

# VETERINARY ASSISTING

---

The Veterinary Assisting program is housed in the Agriculture Division and courses are taught both under the prefix of VT (Vet Tech) and ASCI (Animal Science). It prepares students for entry-level employment as a veterinary assistant and provides a foundation of knowledge for further study in veterinary technology. Students will learn about the members of the veterinary team, client communication, animal handling and restraint, common laboratory procedures, surgical assisting and monitoring, anatomy and physiology, animal emergencies, and veterinary medical terminology. Careers will include working for a large animal or equine veterinary clinic or a small animal clinic as a Veterinary Assistant, Kennel Assistant, Lab Assistant, Veterinary Receptionist, or Surgical Assistant.

## Contact Information

### Veterinary Assisting Faculty Contact

Kyle Thompson | (559) 688-3137 | [kylet@cos.edu](mailto:kylet@cos.edu) ([kylet@cos.edu](mailto:kylet@cos.edu))  
Tulare Center Building B: 204B | Tulare Campus

### Agriculture Division Chair

Shannan Cooper | (559) 688-3118 | [shannanc@cos.edu](mailto:shannanc@cos.edu)  
B106 | Tulare Campus

### Provost - Tulare College Center, Dean of Agriculture

C. Louann Waldner, Ph.D. | (559) 688-3050 | [louannw@cos.edu](mailto:louannw@cos.edu)  
Tulare Center Building A: 109 | Tulare Campus

## Certificate

- Certificate of Achievement in Veterinary Assisting (<https://catalog.cos.edu/areas-study/veterinary-assisting/certificate-achievement-veterinary-assisting/>)

For a complete list of courses and descriptions visit: COURSES (<https://catalog.cos.edu/course-descriptions/>)

Additional courses taught in the Veterinary Assisting program are found under the Animal Science (ASCI) (<https://catalog.cos.edu/areas-study/animal-science/#coursestext>) prefix.

---

### VT 109 Introduction to Veterinary Technology 3unit(s)

Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion Hours:  
1 Lab

An introductory course for students interested in the field of veterinary technology. Designed to give students hands-on experience with companion and farm animals.

**Advisory on Recommended Preparation:** Successful completion of ASCI 117 is recommended prior to enrollment.

### VT 216 Veterinary Office Practices 3unit(s)

Hours: 3 Lecture/Discussion Hours:  
1 Lab

This course is designed to teach the skills that are necessary to successfully operate as a member of the veterinary medical or support team. Topics to be covered include basic animal nursing skills, laboratory procedures, medical math, sterility, and surgical assisting. Students will also become familiar with normal vital signs and common vaccinations of small animals.

**Advisory on Recommended Preparation:** VT 109 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C.