Traditionally known as the land-grant arm of Florida A&M University (FAMU), the College of Engineering Sciences Technology and Agriculture (CESTA) offers students majoring in agriculture sciences and engineering technology a broad spectrum of academic opportunities to continue their education and professional development. CESTA academic programs offer unique experiences for undergraduates and graduate students through incorporating aspects of teaching, research, international agriculture and business, as well as extension and community outreach.

THE ANIMAL SCIENCE PROGRAM (VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY TRACK) is an intensive four year degree program which trains students to provide medical and clinical support to veterinarians. During the first two years, students will concentrate on the core Animal Science major requirements. The latter half of the program consists of clinical rotations at the Florida A&M Animal Healthcare Complex in Quincy, Florida. Here students will practically apply veterinary team concepts, and model ethical and professional behavior under the guidance of FAMU's licensed veterinarians. The complex mirrors the most technologically advanced large animal clinics, and houses small ruminant, swine, and equine species for use in teaching. Upon completion of the baccalaureate degree, graduates will be eligible for certification by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGISTS who receive their training at FAMU are qualified to work cooperatively with federal, state, and private veterinarians, as well as other public and private animal health officials. The career opportunities are limitless and include: small, large, and mixed animal practice; food animal practice; research and diagnostic labs; colleges and universities; veterinary pharmaceutical and supply sales; zoological/wildlife facilities, military, and government agencies.

EMPLOYMENT of veterinary technologists and technicians is expected to grow 41 percent over the 2006-16 projection period, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. The field is relatively stable during periods of economic recession. Layoffs are less likely to occur among veterinary technologists and technicians than in some other occupations because animals will continue to require medical care.

APPROXIMATELY 120 semester hours are needed to complete the program, of which 30 are in animal science. Those courses include: General Animal Science, Feeds and Feeding, Animal Breeding, Animal Nutrition, Incubation and Brooding, Swine Production, Beef Cattle Production, and Animal Science Seminar. Support courses required for Animal Science students include mathematics, chemistry, biology, physics, and others.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION: Entry into the Animal Science-Veterinary Technology program is only available in the fall semester. The College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture requires students to have an overall GPA of 2.0 and a strong background in mathematics and the sciences.
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

(O*NET 29-2056.00)

Significant Points

- Animal lovers get satisfaction from this occupation, but aspects of the work can be unpleasant, physically and emotionally demanding, and sometimes dangerous.
- Entrants generally complete a 2-year or 4-year veterinary technology program and must pass a State examination.
- Employment is expected to grow much faster than average.
- Overall job opportunities should be excellent; however, keen competition is expected for jobs in zoos and aquariums.

Nature of the Work

Owners of pets and other animals today expect state-of-the-art veterinary care. To provide this service, veterinarians use the skills of veterinary technologists and technicians, who perform many of the same duties for a veterinarian that a nurse would for a physician, including routine laboratory and clinical procedures. Although specific job duties vary by employer, there often is little difference between the tasks carried out by technicians and by technologists, despite some differences in formal education and training. As a result, most workers in this occupation are called technicians.

Veterinary technologists and technicians typically conduct clinical work in a private practice under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. They often perform various medical tests and treat and diagnose medical conditions and diseases in animals. For example, they may perform laboratory tests such as urinalysis and blood counts, assist with dental prophylaxis, prepare tissue samples, take blood samples, or assist veterinarians in a variety of tests and analyses in which they often use various items of medical equipment, such as test tubes and diagnostic equipment. While most of these duties are performed in a laboratory setting, many are not. For example, some veterinary technicians obtain and record patients’ case histories, expose and develop x-rays and radiographs, and provide specialized nursing care. In addition, experienced veterinary technicians may discuss a pet’s condition with its owners and train new clinic personnel. Veterinary technologists and technicians assisting small-animal practitioners usually care for companion animals, such as cats and dogs, but can perform a variety of duties with mice, rats, sheep, pigs, cattle, monkeys, birds, fish, and frogs. Very few veterinary technologists work in mixed animal practices where they care for both small companion animals and larger, nondomestic animals.

Besides working in private clinics and animal hospitals, veterinary technologists and technicians may work in research facilities, where they administer medications orally or topically, prepare samples for laboratory examinations, and record information on an animal’s genealogy, diet, weight, medications, food intake, and clinical signs of pain and distress. Some may sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment and provide routine post-operative care. At research facilities, veterinary technologists typically work under the guidance of veterinarians or physicians. Some veterinary technologists vaccinate newly admitted animals and occasionally may have to euthanize seriously ill, severely injured, or unwanted animals.

While the goal of most veterinary technologists and technicians is to promote animal health, some contribute to human health as well. Veterinary technologists occasionally assist veterinarians in implementing research projects as they work with other scientists in medical-related fields such as gene therapy and cloning. Some find opportunities in biomedical research, wildlife medicine, the military, livestock management, or pharmaceutical sales.

Work environment. People who love animals get satisfaction from working with and helping them. However, some of the work may be unpleasant, physically and emotionally demanding, and sometimes dangerous. At times, veterinary technicians must clean cages and lift, hold, or restrain animals, risking exposure to bites or scratches. These workers must take precautions when treating animals with germicides or insecticides. The work setting can be noisy.

Veterinary technologists and technicians who witness abused animals or who euthanize unwanted, aged, or hopelessly injured animals may experience emotional stress. Those working for humane societies and animal shelters often deal with the public, some of whom might react with hostility to any implication that the owners are neglecting or abusing their pets. Such workers must maintain a calm and professional demeanor while they enforce the laws regarding animal care.

In some animal hospitals, research facilities, and animal shelters, a veterinary technician is on duty 24 hours a day, which means that some may work night shifts. Most full-time veterinary technologists and technicians work about 40 hours a week, although some work 50 or more hours a week.

Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement

There are primarily two levels of education and training for entry to this occupation: a 2-year program for veterinary technicians and a 4-year program for veterinary technologists.

Education and training. Most entry-level veterinary technicians have a 2-year associate degree from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited community college program in veterinary technology in which courses are taught in clinical and laboratory settings using live animals. About 16
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

AALAS examination consists of multiple-choice questions and certification is Laboratory Animal Technologist (LA TG). The is Laboratory Animal Technician (LA T), and the highest level of assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALA T), the second level of their qualifications. The lowest level of certification is Assistants with more highly skilled technicians and technologists.

In 2006, 131 veterinary technology programs in 44 States were accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Graduation from an AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program allows students to take the credentialing exam in any State in the country.

Persons interested in careers as veterinary technologists and technicians should take as many high school science, biology, and math courses as possible. Science courses taken beyond high school, in an associate or bachelor’s degree program, should emphasize practical skills in a clinical or laboratory setting.

Technologists and technicians usually begin work as trainees in routine positions under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. Entry-level workers whose training or educational background encompasses extensive hands-on experience with a variety of laboratory equipment, including diagnostic and medical equipment, usually require a shorter period of on-the-job training.

Licensure and certification. Each State regulates veterinary technicians and technologists differently; however, all States require them to pass a credentialing exam following coursework. Passing the State exam assures the public that the technician or technologist has sufficient knowledge to work in a veterinary clinic or hospital. Candidates are tested for competency through an examination that includes oral, written, and practical portions and that is regulated by the State Board of Veterinary Examiners or the appropriate State agency. Depending on the State, candidates may become registered, licensed, or certified. Most States, however, use the National Veterinary Technician (NVT) exam. Prospects usually can have their passing scores transferred from one State to another, so long as both States use the same exam.

Employers recommend American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) certification for those seeking employment in a research facility. AALAS offers certification for three levels of technician competence, with a focus on three principal areas—animal husbandry, facility management, and animal health and welfare. Those who wish to become certified must satisfy a combination of education and experience requirements prior to taking the AALAS examination. Work experience must be directly related to the maintenance, health, and well-being of laboratory animals and must be gained in a laboratory animal facility as defined by AALAS. Candidates who meet the necessary criteria can begin pursuing the desired certification on the basis of their qualifications. The lowest level of certification is Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT), the second level is Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT), and the highest level of certification is Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG). The AALAS examination consists of multiple-choice questions and questions and is longer and more difficult for higher levels of certification, ranging from 2 hours and 120 multiple choice questions for the ALAT to 3 hours and 180 multiple choice questions for the LATG.

Other qualifications. As veterinary technologists and technicians often deal with pet owners, communication skills are very important. In addition, technologists and technicians should be able to work well with others, because teamwork with veterinarians is common. Organizational ability and the ability to pay attention to detail also are important.

Advancement. As they gain experience, technologists and technicians take on more responsibility and carry out more assignments under only general veterinary supervision. Some eventually may become supervisors.

Employment

Veterinary technologists and technicians held about 71,000 jobs in 2006. About 91 percent worked in veterinary services. The remainder worked in boarding kennels, animal shelters, stables, grooming salons, zoos, State and private educational institutions, and local, State, and Federal agencies.

