



High School Veterinary Science Certificate Program

The Veterinary Science Certificate Program is intended for high school students interested in becoming a veterinary assistant and pursuing a career in clinical, one health, or laboratory science fields of veterinary medicine. To complete this program, students will complete: 1) a standardized curriculum and 2) an apprenticeship in their career track.

1. **Curriculum:** Students complete a teacher-assisted course of instruction approved by the [Texas Education Agency](#) in Veterinary Medical Applications. The course is taught by agricultural science teachers. Interested students will earn 1 course credit in career and technology. The [Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills](#) for this course is published on the TEA website.

Print Resources: The veterinary science curriculum resources include a basic/core curriculum and three career tracks in clinical, one health, and laboratory sciences and technology.

- Clinical Track: [Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant](#) by Floron C. Faries, Jr. This book contains 75 basic/core lessons and 25 lessons in clinical science and technology.
- **One Health Track:** [One Health Science & Technology](#) by Heather L. Simmons. This book contains 25 lessons in one health science and technology.
- Laboratory Track: [Laboratory Science & Technology](#) by Heather L. Simmons. This book will contain 25 lessons in laboratory science and technology. Available winter 2013.

These books may be purchase through the [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bookstore](#) and are showcased on the Extension Veterinary Medicine website under Curriculum Resources – Print Resources.

New Online Resources: The veterinary science curriculum resources are available online through [Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Conference Services](#).

- Enrollment instructions and course descriptions are available on the [Extension Veterinary Medicine](#) website under Curriculum Resources - [Web-Based Resources](#).

Availability

- [Teacher Resources for Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant](#) (Available)
- Teacher Assisted Program for Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant (December 1, 2012)
- Independent Study Program for Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant, Independent-Study Curriculum (January 1, 2013)
- Continuing Education Program for Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant (March 1, 2013)

2. **Apprenticeship:** Students must complete a minimum of 500 (hands-on) skills hours in a clinical, one health, or laboratory track under the supervision of a veterinarian or registered veterinary technician.

Completion of Program

Students who complete the program will earn a Completion of Program Certificate with the title of Veterinary Assistant. Students must complete the curriculum of 100 lessons and 50 activities and the apprenticeship of 500 skills hours. [Certificate templates](#) are available on the Extension Veterinary Medicine website under Completion of Program.

Other Resources – Extension Veterinary Medicine Website

- [PowerPoint slides, questions & activity sheets](#) for all 100 lessons covered in the *Veterinary Science: Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant*.
- [Grade sheets](#) for recording grades to answers of questions.
- [Log sheets](#) for tracking skills hours in apprenticeship.
- Audio recordings of the lessons are available through [Texas AgriLife Extension Service Centra Campus](#). [Instructions](#) are provided to search for and playback.

CVA Certification Process - Texas Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA)

Upon completion of the program, curriculum and clinical apprenticeship, students become eligible for state certification by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, as a Certified Veterinary Assistant, Level I, in clinical track.

- Application for the certification process is outlined on the [TVMA website](#).
- [Policies and Guidelines Manual](#)
- [Application & Checklist](#) (7 pages). All 78 clinical skills listed on the checklist must be validated by the veterinarian or registered veterinary technician. A student is processed as a high school applicant. The exam is administered by the teacher, school administrator, or veterinarian.

Contact Information

Dr. Floron (Buddy) C. Faries, Jr., is available to assist high schools in the development/implementation of this career-oriented, job-trained program for the high school students interested in a career as a veterinary paraprofessional.

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References

- Texas Education Agency: <http://www.tea.state.tx.us>
- AgriLife Bookstore: <https://agrilifebookstore.org/>
- Extension Veterinary Medicine: <http://aevm.tamu.edu>
- Extension Conference Services: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>
- Texas Veterinary Medical Association: <http://www.tvma.org>