ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS—VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

The field of Veterinary Technology is both intellectually and physically challenging. It requires agility and strength sufficient to move from room to room, lift and position patients, maneuver in small places, and perform clinical services. Students must possess gross and fine motor abilities as well as auditory, visual, and tactile acuity, which are required to assess health status and perform effective patient care. The Pierpont C & TC Veterinary Technology Program has the ethical responsibility of safety to the animals and to the public, to assure that its students can become fully competent Veterinary Technician professionals. It is essential for the student to understand and be able to meet the demands required to be a successful student in the VT Program and a graduate into the profession. All students are expected to meet the following nonacademic criteria upon entering the Veterinary Technology Program as well as throughout the entire 5 months of the Program. Students are obligated to notify the VT Faculty of any change in their ability to fulfil the following Essential Functions standards. A medical doctor's release form may be needed in order to continue to proceed through the program. See the list below for specific requirements by the Veterinary Technology Program.

OBSERVATION –

The student must be able to: • Use diagnostic equipment such as: microscope, thermometer, otoscope, refractometer, etc. • Distinguish variations in color, shapes, and textures of objects under a microscope • Observe and recognize changes in patients' mucous membrane color as well as other dermatologic changes • Observe gait and visual abnormalities in a given animal • Observe changes in physical status including: respiration, heart rate, skin turgor, oral health • Recognize and interpret non-verbal responses from the patient, including behavioral signs of aggression, fear, and pain • Receive, assess, and interpret verbal communication from patients, clients, fellow students, and staff • Utilize auditory and sensory perception sufficient to monitor and assess animal patient needs such as auscultation of heart and lungs, vocal stress/pain responses, and alarms/warning signals on animal monitoring equipment • Recognize auditory warnings from equipment, animals, and people of impending danger or injury • Perceive the natural or amplified human voice without lip reading to permit oral communication in a surgery room with all occupants wearing surgical masks • Perceive the origin of sound as needed to detect movement of large animals in a pen or corral • Feel to palpate pulses, palpate trachea, assist with physical exams, feel arteries and veins

COMMUNICATION -The student must be able to: • Recognize, interpret, and respond to non-verbal communications • Effectively articulate verbal and written information to patients, clients, fellow students, and staff in both academic and clinical settings • Receive, write, and interpret written communication in both academic and clinical settings • Read, write, speak, and report accurately and effectively in English • Follow verbal and written instructions to perform various assignments and tasks correctly and independently • Sensitively and effectively elicit and assess verbal and non-verbal information while engaging in communication with animal patients, clients, clinicians, faculty, and colleagues • Record in medical records and forms, clearly, accurately, and efficiently • Engage in client education information dissemination

MOTOR- The student must be able to: • Stoop, bend, twist, kneel, reach, and safely restrain different species of animals including large domestic animals, small companion animals, exotic animals, and laboratory animals • Stoop, bend, twist, kneel, squat, and reach above head, to lift and/or move small and large animals or equipment • Possess sufficient motor function, strength, and endurance with both

hands and arms as well as utilize digital fine motor skills to deliver animal patient care for varying lengths of time throughout the day • Possess manual dexterity to operate computers, adjust knobs on a variety of equipment, apply sterile gloves, utilize syringes, tubes and catheters, collect samples from animals, use hand-held instruments, perform routine laboratory work, administer patient medications, apply bandages, surgical assistance, etc. • Safely lift and carry up to 40 lbs. and balance, at times, animals more than 40 lbs. (up to 100 lbs. with assistance) • Stand for periods more than 1 hour • Stand or sit for sufficient periods of time to actively engage in academic, lab, and clinical activities • Walk for sustained periods of time for animal exercise • Restrain and care for patients safely on even or uneven surfaces that are both elevated and at floor level, such as: surgical tables, cage banks, cage stalls, clinic/barn floors • React to emergency situations rapidly and effectively • Climb stairs to respond quickly to an emergency on another floor when elevators are busy or inoperable • Have sustained contact with multiple species of animals- persons should not be allergic to any species of animal to the extent that would prohibit working within the Program or in a facility that has them • Be exposed to anesthesia agents, including gas anesthetics to induce and monitor general anesthesia in an animal patient • Be exposed to diagnostic radiology while restraining animals on table

COGNITIVE/BEHAVIORAL - The student must be able to: • Function in a structured environment within significant time constraints and be capable of making rapid decisions in urgent or unpredictable situations and reacting in a timely manner • Function safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful situations • Maintain composure and concentration while managing multiple tasks simultaneously as well as to prioritize tasks • Manage time, energy, and flexibility within heavy academic schedules and deadlines, with other academic, clinic, work, and home schedules • Possess a willingness to assist with and perform a wide variety of routine medical, surgical, and diagnostic procedures common to the veterinary setting; including humane euthanasia and handling of sick, injured, fractious, or aggressive animals • Be able to manage animal patients and exercise good judgment • Maintain cleanliness and personal hygiene consistent with close contact with others • Read, comprehend, and retain relevant information in textbooks, class presentations, clinical exercises medical records, and professional literature • Integrate, retain, and synthesize information to think critically and effectively troubleshoot as needed • Demonstrate emotional health needed to sustain professional behavior under physical and emotional stress • Ability to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes • Accept responsibility and accountability for one’s own actions • Acknowledge and respect individual values and opinions and exhibit concern for others • Exhibit honesty, integrity, and compassion • Ability to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally as part of the veterinary healthcare team to interact with animal patients and their client owners in an appropriate manner • Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural differences within academic, clinical, and community settings • Understand and follow the legal and ethical standards of the veterinary medical profession