Job Outlook

Excellent job opportunities will stem from the need to replace veterinary technologists and technicians who leave the occupation and from the limited output of qualified veterinary technicians from 2-year programs, which are not expected to meet the demand over the 2006-16 period. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average.

Employment change. Employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is expected to grow 41 percent over the 2006-16 projection period, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Pet owners are becoming more affluent and more willing to pay for advanced veterinary care because many of them consider their pet to be part of the family. This growing affluence and view of pets will continue to increase the demand for veterinary care. The vast majority of veterinary technologists work at private clinical practice under veterinarians. As the number of veterinarians grows to meet the demand for veterinary care, so will the number of veterinary technicians needed to assist them.

The number of pet owners who take advantage of veterinary services for their pets—currently about 6 in 10—is expected to grow over the projection period, increasing employment opportunities. The availability of advanced veterinary services, such as preventive dental care and surgical procedures, also will provide opportunities for workers specializing in those areas as they will be needed to assist licensed veterinarians. The rapidly growing number of cats kept as companion pets is expected to boost the demand for feline medicine and services. Further demand for these workers will stem from the desire to replace veterinary assistants with more highly skilled technicians and technologists.

Projections data from the National Employment Matrix

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NOTE: Data in this table are rounded. See the discussion of the employment projections table in the Handbook introductory chapter on Occupational Information Included in the Handbook.
in animal clinics and hospitals, shelters, boarding kennels, and humane societies.

Biomedical facilities, diagnostic laboratories, wildlife facilities, humane societies, animal control facilities, drug or food manufacturing companies, and food safety inspection facilities will provide additional jobs for veterinary technologists and technicians. However, keen competition is expected for veterinary technologist and technician jobs in zoos and aquariums, due to expected slow growth in facility capacity, low turnover among workers, the limited number of positions, and the fact that the work in zoos and aquariums attracts many candidates.

**Job prospects.** Excellent job opportunities are expected because of the relatively few veterinary technology graduates each year. The number of 2-year programs has recently grown to 131, but due to small class sizes, fewer than 3,000 graduates are anticipated each year, which is not expected to meet demand. Additionally, many veterinary technicians remain in the field for only 7-8 years, so the need to replace workers who leave the occupation each year also will produce many job opportunities.

Employment of veterinary technicians and technologists is relatively stable during periods of economic recession. Layoffs are less likely to occur among veterinary technologists and technicians than in some other occupations because animals will continue to require medical care.

**Earnings**
Median hourly earnings of veterinary technologists and technicians were $12.88 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between $10.44 and $15.77. The bottom 10 percent earned less than $8.79, and the top 10 percent earned more than $18.68.

**Related Occupations**
Others who work extensively with animals include animal care and service workers, and veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers. Like veterinary technologists and technicians, they must have patience and feel comfortable with animals. However, the level of training required for these occupations is less than that needed by veterinary technologists and technicians. Veterinarians, who need much more formal education, also work extensively with animals, preventing, diagnosing, and treating their diseases, disorders, and injuries.

**Sources of Additional Information**
For information on certification as a laboratory animal technician or technologist, contact:

- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, 9190 Crestwyn Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38125.
  Internet: [http://www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org)

For information on careers in veterinary medicine and a listing of AVMA-accredited veterinary technology programs, contact:

- American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360.
  Internet: [http://www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)
Your puppy gets sick in the middle of the night, so you drive him to the animal hospital and carry him in. But the first medical professional you see probably isn’t a veterinarian. A veterinary technician takes your puppy’s history, asking you for a description of the animal’s symptoms. He or she will take your puppy’s vital statistics, including blood pressure and temperature, and decide how urgent the case is. If your puppy has trouble breathing, the veterinary technician can give CPR or an intubation and call for a veterinarian. You can relax, though: with a veterinary technician providing care, your puppy is in good hands.

Veterinary technicians are often called animal nurses because they care for animal patients the way nurses care for humans. But veterinary technicians’ responsibilities extend beyond nursing, combining duties of many human healthcare jobs. In addition to providing general nursing, technicians help to administer and monitor anesthesia just as surgical nurses do, take X rays and sonograms like radiologic technicians, clean teeth like dental technicians, provide rehabilitation like physical therapy aides, monitor surgical equipment like surgical technicians, and conduct laboratory tests like clinical laboratory technicians.

Many people are attracted to veterinary technology because they love animals—and that’s a good foundation for a veterinary career. But veterinary technicians also need solid scientific skills. As veterinary medicine becomes more advanced, the duties of technicians are becoming more complex and varied.

Learn more in this article about what veterinary technicians do and where they do it, the ups and downs of their work, the skills and training that they need, and their earnings and employment prospects. You’ll also find hints for getting started in a veterinary career and sources for more information. The box on page 32 describes other animal-related jobs.

One occupation, many roles
Veterinary technicians, sometimes called veterinary technologists, work as part of a healthcare team. They are supervised by veterinarians, who diagnose disease and injury, prescribe treatments, and perform surgery on animals. Technicians also work with veterinary assistants, who groom and comfort animals, clean cages, and do other nonmedical work. The technician’s job is to offer skilled, medical assistance to the veterinarian.

Nursing. In many cases, a veterinary technician’s first step in caring for an animal is to give a general exam by looking for external parasites, anatomical problems, or other medical issues that should be brought to the veterinarian’s attention. Technicians need to know what’s considered normal for a wide variety of species and breeds. They talk to the animal’s owner, asking specific questions to uncover symptoms.

In addition, veterinary technicians provide direct care, administering prescribed medicines or vaccinations.
orally or by injection. Like nurses, technicians place IVs and other tubes in animals when needed. That can be a challenge when working with small or unusual species; it takes skill to put an IV in an iguana, after all. Veterinary technicians have to restrain the animal to keep it still, whether it is a squirming ferret or a nervous goat.

If an animal patient is in intensive care or is admitted for observation, the veterinary technician monitors it closely. The technician offers food and water to animals that are not eating well and provides comfort. Technicians take animals’ temperature, blood pressure, respiration, EKG readings, and other vital statistics. They collect samples by drawing blood, scraping skin, or collecting bodily fluids and waste.

And veterinary technicians keep careful records. They note their observations and treatments on patient charts. They take inventory of prescription drugs and other medical supplies, updating the stock as necessary to keep these provisions current.

Analysis. Veterinary technicians test for signs of disease in the samples of blood, urine, and tissue they collect from animals. Bodily fluids are examined through a microscope, for example, to identify bacteria, toxins, parasites, or nutrient deficiencies. And tissue cells are cultured and checked for signs of cancer or other abnormalities.

Performing a test may take several steps, such as mixing samples with chemicals to see what they contain or spinning samples in a centrifuge, a machine that rotates vials at high speed, to isolate certain proteins. Analyzing test samples is a little like detective work, with technicians looking for clues about what’s wrong with an animal. Veterinarians rely on the results to make the right diagnosis.

Taking sonograms and x rays is another common technician task. Veterinarians use sonograms to find abnormalities and tumors in organs and soft tissue. They read x rays to check for broken bones or to see if an animal has eaten something harmful. An x ray can reveal, for example, one of the more common causes of stomach ailments: the patient ate socks, coins, or some other indigestible substance.

Diagnostic imaging requires knowledge of anatomy. Veterinary technicians must know where to find each organ, and locations differ from one species to another. The animal receives anesthesia for the test, or the technician holds or ties the animal to keep it still while the x ray is taken. But x raying animals is difficult for another reason, too; technicians can’t say, “OK, now, iguana, hold your arm just like that,” for instance, the way x ray technicians can with a person.

Anesthesia. Animals often are put under general anesthesia for common procedures, such as teeth cleaning—which veterinary technicians usually perform—x rays, and, of course, most surgeries. Veterinary technicians prepare and administer the anesthesia. Under a veterinarian’s supervision, technicians choose the type and dose of anesthesia based on the animal’s species, breed, and weight, among other factors. The technician constantly monitors the anesthetized patient to make sure it is unconscious, but not under too deeply.

Surgery. Helping in the operating room goes beyond anesthesia. Technicians prepare the animal by calming it, cleaning or shaving it, and giving it medicine. They collect the medical instruments the veterinarian will use and position the patient on the table. During surgery, technicians give veterinarians the proper instruments and monitor the patient, watching more than 10 vital signs at the same time. Sometimes, technicians “scrub in” to an operation and offer other help, perhaps holding the animal in place.

After surgery, the veterinary technician watches the animal closely before and after the anesthesia wears off. Especially important is making sure that the animal is
People don’t always realize the number of different things veterinary technicians do.”
—Deneen Cordell, certified veterinary technician Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

not in pain, a job task some technicians say is among the most rewarding. Because an animal cannot talk about how it feels, keeping it comfortable requires careful observation: watching how the animal is breathing, whether it is whining, how it holds itself, and whether its pupils are dilated, for example. The technician reports his or her findings to the veterinarian.

Technicians also clean and disinfect operating rooms and medical instruments to exacting standards and perform routine maintenance on surgical equipment.

