness

Graduating students were asked to indicate how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology.

| How Prepared | # | % |
|----------------|----|------|
| Very well | 8 | 48% |
| Extremely well | 6 | 40% |
| Somewhat well | 1 | 13% |
| Grand Total | 15 | 100% |

Best Prepared Skills

Graduating students of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas that they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Best Prepared Skills | # | % |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Medical nursing | 11 | 20% |
| Basic clinical skills | 10 | 18% |
| Anesthesia | 9 | 16% |
| Surgical nursing | 8 | 15% |
| Emergency medicine | 4 | 7% |
| Dentistry | 4 | 7% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 2 | 4% |
| Treatment room procedures | 2 | 4% |
| Exam room procedures | 2 | 4% |
| Clinical pathology | 1 | 2% |
| Basic sciences | 1 | 2% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 1 | 2% |

Least Prepared Skills

Graduating students of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas that they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Least Prepared Skills | # | % |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 13 | 33% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 7 | 18% |
| Clinical pathology | 6 | 15% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 5 | 13% |
| Dentistry | 3 | 8% |
| Anesthesia | 2 | 5% |
| Basic sciences | 1 | 3% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 1 | 3% |
| Emergency medicine | 1 | 3% |
| Large animal | 1 | 3% |

Employment Status

Graduating students surveyed indicated their current employment status following graduation from Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program.

| Employment Status | # | % |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Employed full-time | 12 | 75% |
| Employed part-time | 1 | 10% |
| Still looking for employment | 1 | 13% |
| Student | 1 | 3% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others. Graduates were provided three options (Yes, No, Maybe), and asked to explain their selection in open-ended responses.

| Recommend Foothill's Program | # | % |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 14 | 88% |
| No | 1 | 13% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Graduating Students Year 0 – Open-ended responses¹

Would you recommend Foothill's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Yes:

- Foothill has prepared me so well for this career I recommend it to anyone interested. The instructors are passionate about teaching and the field. Being from Foothill, clinics interest is immediately peaked because they know that I will be well trained and prepared.
- I believe every professor tried their best to have every student succeed.
- Instructors really care and devote their time to you when you really need it. They are very patient and have your best interest at heart
- It gave me the information, the experience, safety in learning Veterinarian medicine
- It's a great program that teaches everything you need to know about going into a clinic. The teaching difference amongst staff is hard to digest though sometimes. Some teachers would be really nonchalant and not practical about their exams at all, whereas others knew what we actually were going to have to know in a live clinic and taught accordingly.
- I've already highly recommended this program to anyone who is remotely interested in joining the vet tech field. Passed my VTNE on the first try by 15% margins and had an overall great experience (despite all the hardships thrown at us). I always tell people that you will not find instructors more dedicated for their students like you will at foothill :)
- The instructors are great and do a great job explaining the material.
- Instructors at Foothill are so supportive and willing to help you learn every step of the way.
- The quality of teaching was really good and how we were taught to stand up for yourself and fight for what we deserve. The teachers were always available to help and didn't make you feel dumb
- The teachers were dedicated to the students and provided us with a lot of resources. The coursework felt appropriate.
- The vet tech program was extremely beneficial in helping me prepare for this career. The instructors are all very committed, going above and beyond my expectations and always willing to help students in every situation. I have never had such a great experience working with such instructors and am so thankful for their amazing work they put into this program. Highly recommend!
- This is an amazing program with some of the most passionate people that I ever come across. Their willingness to go the extra mile and help us study, learn things, or just be there for us really made this extra challenging year so worth it.
- Wonderful instructors who push you to reach your full potential

¹ Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

No:

- I feel the program did not prepare me for the real life expectations for RVT as the highish level support personnel in the clinic. I believe the internship course could be offered over the summer with the option of more working hours.

Ideas

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (13) have been grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.²

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Incorporate more hands-on or real-life scenario practice (internships, etc.)

- More time in the lab practicing hands on skills
- More clinic practice, maybe having internship sooner. The ability to have more hands on practice sooner seems better.
- Hands on practice for classes that only have lectures (like pharmacology, etc), because sometimes it feels like we were given busy work and it did not feel conducive to actually learning the material.
- More hands on and having anesthesia lecture a quarter before the lab to prepare better.
- More hands on with radiology, more chemistry pathology
- I think it's great we were given a lot of different opportunities to learn and hands on skills. But the stress of taking care of program animals is sometimes frustrating, esp first quarter when they expect you to know certain things you don't. So either have a minimum level of experience required in order to apply for the program, or don't have first years working on animals in the beginning. Towards the end as well, I felt as though the organization and communication was not great. There were times we were expected to know certain things that were never told to us.

