Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources:

Animal Systems Snohomish High School Only

The Animal Systems Pathway is a great program for students who have an interest in the study and care of animals. The latest employment outlook report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that opportunities for new college graduates with expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and the environment will continue to grow. According to the Washington State Employment Security Department, the demand for veterinarians is expected to increase by 16% from 2018 to 2028. Students who complete at least two credits in this pathway will meet CTE graduation pathway requirements.

Students in this pathway will:

- Be able to meet two years of science credit requirements by taking Animal Biology and Advanced Animal Biology.
- Be able to participate in Future Farmers of America to practice their skills in working with and caring for animals.
- Be able to study for and independently take the Veterinary Technician Certification Exam through Texas A&M.
- Be prepared to work in careers directly out of high school, or to receive additional training at two- and four-year colleges.

What high-demand careers are related to an Animal Systems Pathway?

High-demand careers	Annual salary in Washington	Required training after high school	Schools offering degrees or certification
Animal caretaker (laboratory)	$36,000	High school diploma	Renton Technical College Pima Medical Institute – Renton Skagit Valley College
Animal trainer	$46,000	High school diploma	Walla Walla Community College Washington State University University of Washington
Veterinary technician	$44,000	Bachelor's Degree	Renton Technical College Pima Medical Institute – Renton Skagit Valley College
Natural sciences manager	$164,000	Bachelor's Degree	University of Washington Washington State University Western Washington University
Veterinarian	$106,000	Doctoral degree	University of Washington Washington State University

** Information is from 2020 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*

What courses are offered in the Animal Systems Pathway?

High school courses in this pathway	College credit offered			Leads to a certification?	Equivalencies offered to meet graduation requirements
	CTE dual credit	College in the High School	AP		
Animal Biology (1.0 credit)					1.0 biology credit
Advanced Animal Biology (1.0 credit)				Veterinary technician certificate	1.0 science credit

Animal Systems Pathway course sequence:

Course descriptions:

Animal Biology – This is a life laboratory science course that is designed around the scientific principles and concepts that drive living systems. Students will study the genetics, physiology, and anatomy of domestic animals. This course is designed to provide students a firm science foundation for college preparatory course work.

Advanced Animal Biology – This laboratory science course focuses on animal health, animal pathology, and animal production. Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills through laboratory work, scientific research, and assessment of classroom projects.

What club is offered to practice career-related skills and leadership?

Future Farmers of America is the CTE co-curricular opportunity (called a Career and Technical Student Organization) that is related to the Animal Systems Pathway. The Future Farmers of America (FFA) is a dynamic youth organization that fosters leadership and personal growth through agricultural education. In FFA, students partake in a wide range of experiential learning activities, including hands-on projects, leadership development events, and competitive experiences that promote agricultural awareness and proficiency. Members have the opportunity to raise animals, cultivate crops, engage in community service, and participate in career development events that span various agricultural disciplines. As FFA students advance through their educational journey, they acquire skills in communication, problem-solving, and strategic thinking, all of which equip them for success in both agricultural and non-agricultural careers. Beyond high school, FFA alumni often pursue careers in agriculture, agribusiness, animal science, environmental management, and related fields, contributing to sustainable food production and the well-being of rural communities and beyond.

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