Human communication. A veterinary technician’s work extends to people as well as to animals. Technicians often spend more time with people and their animals than veterinarians do. They write after-care instructions for animal owners, calm owners’ fears, and answer questions. Some veterinary technicians give advice on animal training. In fact, some specialize in animal behavior.

Many technicians supervise other animal-care workers and entry-level technicians. And veterinary technicians who work at veterinary teaching hospitals show veterinary students how to insert catheters, give injections, and perform other procedures.

Picking a practice: Gerbils or giraffes, hospital or humane society

What a veterinary technician’s job is like depends, in large part, on where he or she works. Veterinary practices vary, based on the size and type of animals they treat and the size and type of practice the veterinarian runs. And the tasks required in a veterinary practice differ from those that a technician performs in animal shelters or laboratories.

Creatures great or creatures small. The type of animal treated has a big effect on what kind of veterinary tasks are performed in a given practice. According to a 2002 survey by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the most common practices are those that exclusively treat small animals, such as dogs, lizards, and gerbils.

A small-animal practice presents unique challenges for veterinary technicians, such as figuring out how to monitor a bird’s blood pressure and breathing. Most patients are pets—dogs, cats, and rodents, and, less frequently, songbirds and small reptiles—whose owners require reassurance and explanations.

Technicians who work with large animals face different obstacles as they treat livestock and large wildlife. For example, getting a horse positioned for an x ray or an operation is a lot more complicated than placing a dog on the surgery table. Large-animal technicians need to understand pulleys and restraints, but they also need to know about calming and leading the animals and convincing them to cooperate. These technicians might clean hooves or wrap legs, knees, and tails to help them heal.

Large-animal technicians often follow the veterinarian outdoors to farms and ranches. They help to corral and restrain the animals and take samples from them. Keeping tools and samples sterile takes special care in this environment.

Technicians also work in wildlife and exotic-animal practices. These include standard veterinary hospitals that see exotic pets, wildlife refuges, and zoos and aquariums. Zoo technicians see the most varied and strange animals. Wildlife refuge technicians usually see local creatures and often spend time on physical
rehabilitation. They might find ways to encourage a wolf cub to exercise a hurt leg, for example.

Some technicians work in “mixed” practices that see all types of patients.

**Specialize or generalize.** Practices also vary by the types of animal problems they treat. A technician who prefers variety and a fast-paced environment, for example, might choose an emergency and critical-care setting. There, veterinary technicians treat very sick and injured animals and provide intensive care. Shifts run around the clock.

At a full-service clinic or hospital with many veterinarians and technicians, veterinary technicians can specialize in one type of procedure. Technician specialties include anesthesia and surgery, diagnostic imaging, dentistry, and animal training.

A technician’s tasks also depend on the specialties of the veterinarians in the practice. At teaching hospitals and special clinics, veterinarians concentrate on one area, such as dermatology, internal medicine, or orthopedics. Technicians who work with them see complicated cases and learn specialized techniques.

Many hospitals are developing new specialties to provide new levels of care. Examples include clinics that focus on physical therapy and diet.

Veterinary technicians in a small practice with one or two veterinarians might see every type of technical work, but they do not perform as many specialized procedures. And if the practice has few workers, the veterinary technician might chip in with nonmedical duties, such as cleaning cages, answering phones, and doing laundry.

**Shelters.** Some technicians work in animal shelters or humane societies, helping to provide basic medical care to abandoned animals. Services include spaying and neutering animals and setting up pet adoptions.

**Laboratories.** Veterinary technicians may work at research facilities instead of veterinary clinics. These workers care for animal test subjects and take, prepare, and examine samples. They might, for example, help to run a clinical trial of a new veterinary or human drug. Technicians also may concentrate entirely on laboratory work, conducting specialized tests that are sent to testing services by veterinarians.

**Veterinary work:**

**Often rewarding, sometimes beastly**

What is it really like to be a veterinary technician? Those who are happy in their work say they cannot imagine liking another job as much as they do this one. And for most technicians, having “warm fuzzies” about the job comes from the warm fuzzies that they treat. That’s because, not surprisingly, veterinary technicians are fond of animals. They enjoy interacting with them and seeing them get better. Caring for animals is what draws and holds most technicians to the career.

The occupation has intellectual rewards, too. Variety in work and species keeps veterinary technicians interested and challenged. This variety is especially pronounced in mixed practices, where technicians see all types of animals, including large, small, and exotic ones. University hospitals, too, provide diversity because technicians at these practices see difficult or unusual cases, and these hospitals are usually the first to develop and test new techniques.
Technicians in every setting help to solve challenging diagnostic puzzles. Even though veterinarians ultimately decipher animals’ diagnoses, the tests that veterinary technicians run provide essential clues.

On a practical level, veterinary technician careers offer flexible schedules. Many technicians work part time, in the evenings, and on weekends.

But as in all careers, veterinary technicians face difficulties. Technicians often perform smelly and dirty procedures, such as fecal examination—hardly the most glamorous part of the job. On the other hand, such tasks can be interesting, and they are important: the veterinarian’s diagnosis usually depends on how well the tests are performed. Squeamishness cannot keep technicians from collecting and testing urine, blood, or skin samples, either.

Working with animals presents real dangers, too. Veterinary technicians’ patients are often panicked and ready to lash out defensively. The veterinary team works together to keep everyone safe, but accidents happen. Technicians can be bitten, kicked, or scratched. If they ignore precautions, technicians also are exposed to diseases, some of which can be passed from animals to humans.

As in all service jobs, veterinary technicians often have to deal with difficult humans. Owners can be impatient or uncooperative, but technicians must do their best to remain calm and professional at all times.

The drawback most commonly cited by veterinary technicians, however, is the need to euthanize animals who are suffering or whose condition will not improve.

Veterinary technicians often assist with euthanizing pets and other animals and with comforting the owners. At humane societies, technicians might perform these procedures themselves.

Also difficult for veterinary technicians is seeing abused, neglected, or abandoned animals. But technicians often have the chance to intervene in these situations, by finding an adoptive home.

**Earnings**

Veterinary technicians and technologists had median hourly earnings of $10.78—about $22,340 annually for full-time workers—in 2001, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). That means that 50 percent of those workers earned more than that amount, and 50 percent earned less. The highest paid 10 percent earn more than $15.97 an hour. The lowest paid 10 percent earned $7.65.

Earnings varied by industry, with technicians and technologists who worked in government earning the most: a median of $17.18 an hour. Close behind were hourly earnings for the few who worked in the drug industry, at a median of nearly $17. Veterinary technicians and technologists who worked in colleges and universities, including veterinary teaching hospitals, earned a median of $13.43 per hour. Most worked in veterinary services and earned a median of $10.65 an hour.

The American Veterinary Medical Association also conducted a survey of technician earnings in 2001. The association found that, among technicians working in private veterinary practices, those who worked in horse-treating practices earned the most, with median hourly earnings of $13. Those who worked in practices that treated small animals exclusively earned the second highest hourly amount at $12. Technicians who worked at exclusively large-animal practices, except in practices treating horses, earned the least: $10 an hour.

Industry sources suggest that veterinary technicians with experience, supervisory duties, or specialized skills and certificates earn more than other technicians do, no matter what the type of industry or practice.

**Employment and outlook**

In 2000, there were 49,400 veterinary technicians and technologists employed, according to BLS. More than 93 percent worked in the veterinary services industry, which includes veterinary clinics, offices, and hospitals. About 2.5 percent worked in schools, including teaching hospitals, and just over 1 percent were in government,
often inspecting farm animals, helping with medical research, or caring for military service animals.

According to the 2002 survey of veterinarians by the American Veterinary Medical Association, more than 60 percent of veterinary practices were exclusively small-animal oriented.

Future prospects. Between 2000 and 2010, BLS projects that employment of veterinary technicians overall will grow from 49,400 jobs to 68,800 jobs. That is a growth rate of 39 percent—much faster than the average for all occupations.

In addition to having opportunities from job growth, new veterinary technicians also are expected to find jobs left open by technicians who permanently leave the occupation. Taken together, job growth and the need to replace other workers are projected to create more than 3,000 jobs annually from 2000 to 2010 for new veterinary technicians.

One reason employment prospects are so favorable is that pet owners are increasingly willing to pay for advanced medical care for their animals. The types of care available continue to grow in number, leading to new tests and treatments and spurring the need for technicians. The pet population overall also is expected to increase slowly through 2010.

Most veterinary technician jobs will continue to be in the veterinary services industry, which includes the veterinarian offices and clinics and veterinary hospitals that treat pets and large animals. But there will be some opportunities in biomedical facilities, drug manufacturing companies, diagnostic facilities, and humane societies. Competition for jobs in zoos and aquariums will continue to be high because the few jobs in those facilities attract many candidates.

What it takes: Skills, training, and licensure
Veterinary technicians need good mathematics skills for calculating drug dosages and the rates at which fluids travel through IVs. Technicians also measure animals' weight and height. Veterinary technicians suggest developing those skills with high school classes in arithmetic, algebra, and science.

Communication ability also is important for writing patient charts and for speaking with owners, animals, and coworkers. These skills can be developed by taking classes in English, speech, and nearly any other liberal arts subject, as well as by writing letters, journals, and reports.

