



Animal Systems is a pathway within the **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster**. A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. There are 16 Career Clusters.

Career clusters link what students learn in school with the knowledge and skills they need for success in college and careers. The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster prepares learners for careers in the planning, implementation, production, management, processing, and/or marketing of agricultural commodities and services.

There are seven pathways in this cluster:

- Agribusiness Systems
- Animal Systems
- Environmental Service Systems
- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Power, Structural, and Technical Systems
- Natural Resources Systems

Employment Outlook

The job outlook for **Veterinary Technologists** is good. Nationally, the number of jobs for veterinary technologists and technicians is expected to increase much faster than average through the year 2012. The number of pets people own is expected to grow, and pet owners are expected to increase their use of veterinary services. Graduates of training programs in veterinary technology have the best prospects for a job (Career Information System, 2006). Nationally, salaries for vet techs range from \$17,700 to \$35,610 per year (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-2007).

Using this brochure

Inside you will find a **career pathway model** that has lots of helpful information. The model is an example of the types of courses and extended learning experiences that are important for the **Animal Systems Career Pathway**. Use this model to plan your course schedule, educational experiences, and career choices.

At the top of the model, you will find **career goals** with the corresponding **O*NET code**. The O*NET code is an official classification of jobs and can be used to locate career-related information. Your teacher, counselor, or media center should be able to help you locate further information.

The upper left side of the model highlights the **core courses and career-related electives** in high school that will help prepare you for your career goal. This model is based upon the Recommended High School Graduation Plan and can easily be adapted for the Distinguished Achievement High School Graduation Plan.

The upper right side of the model highlights examples of **extended learning experiences** that can enhance your knowledge and skills for your career goal. You will find examples of curricular activities, such as participation in Career and Technology Student Organizations like FFA, work-based learning experiences, service learning activities, and extracurricular activities.

The lower left side of the model indicates **industry licensures/certifications** and **on-the-job training experiences** that are available while still in high school. This section also highlights the various levels of **postsecondary education** and examples of **career options** available to you once you have completed that level of education and training.

The lower right side of the model contains examples of **professional associations** available for animal systems professionals. Many of these organizations allow preprofessional membership while enrolled in a postsecondary program. Most organizations have websites which can be easily located by entering the organization name in available search engines.



AchieveTexas



Thinking about a career in Veterinary Technology?

This career pathway may be for you! Veterinary technologists and technicians perform various animal healthcare duties to help veterinarians. Vet Techs are often described as an "extra set of hands" for veterinarians (Career Information System, 2006). Look inside to see the suggested coursework and learning opportunities that will prepare you for an exciting and rewarding career.



Animal Systems

Career Goal (O*NET Code): Veterinarian (29-1131), Veterinary Technician (29-2056), Veterinary Assistant (31-9096)

SUGGESTED COURSEWORK

High School	9th	Core Courses:	English I Algebra I Biology	World Geography Languages other than English I Health/PE or Equivalent	
		Career-Related Electives:	Introduction to World Agricultural Science and Technology AND Applied Agricultural Science and Technology		
	10th	Core Courses:	English II Geometry Chemistry	World History Languages other than English II Technology Applications	
		Career-Related Electives:	Animal Science AND Introduction to Biotechnology or Canine Science or Introduction to Veterinary Assistant Technology		
	11th	Core Courses:	English III Algebra II Physics	United States History Communication Applications PE or Equivalent	
		Career-Related Electives:	Advanced Animal Science AND Equine Science or Veterinary Medical Assistant or Career Preparation*		
	12th	Core Courses:	English IV AP Statistics Anatomy and Physiology of Human Systems	Government/Economics Fine Arts Psychology/Sociology	
		Career-Related Electives:	Veterinary Medical Assistant or Career Preparation*		
		On-the-Job Training	Ranch Employee	NRCS Employee	Veterinary Clinic Employee
		Certificates	Artificial Insemination Veterinary Technician NOTE: Students may earn all or part of these certificates as part of the high school experience.		
	Postsecondary	Associate's Degrees	Registered Veterinary Technician Veterinary Laboratory Technician	Tissue Culture Technician Biochemistry Technician	
		Bachelor's Degrees	Animal Science Biochemistry Equine Studies	Biomedical Science Microbiology Histotechnologist	
Graduate Degrees		Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Anatomy Veterinary Pathology	Companion Animal Specialization Laboratory Animal Specialization Equine Practitioner		

* May substitute for the required credit for Physical Education
 ** Satisfies the required credit for Technology Applications
 *** May substitute for the required credit for Health Education

Students should take Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), dual credit, or Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) statewide-articulated courses, if possible.

