**Continuous Improvement Plan Report to be Completed in Years 2/4 of Program Review Cycle**

**Date: 1/21/2025 Name of Program: Veterinary Technology**

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**Table 1: CIP Student/Program Level Learning Outcomes Targeted for Improvement, Description of Assessment Measure(s) and Targets Levels of Success Table (focus on at least one student/program level outcome for the next two years)**

**Description of Fields in CIP Table 1:**

**A. Student Learning Outcome(s)** -Results expected in this program (e.g., students will be able to compare/contrast conflict and structural functional theories). Outcomes must be quantifiable and measurable.

**B. Assessment Measure(s)** –Assessmentinstrument(s)/process(es) used to measure results (e.g., embedded test questions 6 & 7 from final exam)

**C. Targeted Level(s) of Success** -Level of success expected (e.g., X% of students will score at least Y on the indicated assessment)

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| 1. **Student/Program Level Learning Outcome(s)**

**Targeted for Improvement** (e.g., “Students will be able to…”) | **B. Description of Assessment Measure(s)**(Assessment instrument(s)/process(es) used to measure results - Include course in which assessment will be given) | **C. Targeted Level(s) of Success**(e.g., X% of students will score at least Y on the indicated assessment.) |
| PLO #1Critically analyze appropriate pharmacology methods and usage within the scope of a Licensed Veterinary Technician. | Scoring of the Domains 1. Pharmacy and Pharmacology and 9. Pain Management/Analgesia of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America. | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring 70% or higher on the combined average of these sections.  |
| PLO #2Utilize appropriate diagnostic methods and accurately interpret results of tests within the scope of a Licensed Veterinary Technician. | Scoring of the Domains 4. Laboratory Procedures and 6. Diagnostic Imaging of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America. | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring 70% or higher on the combined average of these sections. |
| PLO #3Demonstrate an understanding of general anesthesia and surgical nursing techniques within the scope of a Licensed Veterinary Technician. | Scoring of the Domains 2. Surgical Nursing and 7. Anesthesia of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America. | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring 70% or higher on the combined average of these sections. |
| PLO #4Illustrate excellent communication skills and professionalism. | Average of the total score from the Employer Evaluation of Student form completed by supervisors during the Cooperative Education II course, plus scoring of Domain 10. Communication and Veterinary Professional Support Services of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America.  | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the combined average of these items. |
| PLO #5Determine and perform nursing care and dental care for veterinary patients.  | Scoring of the final lab practical exam in VTHT 2439 Veterinary Nursing Care course. | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the exam. |

**Table 2. CIP Student Learning Outcomes 1–3 (focus on at least one for the next two years)**

**Description of Fields in CIP Table 2:**

**A. Student/Program Level Learning Outcome(s) Targeted for Improvement** -Results expected in this program (e.g., Students will be able to compare/contrast conflict and structural functional theories). Outcomes must be quantifiable and measurable.

**B. Assessment Measure(s)** – **Assessment** Instrument(s)/process(es) used to measure results (e.g., embedded test questions 6 & 7 from final exam)

**C. Targeted Level(s) of Success** -Level of success expected (e.g., X% of students will earn a score of Y or greater on the embedded test questions)

**D. Description of Action Plan to Improve Learning** -Describe action(s) to be taken to improve student attainment of the indicated student/program level outcome. What will you do?

**E. Summary of Results/Data** - Summarize the information and data collected in year 1/3 when action plan was implemented.

**F. Findings** - Explain how the information and data has impacted the expected student learning outcome.

**G. Implementation of Findings** – Describe how you have used or will use your findings and analysis of the data to make improvements.

**Student/Program Level Learning Outcome Targeted for Improvement #1**

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| 1. **Student/Program Level Learning Outcome Targeted for Improvement #1:**

PLO #5: Determine and perform nursing care and dental care for veterinary patients.  |
| 1. **Assessment Measure(s):**

Scoring of the final lab practical exam in VTHT 2439 Veterinary Nursing Care course. | 1. **Targeted Level(s) of Success:**

The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the exam. |
| 1. **Description of Action Plan to Improve Learning:**

The exam covers general anesthesia, dentistry, bandaging, and blood transfusion medicine. To prepare for this exam, students have two lab periods in which blood transfusion medicine is practiced. Students will draw blood from live cats and dogs and perform both cross-matching and blood typing. Students will be graded on their ability to properly perform venipuncture and produce accurate results to determine their patient’s blood type and compatibility with a blood donor. Moving forward, we plan to introduce cross-matching and blood typing two semesters earlier, in the Clinical Pathology II course so that students have a longer time to become comfortable with the material. Students will also have two bandaging labs; during the first lab students will place bandages and splints on models and during the second lab students will bandage live animals. Students will be graded on their ability to perform proper bandaging techniques of the limbs, head, and trunk.Students will also be assigned case scenarios based around a live animal patient presenting for dental prophylaxis, which requires general anesthesia. The instructor(s) will demonstrate all steps required to properly anesthetize the patient and perform Comprehensive Oral Health Assessment and Treatment (COHAT), using manual techniques and machines. Previously, students completed one live animal patients to anesthetize and perform COHAT. Moving forward, students will complete two COHAT procedures. Dentistry: on an alternate animal, students will be assigned a live patient and will be graded on their ability to perform a detailed oral examination, use manual techniques and machines to perform COHAT, properly complete dentistry medical records, and demonstrate client education regarding veterinary oral home care. Anesthesia: students will be graded on their ability to properly obtain owner consent, compile a detailed patient history, accurate physical exam findings (weight, temperature, pulse, respiratory rate), collect accurate diagnostic data (complete blood count, blood chemistry, urinalysis), and verbally present all findings to an overseeing veterinarian or licensed veterinary technician. Students will also be graded on their ability to administer anesthetic agents, perform IV catheterization, provide fluid therapy, monitor vitals, recover the live patient, and properly discuss discharge instructions with the animal’s owner. Students will practice these skills over four to eight laboratory sessions prior to the practical exam. The exam will cover the following topics: identification of dental instruments used for COHAT, anatomy of the oral cavity, interpretation of medical records, anesthetic agents, use of anesthetic monitoring equipment and interpretation of patient vitals (normal vs. abnormal), interpretation of physical exam and diagnostic test results, identification of supplies used in intravenous catheterization, venipuncture and fluid therapy, identification of bandaging equipment and materials, and interpretation of blood transfusion diagnostic results. |
| 1. **Summary of Results/Data:**