Scientific aptitude helps, too. Veterinary technicians use laboratory tools, such as microscopes, to perform laboratory tests, and they need to understand animal anatomy and physiology.

Beyond book knowledge of math, English, and science, veterinary technicians need to be expert observers. They look for subtle clues in an animal's movements to gauge its comfort and predict its behavior.

Creativity is another plus, especially for technicians who work with many species. For instance, a veterinary technician might use half a syringe holder to make a tiny footbath for a ferret.

And most technicians need to be able to do many tasks at once. The ability to “multitask” is essential because technicians might have to work with 10 patients at once or keep track of many vital signs at once during a surgery.

Physical skill also is needed in most technician jobs. It takes some strength to lift a 100-pound dog into position, for example, even with help. Other work requires a delicate touch, including filling medicine droppers or finding a vein on a hamster.

Education. For technician hopefuls who have developed the skills, getting trained is the next step. Many veterinary technicians have an associate degree in veterinary technology or animal health. Technicians with the best job prospects are those who have attended one

Veterinary technicians use mathematics to monitor the rate at which medicines flow through an IV.
It’s important to observe a technician to see what’s involved before you commit to the training.”

—Mike Patrick, certified veterinary technician
Tampa, Florida

Working as part of a team, technicians and other specialists help veterinarians during surgery.

of the schools in the United States that is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. In fact, many States require veterinary technicians to have this degree in order to work in the State.

Associate degrees usually are awarded following 2 years of full-time study after high school. Many veterinary technology programs also require a summer internship. Students learn basic math and chemistry, along with animal anatomy—the locations and names of bones and organs—and physiology—how those bones and organs function. Mixing classroom instruction and hands-on work, students also learn medical procedures and the reasons behind them.

Some technicians earn a bachelor’s degree in animal health or veterinary technology. These workers often are given the title of veterinary technologist. They might perform more advanced tests and procedures and are often well placed for jobs in hospital management, scientific research, or work in a complex veterinary specialty, such as herd health or critical care.

Some technicians have no formal training beyond high school. Instead, they begin as veterinary assistants and gradually learn some technician skills on the job. Opportunities sometimes are limited for these technicians, however: some States do not allow a technician to practice before having earned an associate degree, and many employers prefer to hire applicants who have an associate degree.

**Licenses, registrations, and certifications.** Most States require veterinary technicians to be licensed before they can work. Requirements vary for licensure, but about one-third of the States require veterinary technicians to have an associate degree from an accredited veterinary technician program. Some States usually also require technicians to pass the National Veterinary Technician Exam. See the next section for information on how to find out about local regulations.

In addition to mandatory licenses, technicians can earn voluntary certifications issued by professional associations. The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America offers the best-known certification. Certification requires an associate degree from an accredited veterinary technician program and a passing score on a multiple-choice exam—the same exam required for licensure in many States.

Technicians also can earn certifications in the anesthetic, emergency and critical care, and animal-training specialties. Each certification, offered by its own association, is available to technicians who have specific experience and who have received a passing grade on a specialty exam.

Employers at research facilities recommend that veterinary technicians who want to work in research earn certification from the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. Certification requires education and experience in animal care, animal health, and facilities management, along with a passing score on an exam. The association offers three levels of certification, each with higher required levels of education and experience and a different exam.

**Continuing education.** To update skills and maintain certifications, technicians continue to attend seminars and courses, read professional journals, and learn on the job.

**Examining further**
If you think you might like to be a veterinary technician, explore your interest more thoroughly by getting
Veterinary technician is just one of many occupations related to animals and health. The following are brief descriptions of some careers that might interest people who like animals. See the “Examining further” section in the article for tips on finding resources for learning more about these occupations.

**Animal trainer.** These workers train pets and wild animals, teaching commands and eliminating problem behaviors. Many trainers take courses and seminars to prepare for the occupation. Some are former veterinary technicians.

**Groomer.** Working for themselves and for retail stores, groomers clean, brush, and cut animals’ hair and fur. They also trim nails and apply pesticide treatments. Most groomers train on the job.

**Kennel assistant.** Kennel assistants clean, feed, groom, and supervise animals at boarding facilities and animal shelters. Most kennel assistants train on the job.

**Pet sitter and exerciser.** These workers feed, care for, and walk pets. A professional sitter often sees several pets each day. Most pet sitters and exercisers train on the job.

**Ranch manager.** Ranch managers care for livestock and oversee ranch activities and planning. Animal-related tasks include scheduling veterinary visits, observing and moving herds, and providing basic care. Many ranch managers have an associate or bachelor’s degree.

**Veterinarian.** Veterinarians diagnose and treat animals. They perform surgery and prescribe medicine. They often supervise technicians and assistants. Veterinarians attend veterinary school for 3 years, usually after completing a bachelor’s degree.

**Veterinary assistant.** Veterinary assistants help veterinarians to care for animals by cleaning cages and examination rooms, preparing food, grooming patients, and helping to restrain animals. Most veterinary assistants train on the job.

**Veterinary clinic or hospital administrator.** Administrators with business skills sometimes manage veterinary practices, kennels, or shelters. Training requirements include experience in veterinary medicine. Industry sources suggest that most veterinary clinic or hospital administrators have an associate or bachelor’s degree.

**Veterinary medicine and equipment salesworker.** Many veterinary technicians make a transition into this occupation, putting their knowledge and experience to use in a different but related way.

**Wildlife biologist or ecologist.** These workers conduct research into animal behavior and characteristics. Some run animal preserves, conservation efforts, or zoos. Most biologists and ecologists have a master’s or higher degree.

Jobs in zoos and aquariums,” in the spring 2001 *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*. The article is also online at www.bls.gov/opub/oop/2001/spring/art01.htm.

Career counselors are another good information source. They can help future veterinary technicians choose appropriate classes, find career resources, and uncover related internship and volunteer opportunities.

For information on local earnings of veterinary technicians and technologists, try the BLS Occupational Employment Statistics survey. Survey findings may be obtained online at www.bls.gov/oes or by calling (202) 691-6569.

Finally, professional associations provide information and advice about careers and training. The following is a list of some of the associations for veterinary technicians.
For general information about careers and certification, contact:
National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
PO Box 224
Battle Ground, IN 47920
(765) 742-2216
www.navta.net

For information on careers in veterinary hospitals, including publications, contact:
American Animal Hospital Association
PO Box 150899
Denver, CO 80215-0899
(303) 986-2800
www.aahanet.org

For a list of accredited veterinary technician education programs, contact:
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360
(847) 925-8070
www.avma.org

For a list of State licensing requirements, contact:
American Association of Veterinary State Boards
4106 Central St.
Kansas City, MO 64111-2307
Toll free: 1 (877) 698-8482
(816) 931-1504
www.aavsb.org

For information about veterinary technician specialties, contact:
Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians
c/o White Oak Conservation Center
67459 Owens Farm Rd.
Yulee, FL 32097
(904) 225-3396, ext. 3606
www.azvt.org

Other veterinary technician associations include the following:
Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists
PO Box 426
Rossville, IN 46065
www.avta-vts.org

A technician’s job duties, such as weighing herd animals, vary by size and type of veterinary practice.
Who is on the Health Care Team?

THE VETERINARIAN
doctors trained to protect the health of both animals and people

THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN
professional who performs valuable medical and non-medical services in clinical practice

THE HOSPITAL MANAGER
person responsible for managing the business functions of the practice

THE VETERINARY ASSISTANT
professional who supports the veterinarian and/or the veterinary technician in their daily tasks

THE RECEPTIONIST
the first person to welcome a client into the hospital and the last person the client sees when they leave

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS
group which may include an adoption counselor, a grief counselor, administrative assistant, kennel worker, and part-time volunteers

For More Information
American Veterinary Medical Association
800.248.2862

Mission Statement
The mission of the AVMA is to improve animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession.

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA)
www.navta.net

Veterinary Hospital Managers Association (VHMA)
www.vhma.org
Depending upon the size of the hospital, the Veterinary Health Care Team may employ from three to more than 30 people but, regardless of size, dedication to service remains a top priority.

The Veterinarian—Leading the Team
Veterinarians are doctors trained to protect the health of both animals and people. In a clinical hospital environment, veterinarians work with large and small animals to evaluate animals’ health, diagnose and treat illnesses, provide routine preventive care (such as vaccines), prescribe medication, and perform surgery. Like physicians, some veterinarians specialize in areas such as surgery, internal medicine, ophthalmology or dentistry.

In addition to opportunities in clinical practice, veterinarians may choose to work in zoos, wildlife parks, or aquariums; or focus on public health, regulatory medicine, or research. Personal attributes that contribute to a successful career as a veterinarian in clinical practice include a strong science and math education, the ability to work well with animals and their owners, basic business and management training, and leadership and organizational skills.