Others

- Don't do it online during COVID
- The organization of the classes and course schedule can be a little overwhelming/confusing at times, so it would be more helpful if that was worked on so students can prepare accordingly.
- Everything provided during the first quarter (current topics) to prepare for the program felt adequate.
- More videos showing skills

² This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

- Different schedule of classes so the order makes more sense. Example: Anesthesia lecture should be 1 quarter before the lab since it seemed like we were learning about the material after we already did it in lab while confused!
- The lab animal course was a waste of time...most images used in the PowerPoint lecture notes we're taken from the PETA website. The information presented was not helpful in understanding the field...the curriculum could have been explored in the Careers course and Lab Animal professionals could speak to the field. A Parasitology course would be a better choice for the curriculum in my opinion. The VTNE asked many questions about bugs. The prep course was also a waste. In the clinic I was not prepared for the everyday expectations of a RVT. While my coworkers during internship were stronger with taking histories and the common pharmaceuticals dispensed on a regular basis. Dr Zeytoonian was very unprofessional and rude. She, on one of our first days in her class we were discussing resumes and referred to a long gap in employment...she suggested that the potential employer might have reasoned that the candidate had either been "locked up in jail" or in the "loony bin"...very upsetting. This was not the first time she behaved inappropriately. She accused students of not being truthful in one on one meetings.

Alumni Year 1

Program Preparedness

Alumni who graduated one year ago indicated how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology.

| How Prepared | # | % |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Extremely well | 9 | 60% |
| Very well | 6 | 40% |
| Grand Total | 15 | 100% |

Best Prepared Skills

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas which they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Best Prepared Skills | # | % |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Basic clinical skills | 10 | 19% |
| Anesthesia | 9 | 17% |
| Treatment room procedures | 7 | 13% |
| Surgical nursing | 6 | 11% |
| Medical nursing | 4 | 7% |
| Clinical pathology | 4 | 7% |
| Exam room procedures | 4 | 7% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 2 | 4% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 2 | 4% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 2 | 4% |
| Basic sciences | 1 | 2% |
| Dentistry | 1 | 2% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 1 | 2% |
| Emergency medicine | 1 | 2% |

Least Prepared Skills

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas which they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Least Prepared Skills | # | % |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| Diagnostic imaging | 8 | 19% |
| Dentistry | 8 | 19% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 7 | 16% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 5 | 12% |
| Emergency medicine | 4 | 9% |
| Anesthesia | 2 | 5% |
| Surgical nursing | 2 | 5% |
| Clinical pathology | 2 | 5% |
| Exam room procedures | 2 | 5% |
| Treatment room procedures | 1 | 2% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 1 | 2% |
| Other | 1 | 2% |

Employment Status

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated their employment for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.

| Employed | # | % |
|----------|----|------|
| Yes | 15 | 100% |
| Total | 18 | 100% |

Work Status

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated their current employment status of their position.

| Work Status | # | % |
|--------------------------------|----|------|
| Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more | 12 | 80% |
| Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk | 3 | 20% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Practice Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field (15) indicated any-and-all of thirteen veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their current practice.³

| Practice Description | # | % |
|---|----|-----|
| Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet | 10 | 48% |
| Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc. | 3 | 14% |
| Exotic exclusive | 3 | 14% |
| Government | 1 | 5% |
| Research | 1 | 5% |
| cat only | 1 | 5% |
| Large animal exclusive | 1 | 5% |
| Avian exclusive | 1 | 5% |

Time at position

Those surveyed (15) were asked to indicate how long they had worked at their current position.

| Time at Position | # | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 3 months but less than 6 months | 2 | 13% |
| 6 months but less than 1 year | 5 | 33% |
| At least 1 year | 8 | 53% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

VT Job Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field were asked to describe their job title in an open-ended response. Open-ended responses have been grouped for readability.

| Job Description | # | % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Registered Veterinary Technician | 4 | 27% |
| RVT | 4 | 27% |
| Vet tech | 1 | 7% |
| Animal health technician | 1 | 7% |
| Comparative Medicine Technician II | 1 | 7% |
| No Reply | 4 | 27% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

³ This table does not represent the total (15) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Hourly Wage

Those surveyed (15) were asked to indicate how long they had worked at their current position.

| Hourly Wage | # | % |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| \$15.01/hr to \$20/hr | 3 | 20% |
| \$20.01/hr to \$25/hr | 6 | 40% |
| \$25.01/hr to \$30/hr | 6 | 40% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

County

Those surveyed indicated which county their current employment is located, given ten response options with one open-ended option.

| County | # | % |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Santa Clara | 4 | 27% |
| San Mateo | 4 | 27% |
| San Francisco | 2 | 13% |
| Alameda | 2 | 13% |
| Santa Cruz | 1 | 7% |
| Washington County, Oregon | 1 | 7% |
| Alameda and SF | 1 | 7% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Volunteer Status

Those surveyed were asked to indicate if they volunteered in a veterinary technician related position.

| Volunteer | # | % |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 2 | 13% |
| No | 13 | 87% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others. One-year alumni were provided three options (Yes, No, Maybe), and asked to explain their selection.

| Recommend | # | % |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Yes | 13 | 87% |
| Maybe | 2 | 13% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

One-year Alumni – Open-ended responses⁴

Would you recommend Foothill’s Veterinary Technology program to others?