Nineteen students have completed VTHT 2439 over the past three academic years and 78.9% exceeded a 70% score on the final lab practical. |
| 1. **Findings:**

Unmet: The score improved by 0.3%. With our small class sizes, it is not surprising that this goal was unmet. It only took four students scoring below 70% to drop our results under the threshold. The program is still very successful, as three of the four students took and passed the national board examination after graduation. |
| 1. **Implementation of Findings:**

Discussion centered around how difficult it is to have meaningful data with a small, new program. Three-years of data analyzed here is only 19 students. The team felt strongly that our Action Plan is thorough and requires more cohorts of students completing our curriculum in addition to better screening of incoming applicants. The team still believes that students lose motivation during their final semester, especially after Spring Break, and we continue to work with our Workforce Coach to improve student engagement in their course. We have already doubled the number of live animal laboratories for Spring 2025 and will implement the Clinical Pathology II changes Summer 2025.  |

**Student/Program Level Learning Outcome Targeted for Improvement #2**

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| 1. **Student/Program Level Learning Outcome Targeted for Improvement #2:**

PLO #4: Illustrate excellent communication skills and professionalism. |
| 1. **Assessment Measure(s):**

Average of the total score from the Employer Evaluation of Student form completed by supervisors during the Cooperative Education II course, plus scoring of Domain 10. Communication and Veterinary Professional Support Services of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America. | 1. **Targeted Level(s) of Success:**

The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the combined average of these items. |
| 1. **Description of Action Plan to Improve Learning:**

Each semester, a presentation (solo or group project) will be incorporated into one course (1-Introduction to Veterinary Technology, 2-Canine/Feline Management, 3-Cooperative Education I, 4-Food Animal Clinical Management, and 5-Equine Clinical Management). The intention is for students to practice their communication skills in an intentional manner each semester. A service project is also held in the Clinical Pathology I course that requires students to reach out to a shelter and speak with them about ways to volunteer. Both Anesthesia and Surgical Assistance and Veterinary Nursing Care courses require students to speak with an owner under the supervision of an instructor to intake or discharge a patient. Finally, Cooperative Education II has modules on interviewing skills, which includes a mock interview with a veterinary professional in the DFW area. Both Cooperative Education courses (semesters 3 and 5), contain an evaluation of the student from the external clinical site partner. This allows students to receive direct feedback on their communication strengths and areas for improvement. The second Cooperative course evaluations are used in the assessment of this PLO. The new Communications module in the VTNE is also used for this assessment.  |
| 1. **Summary of Results/Data:**

Five students have completed VTHT 2280 over the past academic year and 80.0% exceeded a 70% score on the combined average of the Employer Evaluation of Student form for Cooperative Education II and Domain 10 of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). |
| 1. **Findings:**

Unmet: 80.0% of the students scored >70% on the combined average of the Employer Evaluation of Student form for Cooperative Education II and Domain 10 of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). |
| 1. **Implementation of Findings:**

It only took one of the five students to not meet the goal of 85%. This PLO was selected because it is a new section on the national board exam. We do not plan to make any changes until a second cohort of data is collected and we can be more data driven in our approach. Additionally, there will be discussion about veterinary technician communication skills at the annual conference in July and the team is looking forward to hearing what other programs have found successful before making any changes. |

**Program Assessment Data Report**

 **Program:\_Veterinary Technology\_\_ Terms Data Collected: \_Spring 2022-2024 and Spring 2024, Respectively\_\_\_**

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| Program-Level Learning Outcome- (From Assessment Plan) | Assessment Measure(s) and Where Implemented in Curriculum – (From Assessment Plan) | Target Outcome(s)- Level of Success Expected – (From Assessment Plan) | Assessment Results – (Provide data in a form related to targeted levels of success to left. Indicate if targeted level of success was met, partially met, or not met.) |
| PLO #5: Determine and perform nursing care and dental care for veterinary patients.  | Scoring of the final lab practical exam in VTHT 2439 Veterinary Nursing Care course. | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the exam. | Unmet78.9% of students scored >70% on the VTHT 2439 Veterinary Nursing Care Final Practical Exam.  |
| PLO #4Illustrate excellent communication skills and professionalism. | Average of the total score from the Employer Evaluation of Student form completed by supervisors during the Cooperative Education II course, plus scoring of Domain 10. Communication and Veterinary Professional Support Services of the VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION (VTNE). The VTNE is the standardized exam for Veterinary Technicians throughout North America.  | The expected success level is set at 85% of students scoring a 70% or higher on the combined average of these items. | Unmet80.0% of the students scored >70% on the combined average of the Employer Evaluation of Student form for Cooperative Education II and Domain 10 of the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).  |