The Veterinary Hospital Manager
Most large veterinary hospitals find that having a hospital (or practice) manager greatly improves the team’s efficiency. This person is responsible for managing the business functions of the practice. Depending upon the size and type of hospital, the manager’s duties could include personnel hiring and supervision, budget and inventory management, accounting, marketing, and designing service protocols. A strong business background, computer knowledge, and desire to work with people are key attributes for success as a hospital manager.

Other Team Members
The hospital team may also include an adoption counselor, a grief counselor, administrative assistant, kennel worker, and part-time volunteers. Everyone has an important role to play in assuring the health and well-being of the hospital’s patients and the owners who care for them.

Every veterinary hospital staff consists of a team of caring individuals, each contributing his or her unique abilities to ensure high quality veterinary care for animals and compassionate interactions with animal owners.

The Veterinary Technician
Veterinary technicians perform valuable medical and non-medical services in clinical practice. They are graduates of an AVMA-accredited program in veterinary technology usually leading to an Associate or Bachelor degree. The veterinary technician is educated and trained to support the veterinarian in surgical assisting, laboratory procedures, radiography, anesthesia, prescribed treatment and nursing, and client education. Almost every state requires a veterinary technician to pass a credentialing exam to ensure a high level of competency.

Some veterinary technicians pursue specialties in emergency and critical care, anesthesiology, internal medicine, animal behavior or dentistry. Personal attributes that contribute to a successful career as a veterinary technician in clinical practice include a strong science background, ability to work well with people and animals, and good communication and decision-making skills.

The Veterinary Assistant
In some hospitals, a veterinary assistant supports the veterinarian and/or the veterinary technician in their daily tasks. The assistant may be asked to perform kennel work, assist in the restraint and handling of animals, feed and exercise the animals, and spend time on clerical duties. There is no credentialing exam for the veterinary assistant; however, training programs are available (www.navta.net). The ability to listen, communicate efficiently, and handle multiple assignments are skills that make a veterinary assistant an important member of the hospital team.

The Receptionist
The receptionist or client service representative is usually the first person to welcome a client into the hospital and the last person the client sees when they leave. The interactions he or she has with a client can determine how the client perceives the quality of medical services being offered. A good receptionist must have excellent communication skills and be able to handle a variety of questions and requests from clients and the public. In addition to setting appointments, responding to inquiries about hospital services, greeting clients, and managing callbacks, a receptionist may also perform accounting, marketing, or client counseling duties. A customer service attitude, the ability to manage multiple tasks, and professionalism under stress are important attributes for a hospital receptionist.
The Team

Companion animals, livestock and exotic species each require specialized animal health care. A team of professionals work together to provide quality care, each person playing an important and specific role.

The Veterinarian diagnoses illness, performs surgery, and prescribes medication for their animal patients. The Veterinary Technician provides technical support for all aspects of animal care, including laboratory work, surgical support, owner contact and general animal care. Both are supported by Veterinary Assistants and administrative staff.

The Organization

The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in American (NAVTA) is a nonprofit organization that represents and promotes the profession of Veterinary Technology. NAVTA provides direction, education, support and coordination for its members and students pursuing a career in the profession. Incorporated in 1981, NAVTA is the national organization devoted exclusively to developing and enhancing the profession of veterinary technology.
The Job

Over 50% of Veterinary Technicians work in small animal hospitals where their patients include dogs, cats, and exotic animals. The duties of a Veterinary Technician include:

- Interacting with clients and their animals
- Performing the initial physical exam
- Gathering vital information
- Providing nursing care to the sick
- Collecting samples
- Conducting laboratory tests
- Taking x-rays
- Administering anesthesia
- Assisting in surgery

Some veterinary hospitals specialize in the health and well-being of horses, cows, pigs, and sheep. Veterinary Technicians in these practices are involved with nursing care, laboratory testing, surgical procedures and general support of the Veterinarian; much like the small animal hospital … the only difference is the size of their patients! Veterinary Assistants can help the Veterinary Technicians during treatment.

The Options

Veterinary Technicians may also work in specialty practices, assisting Veterinarians who offer specialized care in surgery, emergency and critical care, orthopedics, cardiology and many other areas. With the combination of skills and knowledge from their broad education, Veterinary Technicians are adaptable to many other unique career opportunities in:

- Industry
- Veterinary training and education
- Humane societies
- Zoo animal care
- Animal hospital management
- Biomedical research
- Military service

The Future

Veterinary Technicians work in a dynamic world of expanding technology and specialization. Opportunities are numerous and the future job market looks promising. Anyone who loves animals and science, and wants to make a difference for animal health care should consider a career as a Veterinary Technician!

The Education

New advances in anesthesia, laboratory equipment, diagnostic testing, and medical treatment have vastly improved animal care. To prepare for these responsibilities, formal education at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accredited institution is necessary. Courses are taught by experienced Veterinary Technicians and Veterinarians who are keenly aware of the expectations of future employers. Most accredited programs cover two academic years of college level study and lead to an associate’s of applied science or equivalent degree. Four year programs and accredited online programs are also available. Many states require the graduate to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE) in order to become a credentialed Veterinary Technician.

A complete list of accredited programs is available at www.avma.org.

Over 50% of Veterinary Technicians work in small animal hospitals where their patients include dogs, cats, and exotic animals.
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians

(O*NET 29-2056.00)

Significant Points

- Animal lovers get satisfaction from this occupation, but aspects of the work can be unpleasant, physically and emotionally demanding, and sometimes dangerous.
- Entrants generally complete a 2-year or 4-year veterinary technology program and must pass a State examination.
- Employment is expected to grow much faster than average.
- Overall job opportunities should be excellent; however, keen competition is expected for jobs in zoos and aquariums.

Nature of the Work

Owners of pets and other animals today expect state-of-the-art veterinary care. To provide this service, veterinarians use the skills of veterinary technologists and technicians, who perform many of the same duties for a veterinarian that a nurse would for a physician, including routine laboratory and clinical procedures. Although specific job duties vary by employer, there often is little difference between the tasks carried out by technicians and by technologists, despite some differences in formal education and training. As a result, most workers in this occupation are called technicians.

Veterinary technologists and technicians typically conduct clinical work in a private practice under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. They often perform various medical tests and treat and diagnose medical conditions and diseases in animals. For example, they may perform laboratory tests such as urinalysis and blood counts, assist with dental prophylaxis, prepare tissue samples, take blood samples, or assist veterinarians in a variety of tests and analyses in which they often use various items of medical equipment, such as test tubes and diagnostic equipment. While most of these duties are performed in a laboratory setting, many are not. For example, some veterinary technicians obtain and record patients’ case histories, expose and develop x-rays and radiographs, and provide specialized nursing care. In addition, experienced veterinary technicians may discuss a pet’s condition with its owners and train new clinic personnel. Veterinary technologists and technicians assisting small-animal practitioners usually care for companion animals, such as cats and dogs, but can perform a variety of duties with mice, rats, sheep, pigs, cattle, monkeys, birds, fish, and frogs. Very few veterinary technologists work in mixed animal practices where they care for both small companion animals and larger, nondomestic animals.

Besides working in private clinics and animal hospitals, veterinary technologists and technicians may work in research facilities, where they administer medications orally or topically, prepare samples for laboratory examinations, and record information on an animal’s genealogy, diet, weight, medications, food intake, and clinical signs of pain and distress. Some may sterilize laboratory and surgical equipment and provide routine post-operative care. At research facilities, veterinary technologists typically work under the guidance of veterinarians or physicians. Some veterinary technologists vaccinate newly admitted animals and occasionally may have to euthanize seriously ill, severely injured, or unwanted animals.

While the goal of most veterinary technologists and technicians is to promote animal health, some contribute to human health as well. Veterinary technologists occasionally assist veterinarians in implementing research projects as they work with other scientists in medical-related fields such as gene therapy and cloning. Some find opportunities in biomedical research, wildlife medicine, the military, livestock management, or pharmaceutical sales.

Work environment. People who love animals get satisfaction from working with and helping them. However, some of the work may be unpleasant, physically and emotionally demanding, and sometimes dangerous. At times, veterinary technicians must clean cages and lift, hold, or restrain animals, risking exposure to bites or scratches. These workers must take precautions when treating animals with germicides or insecticides. The work setting can be noisy.

Veterinary technologists and technicians who witness abused animals or who euthanize unwanted, aged, or hopelessly injured animals may experience emotional stress. Those working for humane societies and animal shelters often deal with the public, some of whom might react with hostility to any implication that the owners are neglecting or abusing their pets. Such workers must maintain a calm and professional demeanor while they enforce the laws regarding animal care.

In some animal hospitals, research facilities, and animal shelters, a veterinary technician is on duty 24 hours a day, which means that some may work night shifts. Most full-time veterinary technologists and technicians work about 40 hours a week, although some work 50 or more hours a week.

Training, Other Qualifications, and Advancement

There are primarily two levels of education and training for entry to this occupation: a 2-year program for veterinary technicians and a 4-year program for veterinary technologists.