Open-ended responses (14) of those asked if they would recommend Foothill College’s veterinary technology program to others were grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented.⁵ Full responses are listed at the end of this section.

| Response Groupings | # |
|------------------------------|---|
| The Program prepared me well | 3 |
| Hands-on | 2 |
| Others | 8 |

Yes

Program prepared me well

- I feel that this program prepares students for the hectic and stressful job that is an RVT. I felt the most prepared to take my boards because of this program and I felt that it gave a really good overall study of every aspect that is required of techs in the field.
- I loved every minute of the Foothill VT program. The biggest factor was having professors that actually care about this program and our education so much; it’s obvious. This Program prepared me well for real life scenarios in the work force. Program had a great mix of lecture vs. hands on learning with animals.
- The program covers more than just the things you need to know.

Provides Hands-On Experience

- Overall, the program prepares you well for the clinical setting. The majority of your experience is something you’ll gain at your internship or jobs. The biggest plus is that the program provides you with the opportunity to do internships that will allow you to gain practice.
- I loved every minute of the Foothill VT program. The biggest factor was having professors that actually care about this program and our education so much; it’s obvious. This program prepared me well for real life scenarios in the work force. Program had a great mix of lecture vs. hands on learning with animals.

Others

- COVID was a weird time.

⁴ Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

⁵ This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent, while some responses did not deliver a clear message or category.

- Foothill gets to work with patients on campus. Animal care was my most important class because it allowed us to have the animals on campus.
- I feel Foothill almost over-prepared me for general practice.
- The instructors really care about the students and work hard so that the students understand the material. They were always available for any questions.
- I tell them it's better and more affordable than Carrington in the long run and that the teachers are awesome.
- Great staff, lots of outside opportunities/labs/events, GOATS

Maybe

- It was great education but in hospitals they don't care what you know or what kind of education you got. All they care about is how quickly you draw blood and make invoices. All the knowledge we acquired is wasted.
- Might not recommend to people who are interested in getting into vet school in the future

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (9) have been grouped into themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.⁶

| Grouping of Ideas | # |
|--------------------------|---|
| More hands on experience | 4 |
| Others | 5 |

More Hands On Experience

- I feel that more emphasis should be placed on hands on skills because that is what employers are really looking for with new hires. While I graduated during the COVID pandemic and so my skills were not as practiced as other years, I still think that more time should be devoted to skills acquisition in the classroom, if at all possible.
- Mock teaching/training classmates because inevitably we'll be teaching/guiding volunteers/tech interns at work -more mock client education
- More hands-on labs where we work in groups
- More time dedicated to hands on activities. More opportunities to do non-graded hands on work. For animal care labs, being more understanding of the students that have never been in the field before and that are starting from zero. Also, understanding that some students

⁶ This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

have to work outside of their internships to continue to pay bills and get by. Not all students have the opportunity to get through the program without working full time. Teaching by instructing not by instilling concern / fear. Overall, a program that I would recommend to others because of the outcome of opportunities.

Others

- Although the program had moments that frustrated me at times, overall I have no huge complaints.
- Educate the hospitals, clinics, hiring managers, lead techs and unlicensed but “senior” techs that have no idea what kind of education foothill offer. They don’t know how to utilize high quality workers like us.
- Place more emphasis on resourcefulness and where to look for answers, less on "knowing" the answers. The ability to say "I don't know but I can find out" is much more useful than someone that doesn't feel they are allowed to not "know" the answer.
- Pair each freshman with a senior buddy to help and support through the year.
- More time on radiology and dentistry

Alumni Year 3

Preparedness

Alumni who graduated three years ago indicated how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology.

| How Prepared | # | % |
|----------------|----|------|
| Extremely well | 4 | 31% |
| Very well | 5 | 38% |
| No Response | 4 | 31% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

