FOOTHILL COLLEGE
INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH & PLANNING

DATE:	November 8, 2021
TO:	Lisa Eshman, Faculty, Veterinary Technology Elaine Kuo, College Researcher
FROM:	Wendy Lee, Research Analyst
RE:	Vet Tech Alumni and Employer Surveys, 2020

Overview

Recent graduates, one-year, and three-year alumni of the Veterinary Technology (VT) program were surveyed to access their current employment and satisfaction with the program. Employers affiliated with the VT program were also surveyed to obtain their satisfaction with program graduates. Of graduates, alumni, and employers surveyed, (18) recent graduates, (18) one-year alumni, (15) three-year alumni, and (25) employers responded.

Overall Highlights

Highlights from recent graduates [Y0], one-year alumni [Y1], three-year alumni [Y3], and employers of graduates from Foothill's veterinary technology program [Employers] listed below.

- How well Foothill's program prepared them for a career in veterinary technology, and if employers believed Foothill graduates possessed good basic knowledge and clinical skills.
  - "Extremely Well" (39% Y0, 28% Y1, 53% Y3)
  - "Very Well" (56% Y0, 33% Y1, 40% Y3)
  - 92% of employers indicated that Foothill graduates generally possess good basic knowledge and clinical skills.
- Across the four groups surveyed, trends in the best and least prepared skills indicated by respondents emerged.
  - Best prepared skills
    - Anesthesia (19% Y0, 11%, Y1, 16% Y3, 11% Employers)
    - Basic Clinical Skills (13% Y0, 20% Y1, 16% Y3, 5% Employers)
    - Medical Nursing (10% Y0, 9% Y1, 15% Y3, 5% Employers)
  - Least prepared skills
    - Pharmacy and Pharmacology (24% Y0, 19% Y1, 13% Y3, 6% Employers)
    - Diagnostic imaging (35% Y0, 7% Y1, 33% Y3, 12% Employers)
    - Office and Supply Procedures (12% Y0, 3% Y1, 15% Y3, 3% Employers)
    - Respondents indicating a career as a veterinary technician related job as their primary occupation (72% Y1, 93% Y3)
    - "Yes," respondents would recommend Foothill's program (94% Y0, 78% Y1, 100% Y3)

- 92% of employers indicated “Yes” when asked if they would hire graduates of Foothill’s veterinary technology program, with 8% indicating “Maybe.” 56% explained their responses.
  - *Foothill College produces the most well rounded and more prepared technicians compared to other programs.*
  - *Foothill students have a great base of knowledge, more commitment to the profession and a good base of skills!*
  - *Foothill College graduates are taught clinical skills as well as soft skills. Their knowledge base is excellent.*
- Suggestions for improvement from alumni
    - Incorporate more hands-on or real-life scenario practice (internships, etc.)
        - 31% Y0
        - 20% Y1
        - 15% Y3
        - 12% Employer
    - Provide more emotional support
        - 30% Y1
        - 15% Y3

Graduating Students Year 0 Highlights

- (18) recent graduates completed the graduating student survey
- 56% (10) of respondents indicate that Foothill's veterinary technology program prepared them "Very Well" and 39% (7) indicating "Extremely Well" for a veterinary technology career.
- "Anesthesia" (19%) "Basic Clinical Skills" (13%) and "Exam Room Procedures" (13%) are areas the students feel they are best prepared for by the veterinary technology program
- "Pharmacy and Pharmacology" (24%) "Diagnostic Imaging" (22%) and "Emergency Medicine" (12%) are the areas students feel they are least prepared by the program.
- 78% of the graduating students are now employed full time following gradation
- 94% of the students recommend Foothill veterinary technology program to others:
  - *100% would recommend this program. I was never expecting the quality of education, dedication / mentorship from instructors, and how much fun I would have through this program. I loved Foothill vet tech, it prepared me for my career more than I could have ever asked for.*
  - *I feel that the Foothill Vet Tech program prepares students by inculcating discipline and being able to work under pressure. This program prepares you well in the core sciences. The hands-on skills are mainly obtained at your internship site. The internship program at foothill sets you up for success and opens doors to promising job opportunities in the future. I started as a non-paid intern at my current job. I am now hired full time with benefits.*
  - *I feel that this is the best program to prepare entering RVTs into the field because all the classes and instructors are relevant in the field and have so much experience. While the hands in skills come in time, the knowledge base behind the job is very thorough and prepared you to answer the hard questions and think critically through any situation.*
- 67% (12) of respondents gave comments/suggestions for improving the program:
  - 25% (3) respondents ask for difficult courses such as Diseases and Pharmacology to be split into two quarters.
  - 50% (6) respondents asks for more hands-on opportunities, real-life scenario practices, and for internship to begin early
  - 25% (3) respondents specifically mentioned the pharmacology course, that it should be divided into two quarters and for more projects and activities be provided.