Education and training. Most entry-level veterinary technicians have a 2-year associate degree from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited community college program in veterinary technology in which courses are taught in clinical and laboratory settings using live animals. About 16
colleges offer veterinary technology programs that are longer and that culminate in a 4-year bachelor’s degree in veterinary technology. These 4-year colleges, in addition to some vocational schools, also offer 2-year programs in laboratory animal science. Several schools offer distance learning.

In 2006, 131 veterinary technology programs in 44 States were accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Graduation from an AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program allows students to take the certification exam in any State in the country.

Persons interested in careers as veterinary technologists and technicians should take as many high school science, biology, and math courses as possible. Science courses taken beyond high school, in an associate or bachelor’s degree program, should emphasize practical skills in a clinical or laboratory setting.

Technologists and technicians usually begin work as trainees in routine positions under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. Entry-level workers whose training or educational background encompasses extensive hands-on experience with a variety of laboratory equipment, including diagnostic and medical equipment, usually require a shorter period of on-the-job training.

**Licensure and certification.** Each State regulates veterinary technicians and technologists differently; however, all States require them to pass a credentialing exam following coursework. Passing the State exam assures the public that the technician or technologist has sufficient knowledge to work in a veterinary clinic or hospital. Candidates are tested for competency through an examination that includes oral, written, and practical portions and that is regulated by the State Board of Veterinary Examiners or the appropriate State agency. Depending on the State, candidates may become registered, licensed, or certified. Most States, however, use the National Veterinary Technician (NVT) exam. Prospects usually can have their passing scores transferred from one State to another, so long as both States use the same exam.

Employers recommend American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) certification for those seeking employment in a research facility. AALAS offers certification for three levels of technician competence, with a focus on three principal areas—animal husbandry, facility management, and animal health and welfare. Those who wish to become certified must satisfy a combination of education and experience requirements prior to taking the AALAS examination. Work experience must be directly related to the maintenance, health, and well-being of laboratory animals and must be gained in a laboratory animal facility as defined by AALAS. Candidates who meet the necessary criteria can begin pursuing the desired certification on the basis of their qualifications. The lowest level of certification is Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT), the second level is Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT), and the highest level of certification is Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG). The AALAS examination consists of multiple-choice questions and is longer and more difficult for higher levels of certification, ranging from 2 hours and 120 multiple choice questions for the ALAT to 3 hours and 180 multiple choice questions for the LATG.

**Other qualifications.** As veterinary technologists and technicians often deal with pet owners, communication skills are very important. In addition, technologists and technicians should be able to work well with others, because teamwork with veterinarians is common. Organizational ability and the ability to pay attention to detail also are important.

**Advancement.** As they gain experience, technologists and technicians take on more responsibility and carry out more assignments under only general veterinary supervision. Some eventually may become supervisors.

**Employment**

Veterinary technologists and technicians held about 71,000 jobs in 2006. About 91 percent worked in veterinary services. The remainder worked in boarding kennels, animal shelters, stables, grooming salons, zoos, State and private educational institutions, and local, State, and Federal agencies.

**Job Outlook**

Excellent job opportunities will stem from the need to replace veterinary technologists and technicians who leave the occupation and from the limited output of qualified veterinary technicians from 2-year programs, which are not expected to meet the demand over the 2006-16 period. Employment is expected to grow much faster than average.

**Employment change.** Employment of veterinary technologists and technicians is expected to grow 41 percent over the 2006-16 projection period, which is much faster than the average for all occupations. Pet owners are becoming more affluent and more willing to pay for advanced veterinary care because many of them consider their pet to be part of the family. This growing influence and view of pets will continue to increase the demand for veterinary care. The vast majority of veterinary technicians work at private clinical practice under veterinarians. As the number of veterinarians grows to meet the demand for veterinary care, so will the number of veterinary technicians needed to assist them.

The number of pet owners who take advantage of veterinary services for their pets—currently about 6 in 10—is expected to grow over the projection period, increasing employment opportunities. The availability of advanced veterinary services, such as preventive dental care and surgical procedures, also will provide opportunities for workers specializing in those areas as they will be needed to assist licensed veterinarians. The rapidly growing number of cats kept as companion pets is expected to boost the demand for feline medicine and services. Further demand for these workers will stem from the desire to replace veterinary assistants with more highly skilled technicians and technologists.

**Projections data from the National Employment Matrix**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary technologists and technicians</td>
<td>29-2056</td>
<td>71,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
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NOTE: Data in this table are rounded. See the discussion of the employment projections table in the Handbook introductory chapter on Occupational Information Included in the Handbook.
in animal clinics and hospitals, shelters, boarding kennels, and humane societies.

Biomedical facilities, diagnostic laboratories, wildlife facilities, humane societies, animal control facilities, drug or food manufacturing companies, and food safety inspection facilities will provide additional jobs for veterinary technologists and technicians. However, keen competition is expected for veterinary technologist and technician jobs in zoos and aquariums, due to expected slow growth in facility capacity, low turnover among workers, the limited number of positions, and the fact that the work in zoos and aquariums attracts many candidates.

**Job prospects.** Excellent job opportunities are expected because of the relatively few veterinary technology graduates each year. The number of 2-year programs has recently grown to 131, but due to small class sizes, fewer than 3,000 graduates are anticipated each year, which is not expected to meet demand. Additionally, many veterinary technicians remain in the field for only 7-8 years, so the need to replace workers who leave the occupation each year also will produce many job opportunities.

Employment of veterinary technicians and technologists is relatively stable during periods of economic recession. Layoffs are less likely to occur among veterinary technologists and technicians than in some other occupations because animals will continue to require medical care.

**Earnings**
Median hourly earnings of veterinary technologists and technicians were $12.88 in May 2006. The middle 50 percent earned between $10.44 and $15.77. The bottom 10 percent earned less than $8.79, and the top 10 percent earned more than $18.68.

**Related Occupations**
Others who work extensively with animals include animal care and service workers, and veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers. Like veterinary technologists and technicians, they must have patience and feel comfortable with animals. However, the level of training required for these occupations is less than that needed by veterinary technologists and technicians. Veterinarians, who need much more formal education, also work extensively with animals, preventing, diagnosing, and treating their diseases, disorders, and injuries.

**Sources of Additional Information**
For information on certification as a laboratory animal technician or technologist, contact:
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, 9190 Crestwyn Hills Dr., Memphis, TN 38125.
  Internet: [http://www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org)

For information on careers in veterinary medicine and a listing of AVMA-accredited veterinary technology programs, contact:
- American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360.
  Internet: [http://www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)
Florida A&M University
Undergraduate Admission Application

ADMISSION APPLICATION PROCEDURES (Please read in full.)

This is the form you will use to apply for undergraduate admission to Florida A&M University. Florida A&M University encourages admission applications from qualified students regardless of color, race, religion, national origin, gender, disability, veteran status, or marital status.

We encourage you to submit your application online. You may do so by visiting our website at www.famu.edu. Please be sure to type or print in black ink and to complete each item, as incomplete forms cannot be processed.

1. Application for Admission
   • Please attach your $30 check or money order (U.S. currency: do not send cash), made payable to Florida A&M University. Your application cannot be processed if it is not included. This is a nonrefundable application fee.
   • Applications for admission will not be processed more than one year in advance of the date for which entrance is sought.
   • Answer all questions completely and accurately.
   • Priority deadline dates for admission are as follows.
     Fall Term. ................................................................. May 15
     Spring Term. ............................................................... November 15
     Summer Term. ............................................................. March 15
   • Freshman applicants should submit two letters of recommendation from a high school teacher, counselor or principal.

2. Official Transcripts
   Transcripts must be sent to the Office of Admissions and Recruitment at the following address.
   Florida A&M University
   Office of Admissions and Recruitment
   Foote-Hilyer Administration Center
   400 Lee Hall Drive, Suite G-9
   Tallahassee, Florida 32307-3200
   Request that your current name and Social Security Number be added to the transcript if necessary. All transcripts and test scores become the sole property of the university.
   • If you are a beginning freshman or transfer applicant with less than 60 semester hours of transferable academic credit, ask your high school to forward your official high school record.
   • If you have attempted any coursework either as dual enrollment in high school or following high school, ask each school to forward an official transcript of your academic record. Transcripts must be mailed directly from the institution or forwarded electronically.
   • Completers of high school by GED must provide an official copy of test scores (as well as a partial high school transcript).
   • Transfer students who completed two years of the same foreign language in high school must submit official high school transcripts.

3. Admission Test Scores
   It is your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to take the appropriate tests. Contact your school counseling office for more information.
   • ACT or SAT (critical reading and math) scores are required if you are seeking admission as a freshman or transfer with less than 60 semester hours of transferable academic credit. Have the official test scores forwarded directly to Florida A&M University by the testing agency.
   • Applicants whose native language is not English may be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and have their scores submitted by the Educational Testing Service.

4. Additional Information: Admission Consideration Based on Disability
   • If you wish to request special admission consideration based on a disability, FAMU will consider this information within the following guidelines: (1) documentation regarding the disability will need to be provided on a voluntary basis, (2) all information will be kept confidential, (3) refusal to provide information will not subject the applicant to adverse treatment, and (4) information will only be used in connection with the university’s voluntary efforts to overcome the effects of conditions that may have resulted in limited participation of persons with disabilities. See item 12, page 1. Applicants are not required to complete this item.

