

PARAVETERINARY CAREERS

VETERINARY NURSING

WHAT IS VETERINARY NURSING?

The Veterinary nurse is a member of a professional team that includes veterinarians. Veterinary nursing is recognised by the South African Veterinary Council as a paraveterinary profession and all qualified veterinary nurses are registered with the Veterinary Council. The Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (DipVetNurs) is offered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An achievement level of 4 (50-59%) is required in English, one Additional Language, Life Science, Physical Science, Mathematics, and Life Orientation, but last named subject is excluded from the calculation of Admission Point Score (APS). The required APS is 22.

SELECTION FOR ADMISSION

Selection is based on academic merit and the result of a personal interview (where applicable). Transformation in accordance with the policy of the University is taken into consideration during the selection process and will reflect national demographics and Government policy.

THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES ARE RECOGNISED:

- Those who completed Grade 12 and/or the UPFY (University of Pretoria Foundation Year) programme
- Those who have completed one or more years of tertiary education
- A limited number of foreign students
- Students who repeat the first year of study of the DVN programme

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

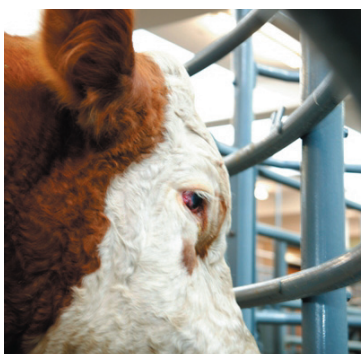
The diploma programme requires two years of full-time study at the Onderstepoort campus of the University of Pretoria. The language of tuition is English. The closing date for applications is 30 June.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Veterinary nursing opens up a wide range of rewarding and satisfying career opportunities. Wherever there is employment for a veterinarian there may also be a career opportunity for a veterinary nurse. Veterinary nursing needs a dedicated and motivated person with a special interest to work with animals and their owners. The veterinary nurse is expected to show a high degree of responsibility, organising skills, patience, and good human relations.

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE:

PRIVATE VETERINARY PRACTICE: the veterinary nurse assists with anaesthesia, intensive care, operating theatre management, radiography, laboratory analysis, animal patient care and nursing, disease prevention, etc; Employment within the Veterinary



Academic Hospital at the Faculty of Veterinary Science as well as in the pharmaceutical and animal food industries offers further opportunities; Animal welfare organisations, zoological gardens, game parks, organised agriculture, and research centres also offer gainful employment.

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY

CAREER INFORMATION

Veterinary technologists play an important role in the maintenance of animal health and productivity in South Africa. Their tasks consist of laboratory based diagnostic tests, identification and investigations to determine the cause of sickness or death of animals; they are involved in technological and field studies in research and working in conjunction with a professional team of researchers.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Senior Certificate or equivalent, with Mathematics, Physical Science and Biology, preferably with at least 40% at HG, or at least 60% at SG.

QUALIFICATIONS

NDip: Veterinary Technology
BTech: Veterinary Technology
MTech: Veterinary Technology
DTech: Veterinary Technology

FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT

Diagnostic work – Specimens of animal tissue such as blood and organs are subjected to a variety of tests to determine the cause of disease, absence of disease or death.

Research is mainly problem-orientated and embraces studies on the causes of animal disease, the methods of transmission, specific effects on normal physiological processes and the most effective ways of preventing or combating diseases in animals.

The preparation of veterinary biological products, such as antigens for diagnostic tests and vaccines for the prevention of disease, is largely the task of the veterinary technologist.

Quality control – Vaccines, veterinary products and pharmaceuticals for the use in animals and diagnostic test kits have to undergo strict quality control tests.

Laboratory material – The breeding of, and caring for laboratory animals form an integral part of research and quality control.

Animal improvement – Cattle-breeding stations, Wildlife Conservation and the Animal Improvement Institute are doing research on semen collection and storage, the improvement of indigenous and exotic livestock and in vitro fertilisation.

Wildlife – The National Parks Board and Wildlife Breeding Research Stations are responsible for the breeding of and caring, exporting and movement-control of South Africa's wildlife.