Alumni Year 1 Highlights

- (18) Year 1 alumni graduates completed the graduating student survey.
- 72% (13) are currently employed at a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.
- 28% (5) of the graduates are working as a RVT. 56% left this field blank.
- 61% (11) of the respondents are currently holding full-time positions. 11% (2) are holding part-time positions.
- 50% (9) of the graduates have been holding their current position for at least a year
- 61% (11) are working in California. 73% (8) of these respondents work in one of the counties located in the Bay Area.
- "Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet" 45% (9) was the most common description of respondents' current practice.
- 33% (6) indicated being "Very Well" prepared for a career in veterinary technology by the program, with 28% (5) indicating "Extremely well."
- "Basic Clinical Skills" (20%; 9), "Treatment Room Procedures" (16%; 7), and "Anesthesia" (11%; 5) were the top three areas respondents indicated they were best prepared for in their career as a veterinary technician.
- "Pharmacology," (19%; 6) "Emergency Medicine," (16%; 5) "Clinical pathology," (16%; 5) and "Office and Hospital Procedures" (16%) were the areas respondents indicated they felt least prepared for in their career as a veterinary technician.
- 28% (5) of the respondents indicate that they are making $15-$20 per hour in their current position. 22% (4) of the respondents are making $20-$25 per hour.
- "Medical or Hospitalization Plan" (17%; 11), "Pension/Retirement/401K" (14%; 9), and "Paid Sick Leave" (14%; 9) are the top three benefits included by the respondents employment
- 11% (2) of the respondents volunteered in a veterinary technician-related position
- 78% (14) graduates indicated that they would recommend Foothill's veterinary technology program to others:
  - *By far the best program compared to RVTs who have graduated from other schools.*
  - *I feel that the information learned, the hands on experience in and outside the classroom, and the individual help student can receive after hours is extremely helpful and helps everyone to succeed.*
  - *I would recommend it because the faculty is very thorough with explaining things and drilling the information into our heads. I come across people who used online schools or other tech programs that don't seem as knowledgeable about a lot of topics we learned in school.*
- 50% (9) respondents submitted ideas for improving the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a veterinary technician:
  - 33% (3) respondents ask for more awareness or support in terms of mental and emotional health from the teachers and the staff.
  - 22% (2) respondents asks for more hands on experience

Alumni Year 3 Highlights

- (15) Year 3 alumni graduates completed the graduating student survey.
- 93% (14) are currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as their primary occupation.
- 39% (5) of the graduates hold the position as a RVT. 23% (3) work as a Registered Veterinary Technician
- 73% (11) of the respondents work full-time. 20% (3) works part-time.
- 67% (10) have held their current position for more than two years. 27% (4) have held their current position for less than two years.
- 73% (11) of the graduates are working in California. 82% (9) of these respondents work in one of the counties located in the Bay Area.
- 53% (9) "Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet" is the most common description of respondents' current practice.
- 93% (14) indicated being "Extremely well" and "Very well" prepared by Foothill's program.
- "Anesthesia" (16%; 9), "Basic clinical skills" (16%; 9), and "Medical nursing" (15%; 8) were the main areas respondents felt best prepared in their career by Foothill's program.
- "Emergency medicine" (18%; 7), "Dentistry" (15%; 6), "Pharmacy and Pharmacology" (13%; 5), and "Office and Hospital Procedures" (13%; 5) were the main areas respondents felt least prepared in their career by Foothill's program.
- The majority (53%) of respondents indicated making $20-$25 per hour at the current practice.
- "Paid Sick Leave" (14%; 12), "Paid Vacation" (14%; 12), "Medical or Hospitalization Plan" (13%; 11), "Pension/Retirement/401K" (13%; 11), "Professional License Feeds or Dues Paid" (13%; 11), and "Continuing Education Paid" (13%; 11) are the top benefits included by the respondents employment
- 13% of the graduates volunteered at a veterinary technician-related position.
- 100% of all graduates indicated that they would recommend Foothill's veterinary technician program to others:
  - *I feel like the Foothill VT program gave me more information than necessary (which is great!) to excel in the field. I definitely feel like I was taught more, and held to higher standards than my colleagues from other institutions. The program was actually fun and engaging.*
  - *While working in the field I have found that there are things taught at FH that students coming from other programs don't seem to grasp coming out the VT-school gate. The hands on experience I obtained and courses dedicated to each aspect of the field are beyond beneficial. I wholly recommend it to anyone I meet who is interested.*
  - *Foothill gave me a great foundation for going into this field. I had no prior experience and the combination of the program and clinical work really helped me develop my skills and grow my confidence.*
  - *Prepares you for the skills you will be using in the field, and foothill has good connections and reputation to get you a job afterwards*
- (6) respondents submitted ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a veterinary technician:
  - 33% (2) respondents ask for more support in emphasizing the hardships of the job that can lead to burn out, and how to recognize and handle a toxic work environment.
  - 33% (2) respondents emphasized more hands on skill practice and instilling more skills related to anesthesia and dentistry

