A veterinary technician is an important member of the veterinary health care team who has been educated in the care and handling of animals, the basic principles of normal and abnormal life processes, and in routine laboratory and clinical procedures.

The Veterinary Technology Emphasis is for students who are interested in working with animals in the veterinary healthcare field, but do not necessarily want to become a veterinarian.

Students who complete the program earn a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from UWRF as well as a two-year Associate degree in Applied Science (AAS) from MATC or technical college. Upon completion of this degree, students are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) and become a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT).

This is a 5-year program. Students spend about 3-3.5 years at UWRF taking coursework for the Animal Science degree and then go on to take another 1.5-2 years of veterinary technology classes at Madison Area Technical College (MATC) or another college with an accredited veterinary technician program.

Valuable Experience

CAFES maintains two laboratory teaching farms. Both the Mann Valley Farm and the Campus Farm are heavily utilized for course work by the Animal Science faculty and offer heated indoor space on-site where classes, workshops and contests are conducted. These farms include dairy, beef, swine, sheep, poultry and equine enterprises.

Valuable practical experience in animal production may be gained by obtaining a job at one of the laboratory farms. Students work with dairy, equine, or livestock enterprises supported by work study, student assistant or research funds.

Animal Science - Vet Tech
Department Chair – Gary Onan
247 Agricultural Science
(715) 425-3704
http://www.uwrf.edu/ANFS/AnimalScience/VeterinaryTechnologyEmphasis.cfm

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112 South Hall
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Many of our graduates who started out as veterinary technicians have gone on to secure positions as veterinary hospital managers. This position is responsible for managing the business functions of the practice. Depending upon the size and type of the hospital, the manager’s duties could include personnel hiring and supervision, budget and inventory management, accounting, marketing, and designing service protocols.

A veterinary technician employed in a veterinary practice may perform any of the following tasks:

- Obtain and record patient case histories
- Collect specimens and perform laboratory procedures
- Provide specialized nursing care
- Prepare patients, instruments, and equipment for surgery
- Assist in diagnostic, medical and surgical procedures
- Expose and develop radiographs
- Communicate with animal owners
- Supervise and train clinic personnel
- Dental prophylaxis
- Veterinarian technicians work under the supervision of a veterinarian. They do not diagnose, prescribe, or perform surgery.