Best Prepared Skills

Three-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program were asked to pick the top three areas which they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given 14 multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Best Prepared Skills | # | % |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| Anesthesia | 6 | 16% |
| Medical nursing | 4 | 11% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 4 | 11% |
| Basic clinical skills | 4 | 11% |
| Treatment room procedures | 4 | 11% |
| Surgical nursing | 3 | 8% |
| Clinical pathology | 2 | 5% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 2 | 5% |
| Emergency medicine | 2 | 5% |
| Dentistry | 2 | 5% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 2 | 5% |
| Basic sciences | 1 | 3% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 1 | 3% |
| Exam room procedures | 1 | 3% |

Least Prepared

Three-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program were asked to pick the top three areas which they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given 14 multi-choice options and one open-ended response option.

| Least Prepared Skills | # | % |
|--------------------------------|---|-----|
| Dentistry | 3 | 17% |
| Surgical nursing | 3 | 17% |
| Treatment room procedures | 2 | 11% |
| Clinical pathology | 2 | 11% |
| Emergency medicine | 2 | 11% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 1 | 6% |
| Anesthesia | 1 | 6% |
| Dental radiology | 1 | 6% |
| None | 1 | 6% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 1 | 6% |
| Exam room procedures | 1 | 6% |

Employment

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated their employment for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.

| Employed | # | % |
|----------|----|------|
| Yes | 9 | 69% |
| No | 4 | 31% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

Work Status

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated their current employment status of their position.

| Work Status | # | % |
|--|----|------|
| Full-time: 40 hours per week or more | 7 | 54% |
| Part-time: Less than 40 hours per week | 2 | 15% |
| No Response | 4 | 31% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

Practice Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field (10) were asked to identify any-and-all of 13 veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their current practice.⁷

| Practice Description | # | % |
|---|----------|------------|
| Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet | 9 | 90% |
| Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc. | 1 | 10% |
| Total | 10 | 100% |

Time at position

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the length of employment in their current employment in the veterinary technician field

| Time at Position | # | % |
|--|----------|------------|
| More than 2 years | 4 | 31% |
| More than 1 year but less than 2 years | 2 | 15% |
| 6 months but less than 1 year | 1 | 8% |
| Less than 6 months | 2 | 15% |
| No Reply | 4 | 31% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

County

Respondents who indicated current employment in the veterinary technician field (13) were asked to indicate which county their current employment is located, given ten response options with one open-ended option.

| County | # | % |
|---------------------|----------|------------|
| Santa Clara | 4 | 31% |
| Santa Cruz | 1 | 8% |
| San Francisco | 1 | 8% |
| Scottsdale, Arizona | 1 | 8% |
| San Mateo | 1 | 8% |
| No Reply | 5 | 38% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

⁷ This table does not represent the total (13) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Hourly Wage

Respondents indicated the hourly wage of their current employment in the veterinary technician field

| Hourly Wage | # | % |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|
| \$15.01/hr to \$20/hr | 1 | 8% |
| \$20.01/hr to \$25/hr | 3 | 23% |
| \$25.01/hr to \$30/hr | 3 | 23% |
| More than \$30/hr | 2 | 15% |
| No Reply | 4 | 31% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

Volunteer

Those surveyed were asked to indicate if they volunteered in a veterinary technician related position.

| Volunteer | # | % |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Yes | 2 | 13% |
| No | 13 | 87% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

VT Job Description

Respondents who indicated having employment in the veterinary technician field were asked to describe their job title in an open-ended response; similar responses grouped for readability.

| Job Description | # | % |
|----------------------------------|----|------|
| Emergency Veterinary Technician | 1 | 8% |
| Lead tech/RVT | 1 | 8% |
| Neurology RVT | 1 | 8% |
| Registered veterinary technician | 1 | 8% |
| RVT | 1 | 8% |
| RVT - Lead Technician | 1 | 8% |
| Veterinary Technician | 1 | 8% |
| No Reply | 6 | 46% |
| Total | 15 | 100% |

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others.

| Recommend | # | % |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Yes | 11 | 85% |
| Maybe | 2 | 15% |
| Total | 13 | 100% |

Three-year Alumni – Open-ended responses⁸

Would you recommend Foothill’s Veterinary Technology program to others?

Open-ended responses (11) of those asked if they would recommend Foothill College’s veterinary technology program to others were grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented.⁹ Responses sorted into those who responded “Yes” (10) along their open-ended responses. Full responses are listed below.

| Response Groupings | # |
|------------------------------|---|
| The Program prepared me well | 8 |
| Positive experience | 1 |
| Affordable | 2 |

Yes:

The Program prepared me well

- 2-year program with faculty who use time highly efficiently with focused lectures, productive lab time, and helpful oversight and assistance with the mandatory internship. The rigorous pace helped me feel prepared for the VTNE and even with learning mat
- Foothill education still provides me with knowledge and allowed me to take a step up and work in a fast paced emergency clinic versus a slower GP.
- Foothill gave me a very good foundations to start on
- Gives you a very good basis of knowledge to build upon. No regrets and glad I went school route. Not practical due to time needed as very hard to pay full Bay Area rent and go to foothill at the same time so not possible for every interested future tech.
- I had a wonderful experience in the program and felt that it adequately prepared me for working in the veterinary clinic
- I would recommend the program because I feel I was prepared enough to be able grow into a tech.
- It is affordable and the teaching staff did a great job preparing students to become vet techs.
- It's the best! I've worked with RVTs who went to other schools and their skill level and work ethic are not on the same level as foothill graduates.