Employer Highlights

- (25) employers completed the veterinary technology program employer survey
- 100% of the respondents indicated their practice is located in the Bay Area
- 58% (18) "Small Animal Dog and/or Cat Exclusive" and 23% "Other" are the most common descriptions of respondents' current practices.
- "Medical Nursing" (15%; 11), "Basic Clinical Skills" (15%; 10), "Anesthesia" (11%; 8), and "Basic Sciences" (11%; 8) are the main areas where employers indicate Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates.
- "Dentistry" (18%; 8), "Surgical Nursing" (16%; 7), "Anesthesia" (11%; 5), and "Others" (11%; 5) are the main areas where employers indicate Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are least prepared compared to other program graduates.
- 92% of the employers indicated they would hire another Foothill College's veterinary technology graduate:
  - *Foothill College graduates are taught clinical skills as well as soft skills. Their knowledge base is excellent.*
  - *Foothill College produces the most well rounded and more prepared technicians compared to other programs.*
  - *Foothill students develop a good base of knowledge and they are prepared to be immediately productive in a clinical setting.*
  - *I've hired a number of Foothill grads and have been impressed by all of them*
- 44% (11) of the employers had a starting hourly wage of $15-$20 per hour for veterinary technicians. 44% (11) of the employers had a starting hourly wage of $20-$25 per hour.
- 94% (16) indicated that Foothill graduates generally possess good basic knowledge and clinical skills.
- "Communication Skill." (33%; 25), "Interpersonal Relationships" (26%; 20), and "Self-Awareness" (18%; 14) was characteristic indicated by employers as the preferred soft skills when hiring new veterinary technicians.
- (6) Respondents gave open-ended responses to further improve Foothill's program
  - 50% (3) employers asked for the students to gain more hands on experience such as having them start internships sooner, be given more opportunities in working with animals for logistics like blood and catheters, and advise them to gain clinical experience prior to entering the program.
  - 33% (2) employers made an interesting note to provide additional training in areas such as anesthesia and communications. Some of the interns they interviewed had no interpersonal skills. Additional training in anesthesia through more wet lab time with close supervision and guidance is also suggested.

Graduating Students Year 0

Program Preparedness

Graduating students were asked to indicate how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology. 56% (10) of respondents indicated they had been "Very well" prepared, 39% (7) indicated "Extremely well", 6% (1) indicated "Somewhat well.".

How Prepared	#	%
Very well	10	56%
Extremely well	7	39%
Somewhat well	1	6%
No Response	0	0%
Total	18	100%

Best Prepared Skills

Graduating students of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas that they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. The top three skills that respondents indicated were Anesthesia (19%), Exam Room procedures (13%), and Basic Clinical Skills (13%).[1]

Best Prepared Skills	#	%
Anesthesia	14	19%
Exam room procedures	9	13%
Basic clinical skills	9	13%
Medical nursing	7	10%
Surgical nursing	6	8%
Treatment room procedures	5	7%
Basic sciences	4	6%
Animal diseases and public health	3	4%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	3	4%
Emergency medicine	3	4%
Clinical pathology	3	4%
Dentistry	3	4%
Diagnostic imaging	2	3%
Office and hospital procedures	1	1%
Total	72	100%

[1] This table does not represent the total (18) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Least Prepared Skills

Graduating students of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas that they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. The top three skills that respondents indicated were Pharmacy and Pharmacology (24%), Diagnostic Imaging (22%), and Dentistry (12%).[2]

Least Prepared Skills	#	%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	12	24%
Diagnostic imaging	11	22%
Dentistry	6	12%
Office and hospital procedures	4	8%
Emergency medicine	4	8%
Clinical pathology	3	6%
Surgical nursing	3	6%
Anesthesia	2	4%
(blank)	1	2%
Treatment room procedures	1	2%
Basic clinical skills	1	2%
Other	1	2%
Large animal and exotics	1	2%
Total	50	100%

Employment Status

Graduating students surveyed indicated their current employment status following graduation from Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program. 78% (14) of respondents indicated they were employed and working full time, 11% (2) employed part-time, and 6% (1) are still looking for employment.