Below is a list of majors offered at Florida A&M University:

Accounting  Chemistry Education  Chemistry
African-American Studies  Civil Engineering  Civil Engineering Technology
Agriculture  Computer Engineering  Computer Information
Agricultural Business  Construction Engineering  Construction Management
Architectural Studies  Construction Technology  Criminal Justice
Architecture  Drama Education  Economics
Art Education  Early Childhood Education  Electrical Engineering
Biological & Agricultural System  Electronic Engineering  Elementary Education
Biology  Engineering  Engineering Education
Broadcast Journalism  English  Environmental Sciences
Business Administration  Environmental Science  Fine Arts
Business Economics  French  Graphic Communication
Business Education  Graphic Design  Health Care Management
Cardiopulmonary Science  Health Information  Management
Chemical Engineering  Health Science  Management Business
Chemistry  Health Services Administration  History
...
Type or Print in Black Ink

1. __________________ / _______ / ________________
   U.S. Social Security Number

2. For which term, in which year, do you seek admission?
   August __________ January __________
   May ___________ June __________

3. This application is for enrollment as:
   □ First time in college  freshman
   □ Second bachelor’s degree  student returning (no fee required)
   □ Undergraduate transfer
   □ Former degree-seeking

4. If your transcripts, test scores, etc. might arrive under any name(s) other than those listed above, enter here: ____________________________

5. Nation of Citizenship: ____________________________

6. Date of birth: ______ / _____ / ______

7. Print your permanent address. All correspondence will be mailed to this address.

   Street Address
   Apt. No.
   City ____________________________ County (or Province) ____________________________ State/Nation ____________________________

   Zip Code (_____) Telephone Number (_____)

   Daytime Telephone Number (_____) Fax Number (_____)

   Email Address (if available) ____________________________ Work Zip Code (_____)

10. In case of an emergency, indicate the person you request the university contact:

    Last Name ____________________________ First Name ____________________________ M.I. ____________________________

    Number and Street Address ____________________________ Apt. No. ____________________________

    City ____________________________ County (or Province) ____________________________ State/Nation ____________________________

    Zip Code (_____) Telephone Number (_____) Daytime Telephone Number (_____)

    Relationship: □ Mother □ Father □ Legal Guardian □ Other: ____________________________

11. What is your planned major?

    College/school? ____________________________

12. If you wish to request special admission consideration based upon a disability, please check here. Applicants are not required to complete this item. □

13. High School Graduation Date: ______ / _____ / ______
    Month Year

    High School Name (Official transcript must be provided)

    High School Code:
    (Ask your counselor for the 6-digit CEEB Number)

    City ____________________________ State/Nation ____________________________

    (_____) If High School was completed by GED, enter year ____________________________

    High School Area Code and Telephone Number ____________________________
    (Official copy of test scores and official partial high school transcript required)

14. An official transcript from each postsecondary school, college, or university you have attended must be provided.

    Please list in chronological order every postsecondary institution (including dual enrollment) you have attended or will attend prior to entering this university. (You must include schools even if you did not complete a term.) Include Florida A&M University if you attended previously. For multi-campus institutions, indicate the specific campus. Failure to list all institutions could result in your application being denied or your admission being rescinded. Use a separate sheet if necessary.

    School (Please do not abbreviate) ____________________________
    City, State or Nation ____________________________

    Enter dates of attendance (including present enrollment) and degrees earned or expected before attending this university. Include Associate Degrees, certificates, or diplomas

    Enter credit earned or expected from each institution attended.

    Dates of Attendance ____________________________ Degree ____________________________ Date ____________________________
    From To Earned Expected Earned Expected
    Mo. Yr. Mo. Yr. Type Mo. Yr. Number Unit Sem./Qtr.
15. If your answer to any of the following is yes, you must submit a full statement of relevant facts on a separate sheet attached to this form. You may be required to furnish the university with copies of all official documentation explaining the final disposition of the proceedings.
   a. □ Yes □ No  Are you currently or have you ever been, charged with or subject to disciplinary action for scholastic or an other type of misconduct at any educational institution?
   b. □ Yes □ No  Have you ever been charged with a violation of the law which resulted in, or, if still pending, could result in, probation, community service, a jail sentence, the revocation or suspension of your driver’s license (including traffic violations which resulted in a fine of $200 or more)?

If your records have been expunged pursuant to applicable law, you are not required to answer yes to these questions. If you are unsure whether you should answer yes to 15a or 15b, we strongly suggest that you answer yes and fully disclose all incidents. By doing so, you can avoid any risk of disciplinary action or revocation of an offer of admission.

16. If you have taken or plan to take any of the tests below, enter the month and year. Official records of all test scores must be provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>1st Time</th>
<th>2nd Time</th>
<th>3rd Time</th>
<th>4th Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
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<td>TOEFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLAST</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

17. Have you completed the foreign language requirement?
   □ Yes □ No

   If yes, where?
   □ High School □ College

   If yes, please submit appropriate official transcripts.

18. Present High School/College Enrollment
   a. If you are currently enrolled in a high school, college, or university, list all high school and college level courses which you are now taking or expect to complete before entering Florida A&M University. Use a separate sheet if necessary.
   b. If you are not currently enrolled and do not expect to complete any courses, check here. □

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses For Which You Are Now Enrolled</th>
<th>Courses You Expect to Complete Before Entering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Institution:</td>
<td>Name of Institution:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of Course</td>
<td>Title of Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course No.</td>
<td>Course No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Course Will End</td>
<td>Date Course Will End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Hrs. (Sem./Qtr.)</td>
<td>Credit Hrs. (Sem./Qtr.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mo. Yrs</td>
<td>Mo. Yrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. For Non-U.S. Citizens Only:
   City and Country of Birth
   What VISA do you presently hold?  □ F1 □ F2 □ J1 □ J2 □ None □ Other: __________ I-94 Expiration Date: _____ / ____
   What VISA are you applying for:  □ F1 □ F2 □ J1 □ J2 □ None □ Other: __________
   What institution issued your last I-20? __________ Did you attend? □ Yes □ No
   If a permanent immigrant, enter the alien registration number shown on your I-551 form: ______________ or you must provide a photocopy of your Alien Registration card.

20. Provide a history of your activities since leaving high school. List chronologically how you have spent or plan to spend your time prior to entering Florida A&M University (employment, military service, etc.). Use a separate sheet if necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>City, State or Nation</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mo.</td>
<td>Yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mo.</td>
<td>Yr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21. Important. You must read and sign the following section in order to complete your application.

I understand that this application is for admission and is valid only for the term indicated in item 2 on page 1. I also understand and agree that I will be bound by the university’s regulations concerning application deadline dates and admission requirements. I further agree to the release of any transcript, student record, and test scores to this institution (including any SAT I, SAT-II, and ACT score reports that this institution may request from the College Board or ACT).

I certify that the information given in this application is complete and accurate, and I understand that to make false or fraudulent statements within this application or residence statement may result in disciplinary action, denial of admission and invalidation of credits or degrees earned. If admitted, I hereby agree to abide by the policies of the Board of Governors and the rules and regulations of Florida A&M University. Should any of the information I have given change prior to my enrollment, I shall immediately notify the Office of Admissions and Recruitment.

I understand that the $30 check or money order I submit shall with this application is a nonrefundable fee.
Attach a check or money order for thirty dollars ($30) payable to Florida A&M University.

You are encouraged to apply online at www.famu.edu

Staple application fee here

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**Personal Statement (for freshmen applicants only)**

The personal statement is a very important part of your application. It assists Florida A&M University in knowing you as an individual, independent of test scores and other objective data. We ask that you respond to two of the topics below. Your personal statement should be no longer than 250 words each or a total of 500 words for both personal statements. The best personal statements are not necessarily the longest ones. You may write or type your personal statements on a separate sheet and attach them to this form.

1. Describe an activity, interest, experience, or achievement in your life (this could be a book, movie or an activity or experience at work, home or school) that has been particularly meaningful to you.

2. How has your family history, culture, or environment influenced who you are?

3. What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that would allow you to contribute to the university community?
Information for Residency Classification

A Florida "resident for tuition purposes" is a person who has, or a dependent person whose parent or legal guardian has, established and maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months. Residence in Florida must be at a bona fide domicile rather than for the purpose of maintaining a residence incident to enrollment at an institution of higher education. To qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes, you must be a U.S. Citizen, permanent resident alien, or legal alien granted indefinite stay by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Other persons not meeting the 12 month legal residence requirement may be classified as Florida residents for tuition purposes only if they fall within one of the limited special categories authorized by the Florida Legislature and Board of Governors. All other persons are ineligible for classification as a Florida “resident for tuition purposes.” Living in or attending school in Florida will not, in itself, establish legal residence. Students who depend on out-of-state parents for support are presumed to be legal residents of the same state as their parents.

