

**FEASIBILITY STUDY/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
ASSESSMENT FOR BAKERSFIELD CAMPUS
VETERINARY TECHNICIAN PROGRAM
DECEMBER 2013**

Prepared by Sue Smilie Janecek
Director of Research & Development

SUMMARY

- High number of potential employers in the city and county
- Limited local training options for certificate and associate degree in Kern County
- The Bakersfield Veterinary Community is very similar in size to the Fresno Veterinary Community where San Joaquin Valley College – Fresno offers a successful program

San Joaquin Valley College (SJVC) has researched the opportunity to offer training in the field of Veterinary Technology at all SJVC campus sites for the past seven months. After reviewing locations, the Bakersfield campus was selected as the best option to offer this program.

EXISTING COMPETITION IN BAKERSFIELD

There is currently only one institution that offers adult vocational education and training in the City of Bakersfield for veterinary technology.ⁱ The program at Bakersfield College is primarily focused on large farm animals and has limited training for technicians to work in a private veterinarian practice. The Bakersfield College training program consists of 17.5 total units and students graduate with a Certificate of Completion.ⁱⁱ If students want to finish an Associate Degree in Animal Science, they take additional courses that train them to work with livestock for dairy and ranch employment opportunities. There is no option for a full associate degree that specializes in Veterinary Technology.

The following table reviews the type of training, and training costs from the schools and colleges in Bakersfield.

Existing Programs in Bakersfield Geographic Area

Training Provider	Level of Training	Cost of Program
Bakersfield College	Certificate (in Veterinary Technology area)	\$46 per unit
	AS Degree in Animal Science	\$46 per unit

Bakersfield College – San Joaquin Valley College Program Comparison

Bakersfield College Registered Veterinary Technician Certificate Option	Units	San Joaquin Valley College – Veterinary Technician AS Degree Option	Units
Introduction to Veterinary Technology	2	Fundamentals of Animal Nursing	5
Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals	2	Anatomy and Physiology of Domestic Animals	5
Small Animal Diseases	1.5	Companion Animal Nursing	3
Large Animal Diseases	1.5	Farm Animal Nursing	3
Pharmacology for Veterinary Technicians	1.5	Introduction to Pharmacology	3
		Advanced Pharmacology	3
Surgical, Dental and Anesthesiology	1.5	Beginning Surgical Assisting A and B	5
Emergency Medicine, Surgery/Nursing Procedures for Veterinary Technicians	2	Advanced Surgical Procedures A and B	5
Caged Birds, Laboratory, and Exotic Animal Medicine	2	Exotic and Lab Animals	3
Radiology, Ultrasound, and Diagnostic Imaging for Veterinary Technology	1.5	Beginning Diagnostic Imaging	2
		Advanced Diagnostic Imaging	3
Clinical Pathway for Veterinary Technicians	2	Laboratory Procedures	5
		Veterinary Clinical Rotation	1
		Course Review and Essential Skills	2
		Externship A	4
		Externship B	1
	17.5		52

The Veterinary Technician program at SJVC prepares the graduate with a significant amount of additional training in hours and skills when compared to the program at Bakersfield College. According to the Employment Development Department (EDD), most employers of Veterinary Technicians expect the Associate of Science Degree for entry level employment in their practices. The program at SJVC offers the graduate the ability to sit for their Registered Veterinary Technician exam and become licensed by the State of California.ⁱⁱⁱ

EMPLOYMENT PREDICTIONS

Occupations for Veterinary Technicians - 2010-2020 Bakersfield – Metropolitan Service Area (Kern County)

Labor Market Research is performed by the State Employment Development Department in 10 year increments for each county or designated metropolitan service area. Data is not tracked within individual cities.

When researching employment options for the field of Veterinary Technology, the following two job titles are included for the 2010 – 2020 time frame: Veterinary Assistants/laboratory Animal Caretakers, and Veterinary Technologists and Technicians. The following table illustrates the SOC Code, the number of openings over a 10 year range, median hourly salary and level of education and training required for the job.^{iv}

Job Projections

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Total openings from 2010-2020	Median Hourly Salary	Entry Level Education	Work Experience
Veterinary Assistants/laboratory Animal Caretakers	31-9096	20	\$12.30	HS or equal, Short Term Training/OJT	None
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	29-2056	40	\$16.30	Associate Degree	None
Job Totals:		60			

The number of projected new positions in the field averages 6 new jobs per year. There are 63 employers in Kern County and EDD statistics for Fresno County (4 new jobs per year and 62 employers) are similar and SJVC – Fresno Veterinary Technology has an excellent placement history.^v SJVC - Fresno campus averages over 80% placement over the past five years. Having a strong (225 hours) clinical externship component in the program has led to many externship sites hiring graduates from the Fresno Campus.

HISTORY with VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

SJVC – Fresno Veterinary Technology Program Measures

Students who started attending SJVC – Fresno between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2011 in their Veterinary Technology Program graduated at a rate between 46% and 60% with an average over that period of 52%. The SJVC - Fresno placement rate for all graduates between July 1, 2008 and Jun 220 graduates in the Veterinary Technician program

remains high. Over 83% of graduates accepted positions directly related to their field of training.^{vi}

Graduation Rate of Students Started between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2011

PROGRAM	# Students	# Graduated	Rate
Veterinary Technology	364	191	52%

Placement Rate of Graduates between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2013

PROGRAM	# Grads	# Eligible^{vii}	# Placed	Rate
Veterinary Technology	221	214	178	83%

Available Externship Sites

The Fresno campus has 62 employers in their region, with 27 providing active clinical externship sites to satisfy their program requirements. The Bakersfield campus has 63 Veterinarian employers^{viii} in their region which should provide a solid opportunity to develop externships for a SJVC- Bakersfield program. According to their catalog, Bakersfield College does not assign clinical rotations their program. With no competition for clinical sites, the Bakersfield campus is able to establish a strong externship program in their region.

ⁱ <http://etpl.edd.ca.gov> and <http://nces.ed.gov>

ⁱⁱ Bakersfield College catalog 2012-2013 – www.bakersfieldcollege.edu

ⁱⁱⁱ SJVC catalog – 2012-2013 – pages 93 and 93

^{iv} www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov- Occupations for Veterinary Technicians, Assistants and Animal Caretakers 2010-2020 Kern County

^v www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov- Occupations for Veterinary Assistants and Animal Caretakers 2010-2020 for Fresno County

^{vi} CampusVue report – Placement Statistics report for Fresno Campus – July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2013

^{vii} Graduates are excluded as eligible for placement when they continue education, have a medical disability (temporary or permanent) or are in military service.

^{viii} EDD employers for Veterinary practices – occupations attached to the job title of Veterinary Technicians- www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov