Veterinary Assistant Program Syllabus

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Instructional Philosophy:
Every classroom has its own culture, all students are unique and need a stimulating educational environment where they can grow and be challenged physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. My role as a teacher is to assist my students in expressing and accepting themselves for who they are, as well as embrace the differences of others. Another critical aspect of being a teacher includes making the content being learned relevant and intriguing in order to activate student learning and to stay abreast of current learning trends and standards, as well as expectations from the workplace.

Course Description:
This course is designed to prepare students to enter the animal health care field. The program includes both theory and practical application of skills and concepts such as animal restraint, anatomy, physiology, medical terminology, animal husbandry, safety practices and disease processes. Students gain hands on experience in area clinics as well as the grooming facility here at the school. Students have the opportunity to earn credit hours to the Pierce College Veterinary Technician Program upon completion of this course with an above average level of understanding.

Course Content:
Students will be given challenging modern-world assignments, experiences, and projects typical of the veterinary field. Classroom activities will include reading, laboratory activities, research, projects, problem solving and critical thinking. This course is based on assignments, activities and projects typically seen in the field of Veterinary medicine. Students will apply academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. Students will be assessed based on projects,

individual completion of assignments, presentations, written reports, and tests of knowledge. Employability is also a big portion of this class, including responsibility, timeliness, leadership skills and accountability.

English/Language Arts: Students will gain the understanding of and ability to implement literacy conventions that are applicable to Veterinary Medicine. Through advanced note taking, technical writing, journaling, writing projects, annotations, creating instructional materials and advertising, the students will gain ELA skills and be able to implement them into their chosen field of Veterinary Medicine.

Leadership component of the Veterinary Assistant class:
The Veterinary Assistant program utilizes FFA as our leadership component. Participation in this club is not required, but we encourage and are hopeful that all Veterinary Assistant students will utilize this opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience in the field of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture.

Major Course Assignments and Projects:

Students will complete laboratory reports, written assignments, and research projects over course content. There will be quizzes periodically throughout the course, and potentially a final exam at the end of each unit.

Medical Terminology is also a large component of this class, with students having the opportunity to earn college credit for successfully completing it. There will be a cumulative exam over the medical terms we learn in class and passing this exam with an 80% or better is required for earning the college credit. All college requirements must be met for students to earn this credit.
The Veterinary Science class does utilize preserved specimens for dissection to further student knowledge of Anatomy and Physiology.
Students will have the opportunity to take part in an internship at the end of the school year, as long as all the requirements have been met throughout the year. Students must maintain a B or better in all aspects of the class all year and must sign a contract with the instructor and the facility in which they will be doing the internship and must meet all aspects of the contract to earn college credit for this internship.

Dog Wash:
The Veterinary Assistant class holds a weekly dog wash for community members. This allows our students to interact with unfamiliar animals just as they would in the work setting, and employ their grooming, restraint, and behavior/breed recognition techniques they have learned. The dog wash is on a donation system, and any money earned from this goes back to the class for things like supplies and activities. Participation in the weekly dog wash is not optional for students, it is a graded event, and students not participating will lose employability points for the day. Students are also responsible for wearing scrubs and closed toe shoes for dog wash, presenting themselves in a professional manner, and respecting the animals by not utilizing acrylic nails.

Assessments:
All assignments are designed to measure the level of knowledge the student has gained and whether students have met the standards for the course. Any unit tests or project assessed below the standard will be redone until the student has met higher credit. This course is intensive, interesting and sets high expectations for each student.

Policy for late or missing work:
Two days are allowed to make up work for each excused absence. Unexcused absences will not be able to make up missing work and extended absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis, with the success of the students being first and foremost.

Distribution of Grading Components:

*Employability: Each student learns Employability based on punctuality, attitude, conduct, and adherence to safety rules. Respecting others and the educational process is enforced in the Veterinary Assistant Program. The employability grade will consist of a weekly assessment of independent work ethic, time management and initiative, completion of entry tasks and use of professional language.

*Technical English Language Arts: Students will be assessed based on their understanding and implementation of the literacy conventions that apply to Veterinary Medicine, specifically journal entries, class discussion, technical writing, advertising of the program, medical terminology and writing projects.

*Skills/Lab Science: Students are assessed based on their knowledge and ability to implement procedures utilizing live animals, microscopes, medical instruments and other training materials.

Grading Policies:

GRADE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
A	93-100%	Consistently demonstrating an advanced level of quality with mastery in evaluating and applying Veterinary Medicine principles. All components of the work are mastered and complete.
B	85-92%	Consistently demonstrating an above average level of quality by analysis and application of Veterinary Medicine principles. Most of the components of the work are complete.
C	70-84%	Demonstrating a proficient level of quality with recognition of Veterinary Medicine principles. Some components of the work are completed.
D	62-70%	Demonstrating a basic level of quality with limited understanding of Veterinary Medicine principles. Several components of the work may be incomplete or of poor quality.

F	Below 62%	Demonstrating a below basic level of quality with little or no understanding or comprehending Veterinary Medicine principles. Many components of the work may be incomplete or poor.

Additional policies and Course Requirements

Students will be expected to wear scrubs and appropriate shoes (closed toe, rubber sole) anytime we are interacting with animals. We will be ordering scrubs as a class, and there is a fee of $30 to cover the cost of these scrubs. However, students are allowed to wear any appropriate scrubs to class, not only the ones we order. Scrubs will be required if a student participates in a clinical internship experience.

NMSC Expectations & Policies-Student Handbook

Students are expected to review and follow the school rules, procedures, and processes outlined in the NMSC student handbook. There is a three-step procedure for disciplinary action, which is the same steps that will be taken for improper electronic usage, outlined below.

Electronic Equipment

Personal equipment devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, IPods, PSP's, mp3 players, CD players can be disruptive to the educational process and are not permitted at school. **The only exception to the previous policy is if a teacher specifically grants permission for usage for educational purposes. Electronic devices should never interfere with instruction and classwork, and if they do the following process will occur:**

1. **Student will be asked to stop the action they are currently displaying.**
2. **Parent will be called home regarding the infraction and the device will be taken from the student and held in the office until the end of the school day.**
3. **Disciplinary action will be taken by administration.**

Chromebooks are provided for student use, and students are expected to use them in accordance with the Electronic Media and Communication Technology Policy found in the New Market Skills Center Handbook. If a student is abusing a Chromebook, the Chromebook will no longer be available for that student to use.

Safety Policy

Students will complete written safety tests as well as hands on safety tests. Students will be required to receive 100% on all assessments related to safety before taking part in the activity being addressed. These will include animal behavior, animal restraint and MSDS coverage for chemicals used in the class.
Students will not be allowed to participate in any events that include live animals, specifically the weekly dog wash, if these safety tests are not fully completed.

Please sign and return to instructor

I have read, understand, and agree to the class rules, grading and expectations outlined in this syllabus.

_____   _____   _____

Student name   Student Signature   Date

_____   _____

Parent/Guardian Signature   Date

Communication between parents and staff is extremely important for student success. Please complete the information below and indicate which type of contact you prefer.

Parent Cell # _____   Student Cell # _____

Parent Email _____

Student Email _____