Non-Florida Residents

I understand that I do not qualify as a Florida resident for tuition purposes for the term for which this application is submitted and that if I should qualify for some future term, it will be necessary for me to file the required documentation prior to the beginning of the term to be considered for Florida residency classification.

Signature in ink: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Florida Residents

This section must be completed in full if you claim Florida residency for tuition purposes.

☐ Attach copies (if any) of documents required.
☐ A notarized copy of your and/or your parents’ most recent tax return or other documentation may be required to establish dependence/independence.
☐ Dependent: a person for whom 50% or more of his/her support is provided by another as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.
☐ Independent: a person who provided more than 50% of his/her own support.
☐ A copy of marriage certificate is required in all cases or spouse claiming partner’s residency.
☐ A. I am in independent person and have maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months.
☐ B. I am a dependent person and my parent or legal guardian has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months.
☐ C. I am a dependent person who has maintained legal residence for five years with an adult relative other than my parent or legal guardian, and my relative has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months. (Required: Copy of most recent tax return on which you were claimed as a dependent or other proof of dependency.)
☐ D. I am married to a person who has maintained legal residence in Florida for at least 12 months. I have now established legal residence and intend to make Florida my permanent home. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate, claimant’s voter registration, driver license and vehicle registration.)
☐ E. I was previously enrolled at a Florida state institution and classified as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I abandoned my Florida domicile less than 12 months ago and am now re-establishing Florida legal residence.
☐ F. According to the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, I am a permanent resident alien or other legal alien granted indefinite stay and have maintained a domicile in Florida for at least 12 months. (Required: INS documentation and proof of Florida residency status.)
☐ G. I am a member of the armed services of the United States and I am stationed in Florida on active military duty pursuant to military orders, or whose home of record is Florida, or I am a member’s spouse or dependent child. (Required: Copy of military orders or DD2058 showing home of record).
☐ H. I am a full-time instructional or administrative employee employed by a Florida public school, community college or institution of higher education, or I am the employee’s spouse or dependent child. (Required: Employment verification.)
☐ I. I am part of the Latin American/Caribbean Scholarship program. (Required: Copy of scholarship papers.)
☐ J. I am a qualified beneficiary under the terms of the Florida Prepaid College Program (s.240.551, F.S.).
☐ K. I am living on the Isthmus of Panama and have completed 12 consecutive months of college work at the F.S.U. Panama Canal Branch, or I am the student’s spouse or dependent child. (Required: Copy of marriage certificate or proof of dependency.)
☐ L. I am a full-time employee of a state agency or political subdivision of the state whose student fees are paid by the state agency or political subdivision for the purpose of job-related law enforcement or corrections training.
☐ M. I am a Southern Regional Education Board’s Academic Common Market graduate student. (Required: Certification letter from State Coordinator.)
☐ N. I am a McKnight Fellowship recipient. (Required: Verification from graduate studies.)
☐ O. I am an active member of Florida National Guard who qualifies under s.250.10 (7) and (8) for the tuition assistance program.

Person claiming residency must complete this section in full.

☐ Additional documentation other than what is required above may be requested in some cases.

1. Name of Student: ____________________________________________
2. Student’s Social Security Number: _________ / _________ / _________
3. Name of person claiming Florida residency: _______________________
4. Claimant’s relationship to student: ________________________________
5. Claimant’s permanent legal address: ________________________________
6. Claimant’s telephone number: ____________________________
7. Date claimant began establishing legal Florida residence and domicile: _____________ / _____________ / _____________
8. Claimant’s voter registration: State: _____ Number: _________ County: _________ Issue Date: _____ / _____ / _____
9. Claimant’s driver’s license: State: _____ Number: _________ Issue Date: _____ / _____ / _____
10. Claimant’s vehicle registration: State: _____ Tag Number: _________ Issue Date: _____ / _____ / _____
11. Non-U.S. Citizen only: (Copy of both sides of card required) Resident Alien Number: __________________________ Issue Date: _____ / _____ / _____

I do hereby swear or affirm that the above named student meets all requirements indicated in the checked category above for classification as a Florida resident for tuition purposes. I understand that a false statement in this affidavit will subject me to penalties for making a false statement pursuant to 837.06. Florida Statutes, and Rule 6C-7.005. F.A.C.

Signature of person claiming Florida residency (as listed in item #3 above) ____________________________ Date ____________________________

Revised 4/15/2002
1. Please circle your housing preference:  
on-campus (if available) ☐ off-campus  
(Separate application required) ☐

2. Are you a veteran of the U.S. Military: ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. If your native language is other than English, how many years have you studied and spoken English?  
Language: ____________________ years spoken: ______________  
Language: ____________________ years spoken: ______________

4. Names of your immediate family who have attended Florida A&M University:  
Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________ Year of Graduation: ____________________  
Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________ Year of Graduation: ____________________  
Name: ____________________ Relationship: ____________________ Year of Graduation: ____________________

5. Have you ever participated in any program or activities to help you prepare for higher education (e.g., University Outreach, Talent Search, Upward Bound, Junior Achievement, 4-H, etc.)? Please list all programs and activities.
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Extracurricular, personal and volunteer activities: (you may attach additional sheets if necessary)  
a. Extracurricular activities: list your organization(s), position, description of the activity and hours per week of involvement.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

b. Community service work: list the type of work, your role and hours per week of involvement.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

c. Talents and awards: list each, a description, the level and number of years of involvement.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

d. Employment: list the job, title, description, hours per week and dates of employment.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Do you believe that you meet, or will meet, the criteria stipulated on page one for being a Talented Twenty designee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

The information requested below is optional, but it may assist in the review of your admissions. You are strongly encouraged to respond to these questions.

Please indicate the highest level of your parent’s or legal guardian’s educational background:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father/legal guardian:</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Diploma/Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother/legal guardian:</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>Diploma/Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Do you have family obligations that keep you from participating in extracurricular activities?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

a. I have to work to supplement family income.  
Please describe:

b. I provide primary care for family member(s).  
Please describe:

c. Other  
Please describe:

Please indicate, for the most recent tax year, your family’s gross income. Include both untaxed and taxed income.

☐ Less than $20,000  
☐ $20,000 – $39,000  
☐ $40,000 – $59,000  
☐ $60,000 – $79,000  
☐ more than $80,000

Are you living in a single parent home? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Are you a first generation college attendee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many people, including yourself, live in your household?  
(Include brothers and sisters attending college.) ______________  
___________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Parent/legal guardian occupation:
father: ____________________ mother: ____________________
### Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Form

**ADMISSIONS OFFICE**
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
1700 Lee Hall Drive
FHAC, Suite G-9
Tallahassee FL 32307-3200
Phone: 850 ● 599 ● 3796 Fax: 850 ● 599 ● 3069

---

**Last Name**       **First Name**       **Middle Name**       **Jr., III, etc**

Last five digits of SS#: ___  ___  ___ - ___  ___ - ____  ___  ____  ___     Date of Birth: ______/______/_______

Please complete this form and we appreciate your candid evaluation of the student based on the questions provided. All comments will be confidential and used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for admission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Discipline</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attentiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organizational Skills</td>
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<td>Effort</td>
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<td>Motivation</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character and Personality Ratings</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Initiative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self Confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
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<td>Respect for Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maturity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concern for Others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Overall Character</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I recommend this applicant ☐ Wholeheartedly ☐ Confidently ☐ With Reservation ☐ Do Not Recommend

Please tell us anything else you think we might want to know about this student. __________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________
Print Name: _____________________________________________
Date: _______________________________________

Title: ____________________________________________
E-mail: _______________________________________

Telephone: (____)_________________________   Fax: (____)_________________________

School Name: ___________________________________________

School Address: ________________________________________

Street                                                                 City, State, Zip

**Instructions for High School Counselors**

1.) Please submit this completed recommendation form in a sealed envelope.
2.) Please have official transcripts sent to the Florida A&M University, Office of Undergraduate Admissions.
3.) Please remind students to have test scores sent directly to FAMU by the testing agencies.
Teacher/Counselor Recommendation Form

ADMISSIONS OFFICE
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
1700 Lee Hall Drive
FHAC, Suite G-9
Tallahassee FL 32307-3200
Phone: 850 ● 599 ● 3796 Fax: 850 ● 599 ● 3069

__________________________________________     ____________________________    ______________________         ___________
Last Name       First Name                                      Middle Name                    Jr., III, etc

Last five digits of SS#: ___  ___  ___ - ___  ___ - ____  ___  ____  ___     Date of Birth: ______/______/_______

Please complete this form and we appreciate your candid evaluation of the student based on the questions provided. All comments will be confidential and used solely for the purpose of determining eligibility for admission.

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I recommend this applicant □ Wholeheartedly □ Confidently □ With Reservation □ Do Not Recommend

Please tell us anything else you think we might want to know about this student. __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Signature: ____________________________________________________________________________________________
Print Name: ___________________________________________  Date:  ___________________________________
Title: __________________________________________________  E-mail:  __________________________________
Telephone: (____)_____________________________________  Fax: (____)________________________________
School Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________
School Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________

Street                                                                                         City, State, Zip

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