Positive Experience

- I always recommend my school to people with whom I work who are interested in becoming licensed & increasing their value education-wise

Affordable

- Foothill has a great program that gets you the education you need for this field. It is also the cheapest option in this profession because other colleges makes you pay so much more for a worse education

⁸ Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

- It is affordable and the teaching staff did a great job preparing students to become vet techs.

Maybe:

- If they want to become a vet tech and handle stress well. Absolutely better than Carrington. If they don't handle stress well I would not recommend the field.

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (9) sorted by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.¹⁰

| Grouping of Ideas | # |
|--|---|
| More encouragement, mental health support from instructors | 2 |
| Incorporate more hands-on or real-life scenario practice. | 5 |
| Other | 2 |

More encouragement, mental health support from instructors

- More talk about mental health - burn out is so common and newbie techs aren't comfy advocating for themselves when it comes to work life balance, raise increases etc. Many clinics are very toxic working environments that exploit employees. More focus on reading animal body language/proper slow approach and handling, advocating for patient pain - how to speak to old school dvms who rx things tramadol or use poorly selected premeds etc... maybe talking to new students about red flags of clinics More field trips like the Monterey therapy horses or the high school livestock one - so fun and memorable!!
- Discuss mental health a bit more and cover dental surgery at least briefly including what elevators are and how to sharpen them. I do feel the program prepared me well for the field I just didn't realize how much of a problem stress was for me during the program and in the field.

More hands-on experience

- I think I'm order to have the best education students should be required to be in a clinic as an assistant or at least as a volunteer in order to be admitted in the program. The program covers a LOT of material in a short amount of time so some experience will help all students better understand and LEARN what is being taught as oppose to just memorizing it for a test. Also finding an internship in the middle of the program is very stressful, especially since some places aren't a good fit, and changing clinics in the middle of the quarter is impractical. Having a place prior will definitely make internship class much more useful and easier. I also believe that it would be most helpful to create a post graduate class where RVTs can sign up and

¹⁰ This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

practice different procedures in a class room setting or go over any material with old instructors. Sometimes our jobs or CE doesn't provide that extra practice, and after speaking with some foothill graduates i think this would be very beneficial to our careers.

- I am unsure of the current status of the program, but I always found hands-on and lab time most helpful to prepare for real-life experience.
- More ability to be at internship sites during school
- As much hands on and in clinic practice as possible

Others

- Have a class about what it's like to work in the real world... how it differs from the textbook...
- Having dedicated time to practice communication, both within the veterinary care team and with clients. I felt that these skills were indirectly discussed in the office skills class and in the anesthesia and emergency medicine labs, but I think more practice would help develop the internship experience for vet tech students.

Employer

Best Prepared

Those surveyed were asked to indicate three topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates, given fourteen areas and one open-ended response option.

| Best Prepared Skills | # | % |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Basic clinical skills | 9 | 17% |
| Office and hospital procedures | 5 | 9% |
| Medical nursing | 5 | 9% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 5 | 9% |
| Treatment room procedures | 5 | 9% |
| Anesthesia | 5 | 9% |
| Exam room procedures | 5 | 9% |
| Basic sciences | 4 | 7% |
| Surgical nursing | 3 | 6% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 3 | 6% |
| Animal diseases and public health | 2 | 4% |
| Other | 2 | 4% |
| Dentistry | 1 | 2% |

Least Prepared

Those surveyed were asked to indicate three topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally less prepared compared to other program graduates, given fourteen areas and one open-ended option.

| Least Prepared Skills | # | % |
|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| Surgical nursing | 6 | 19% |
| Anesthesia | 4 | 13% |
| Dentistry | 4 | 13% |
| Basic clinical skills | 3 | 9% |
| Treatment room procedures | 3 | 9% |
| Other | 3 | 9% |
| Emergency medicine | 3 | 9% |
| Exam room procedures | 2 | 6% |
| Medical nursing | 1 | 3% |
| Basic sciences | 1 | 3% |
| Diagnostic imaging | 1 | 3% |
| Pharmacy and pharmacology | 1 | 3% |

Valued Characteristic

Employers were asked to indicate the single characteristic they most valued when hiring veterinary technicians, given four options and the option to add an open-ended response.

| Valued Characteristic | # | % |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Communication Skills | 15 | 47% |
| Interpersonal Relationships | 10 | 31% |
| Fear-Free Training | 4 | 13% |
| Basic Business Acumen | 1 | 3% |
| Interviewing Skills | 1 | 3% |
| Additional Training | 1 | 3% |

Location

Employers surveyed were asked to indicate the county in which their practice is located, given ten options and one open-ended response option.

| Location | # | % |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Santa Clara County | 10 | 63% |
| Alameda County | 2 | 13% |
| San Francisco County | 2 | 13% |
| Contra Costa County | 1 | 6% |
| San Mateo County | 1 | 6% |
| Total | 16 | 100% |

Practice Description

Employers surveyed were asked to identify any-and-all of thirteen veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their practice.¹¹

| Practice Description | # | % |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive | 11 | 46% |
| Other | 6 | 25% |
| Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc. | 4 | 17% |
| Small animal plus avian | 2 | 8% |
| Government | 1 | 4% |

Other practice descriptions are listed unedited below:

- Exotics, large animal
- Exotic companion animals
- Small animal, reptiles, small mammal exotics
- Emergency and specialty care

Starting Wage

Employers surveyed were asked about the starting wage offered for veterinary technicians at their practice, given five hourly rate options ranging from \$15/hr to \$30+/hr.

| Starting Wage | # | % |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------|
| \$15.01/hr - \$20/hr | 8 | 50% |
| \$20.01/hr - \$25/hr | 7 | 44% |
| \$25.01/hr - \$30/hr | 1 | 6% |
| Total | 16 | 100% |

After Wage

Employers surveyed were asked about wages offered by their practice for veterinary technicians with one to three years of experience.

| After Wage | # | % |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------|
| \$15.01/hr - \$20/hr | 2 | 8% |
| \$20.01/hr - \$25/hr | 14 | 56% |
| \$25.01/hr - \$30/hr | 6 | 24% |
| \$30/hr or more | 3 | 12% |
| Total | 25 | 100% |

¹¹ This table does not represent the total (16) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Would Hire from Foothill

Employers surveyed indicated if they would hire another graduate of Foothill’s veterinary technology program, given three options (Yes, No, Maybe) and the option to explain their response in an optional field.

| Would Hire from FH | # | % |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Yes | 15 | 94% |
| Maybe | 1 | 6% |
| Total | 16 | 100% |

Would Hire from Foothill – Yes

- Foothill graduates are better prepared than any other programs in our area.
- Foothill graduates far exceed other program graduates. I also appreciate that they are taught soft skills along with the clinical skills.
- Foothill graduates possess the core understand of being a veterinary technician.
- Generally very smart graduates. They are well trained.
- Generally, we see that the Foothill students are more invested in this as a long term career.
- Good work ethic and base knowledge. Need more practice on tech skills like catheter and blood draw
- I have hired both interns I have had the opportunity to mentor and still have Julia Nagel with us. So we’ll prepared hardworking and dedicated!! I need more office placements an assistant hospital manager and more techs PLEASE send me more interns (vaccinated please) as we never closed and at one time I had three vet students when their respective schools were closed and two students in online and regular vet tech programs. Need more!!!! And next question isn’t fair cuz I can’t explain.. my experienced licensed techs make well over \$30 and some unlicensed but very experienced unlicensed staff are at \$30 plus and off the street “tech in trading no experience” \$18-20 but negotiable and I pay students in externships as well in \$20-\$25 range and up so not sure if this next question meant new grad which is easily \$22-25 but no experience other than school??
- I would love to have more interns at canyon creek pet hospital. I went to foothill, and I know that they are getting the best teaching, and we can mold them to the best techs.
- My last two hires have been great workers and people.
- The Foothill students we have hired have been great additions to the team
- These students are prepared to work in any department in our hospital after their internships
- We are so desperately in need of technicians, we would hire almost anyone with a degree!

Would Hire from Foothill – Maybe

- It all depends on the candidate. However I have never turned down someone just because of where they graduated

Employer - Open Ended Responses

What ideas do you have for improving the Veterinary Technology (VT) program at Foothill?

Hands-on Experience

- Potentially more specialized rounds with regard to dentistry and surgery

Training

- Develop efficiency skills in your students. Obviously we need accuracy, but we also need students to be efficient.
- More clinical experience. Personality screening role playing career planning
- More hands-on training so students and graduates can feel more comfortable during working interviews

Other

- Very good about taking feedback from their supervisor
- Send interns our way
- I wish I knew more about the program in nerds to make recommendations as all I see is an impacted program with lots of enthusiastic students trying to get in and successfully completing it but weren't prepared for the downside the workplace balance the lower salaries compared to human nurses just as we as vets frequently drop out for similar reasons or become ER or specialists!! I really think this is a great program compared to the expensive private programs
- Very pleased so far.
- Make sure the students understand that taking care of the laundry and performing post-op TPR's ALL THE TIME are part of the job, not just something we don't want to do and have them do. Basically, making sure they have realistic expectations of what their day to day in a veterinary hospital is like. We have had a couple students come in and complain about how they have to do laundry and post-op TPR's and they feel like we just don't want to do it, but that is not the case.
- I love your graduates and would love to hire more! Send them our way! Sandy Block, DVM Bollinger Canyon Animal Hospital 925-866-8500
- We are strongly interested in fear free medicine, as is most in the industry at this time. It would be great if students could learn these skills while learning.

Source

FHDA IRP



VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY

The Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program faculty strive to provide education and training so our students can be successful in their chosen field. One way we evaluate achieving this goal is through surveys. Your feedback is critical in identifying changes that may be needed, and ensures that the program remains accredited so that your degree and/or certificate will be recognized by the field.

Your responses are confidential and anonymous as no individual answers will be shared with any faculty or staff affiliated with the program. All survey responses will be aggregated and results will be used to improve the veterinary technology program.

If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu. Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. How well has your AVMA-accredited program prepared you for a veterinary technology career?

- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not so well
- Not at all well

2. Which of the following areas do you feel you are best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging

- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

**3. Which of the following areas do you feel you are least prepared?
Check the top 3 areas.**

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

4. What will be your employment status after graduation this spring?

- Employed full-time
- Employed part-time
- Still looking for employment
- Other

5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 07.16.2021



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

The mission statement for Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program is "To empower the future veterinary technician to be a progressive and compassionate member of the veterinary team and community." As one of our graduates, we are eager to find out from you what your experience has been so far in this field.

One way we evaluate achieving this goal is through surveys. Your feedback is critical in identifying changes that may be needed. In addition to this, the AVMA-CVTEA requires that we follow up with our graduates to maintain our accreditation so your help is much appreciated.

Your responses are confidential and anonymous as no individual answers will be shared with any faculty or staff affiliated with the program. All survey responses will be aggregated and results will be used to improve the veterinary technology program.

If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu. Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation?

- Yes
 No

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1. What is your current occupation status?

- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Not working, looking for work
- Not working, not looking for work
- Student, whether employed or not
- Unable to work

1.2. If employed for wages, what is your job title?

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1 What is your job title?

1.2 What is the employment status of your current position?

- Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more
 Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk

1.3 How long have you been at your current position?

- Less than 3 months
 3 months but less than 6 months
 6 months but less than 1 year
 At least 1 year

1.4 What county is your current position located?

- Alameda
 Contra Costa
 Marin
 Napa
 San Francisco
 San Mateo
 Santa Clara
 Santa Cruz
 Solano
 Sonoma
 Other

1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply.

- Academic
 Avian exclusive
 Equine exclusive
 Exotic exclusive
 Government

- Industry or commercial organizations
- Large animal exclusive
- Mixed practice, large and small animal
- Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)
- Small animal (dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet)
- Small animal plus avian
- Uniformed services
- Research
- Other

1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not so well
- Not at all well

1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health

-
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position?

- \$15.01/hr to \$20/hr
- \$20.01/hr to \$25/hr
- \$25.01/hr to \$30/hr
- More than \$30/hr
- Volunteer or no pay

1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply.

- Continuing education paid
- Medical or hospitalization plan
- Pension, retirement, 401K
- Paid maternity or paternity leave
- Professional license fees or dues paid
- Paid sick leave
- Paid vacation
- Profit sharing
- Reduced fees for veterinary care

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

- Yes
 No

3. If you do volunteer, indicate the location:

4. Do you have additional credentials in any veterinary technician specialty group?

- Yes
 No

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

4.1. List your additional credentials.

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

The mission statement for Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program is "To empower the future veterinary technician to be a progressive and compassionate member of the veterinary team and community." As one of our graduates, we are eager to find out from you what your experience has been so far in this field.

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If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu. Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation?

- Yes
 No

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1. What is your current occupation status?

- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Not working, looking for work
- Not working, not looking for work
- Student, whether employed or not
- Unable to work

1.2. If employed for wages, what is your job title?

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1 What is your job title?

1.2 What is the employment status of your current position?

- Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more
 Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk

1.3 How long have you been at your current position?

- Less than 6 months
 6 months but less than 1 year
 More than 1 year but less than 2 years
 More than 2 years

1.4 What county is your current position located?

- Alameda
 Contra Costa
 Marin
 Napa
 San Francisco
 San Mateo
 Santa Clara
 Santa Cruz
 Solano
 Sonoma
 Other

1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply.

- Academic
 Avian exclusive
 Equine exclusive
 Exotic exclusive
 Government

- Industry or commercial organizations
- Large animal exclusive
- Mixed practice, large and small animal
- Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)
- Small animal (dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet)
- Small animal plus avian
- Uniformed services
- Research
- Other

1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

- Extremely well
- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Not so well
- Not at all well

1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- Anesthesia
- Animal diseases and public health

-
- Basic clinical skills
- Basic sciences
- Clinical pathology
- Dentistry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Emergency medicine
- Exam room procedures
- Medical nursing
- Office and hospital procedures
- Pharmacy and pharmacology
- Surgical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Other

1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position?

- \$15.01/hr to \$20/hr
- \$20.01/hr to \$25/hr
- \$25.01/hr to \$30/hr
- More than \$30/hr
- Volunteer or no pay

1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply.

- Continuing education paid
- Medical or hospitalization plan
- Pension, retirement, 401K
- Paid maternity or paternity leave
- Professional license fees or dues paid
- Paid sick leave
- Paid vacation
- Profit sharing
- Reduced fees for veterinary care

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

- Yes
- No

3. If you volunteer, indicate the location:

4. Do you have additional credentials in any veterinary technician specialty group?

- Yes
- No

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4.1. List your additional credentials.

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5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM EMPLOYER SURVEY



The Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program faculty strive to provide the education and training so our students can be successful in the field. As part of the accreditation process, the program needs to ensure that this goal is being accomplished. Your feedback ensures that the program serves you and the students better, and insures that we comply with our accreditation rules. Therefore, we hope you complete this short survey. All survey responses will be aggregated, and your individual responses will not be shared with the program. Thank you for this valuable contribution to our program. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Lisa A. Eshman, D.V.M. (eshmanlisa@fhda.edu)
Veterinary Technology Program Director

1. Indicate what county your practice is located.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Alameda County | <input type="radio"/> San Francisco County | <input type="radio"/> Solano County |
| <input type="radio"/> Contra Costa County | <input type="radio"/> San Mateo County | <input type="radio"/> Sonoma County |
| <input type="radio"/> Marin County | <input type="radio"/> Santa Clara County | Other <input type="text"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Napa County | <input type="radio"/> Santa Cruz County | <input type="radio"/> (please specify) |

2. Which of the following descriptions best describes your practice? Check all that apply.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Small animal (dog and/or cat) exclusive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avian exclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry or commercial organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Small animal plus avian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biomedical research non-academic | <input type="checkbox"/> Large animal exclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniformed services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine exclusive | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed practice, large | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

- Exotic exclusive
- and small animal
- Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)

3. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates.

- Anesthesia
- Clinical pathology
- Exam room procedures
- Surgical nursing
- Animal diseases and public health
- Dentistry
- Medical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Basic clinical skills
- Diagnostic imaging
- Office and hospital procedures
- Other
- Basic sciences
- Emergency medicine
- Pharmacy and pharmacology

4. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally less prepared compared to other program graduates.

- Anesthesia
- Clinical pathology
- Exam room procedures
- Surgical nursing
- Animal diseases and public health
- Dentistry
- Medical nursing
- Treatment room procedures
- Basic clinical skills
- Diagnostic imaging
- Office and hospital procedures
- Other
- Basic sciences
- Emergency medicine
- Pharmacy and pharmacology

5. Would you hire another Foothill College’s veterinary technology graduate?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Please explain your response.

6. What is the starting hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization?

- \$15/hr or less
- \$15.01/hr - \$20/hr
- \$20.01/hr - \$25/hr
- \$25.01/hr - \$30/hr
- \$30/hr or more

7. What is the hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization after 1-3 years of experience?

- \$15/hr or less
- \$15.01/hr - \$20/hr
- \$20.01/hr - \$25/hr
- \$25.01/hr - \$30/hr
- \$30/hr or more

8. While our program is confident in the technical skills of our program graduates (> 94% pass rate on the VTNE), they should equally excel in "soft skills." Please select the top 3 preferred soft skills when hiring/promoting:

- Basic Business Acumen (Accounts Receivable, Inventory Management)
- Communication Skills
- Fear-Free Training
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Interviewing Skills
- Professional Resume
- Self-Awareness
- Additional Training (Suicide Prevention, CPR, QPR, AVMA Wellness Certification, Harassment Training)

If other, please explain:

9. Suggestions to further improve Foothill's program:

Submit

Updated 07.16.2021