Employment Status	#	%
Employed full-time	14	78%
Employed part-time	2	11%
Other	1	6%
Still looking for employment	1	6%
Total	18	100%

[2] This table does not represent the total (18) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others. Graduates were provided three options (Yes, No, Maybe), and asked to explain their selection in open-ended responses. 65% (11) of respondents indicated "Yes," and 35% (6) indicated "Maybe". Full open-ended responses are listed at the end of the section.

Recommend Foothill's Program	#	%
Yes	17	94%
Maybe	1	6%
Total	18	100%

Ideas

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (13) have been grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.[3]

Grouping of Ideas	#
Split difficult courses into two quarters	3
More hands on experience (internships, etc.)	6
Pharmacology-related	3

[3] This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

Graduating Students Year 0 – Open-ended responses[4]

Would you recommend Foothill's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Yes:

- I loved foothill and recommend it to anyone who is interested in the field. I do think there are pros and cons in comparison to Carrington. However, I feel like I got the best education and that all of the professors truly cared about what they were teaching and their students. They dedicated their time to helping us and encouraging us. I loved feeling like I was in a program that was tight knit vs somewhere that was just trying to churn out graduated students. Foothill helped me pass the VTNE by giving me the tools and background. I think the program along with internship has prepared me to become a vet tech. I feel that instructors were supportive throughout and that it was very affordable.
- 100% would recommend this program. I was never expecting the quality of education, dedication / mentorship from instructors, and how much fun I would have through this program. I loved Foothill vet tech, it prepared me for my career more than I could have ever asked for.
- This VT Program at FHC is very comprehensive, the staff really try to get the best out of the students, the cost is so much less than other area VT programs and the reputation of the FHC VT Program is such that graduates are in high demand.
- I feel that this is the best program to prepare entering RVTs into the field because all the classes and instructors are relevant in the field and have so much experience. While the hands in skills come in time, the knowledge base behind the job is very thorough and prepared you to answer the hard questions and think critically through any situation.
- I thoroughly enjoyed this program and the instructors that came along with it. I have learned so much and the instructors make everything about the program very homey and motivating. Thank you all for everything!
- I feel that the Foothill Vet Tech program prepares students by inculcating discipline and being able to work under pressure. This program prepares you well in the core sciences. The hands-on skills are mainly obtained at your internship site. The internship program at foothill sets you up for success and opens doors to promising job opportunities in the future. I started as a non-paid intern at my current job. I am now hired full time with benefits.
- The courses were tough already. Due to the quarter system, there's not enough time to remember the information.
- Great staff/education/experience/opportunities though program can be rather stressful and time-consuming
- Learned a lot; from the basic to the intermediate-beginning level. But the amount of work is unrealistic, especially when you are working.

[4] Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

- The teachers are always there to help you in school and life. The program animals make it easier to gain clinical skills.
- Foothill prepared me the most for the VTNE and also helped me realize where in the vet field I wanted to focus my work in, such as dentistry or emergency medicine. It also helped me understand so much about animal care and how I can apply it to my everyday life, and not just at work.
- I feel as prepared as I can be to take the VTNE
- It is a great program that got me prepared for the VTNE

Maybe:

- The program is very intense. Short staffed on teaching faculty and with a large number of students. It was a keep up or get left behind situation most of the time. Due to the large number of students, some get passed or neglected. And every activity it's a fight to get experience. There was times when students would break out crying from frustration that there was not enough time or faculty to help them learn the skills. I have never had to fight to get an education, like I did in this program.

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

- I wish the class schedule flowed better/more concrete instead of ever changing. But for the most part I enjoyed my time there and would 100% of the time recommend foothill over any other AVMA accredited school.
- Honestly have no improvements to recommend.
- Have more teachers/helpers that can aid students learning!! Or if not possible , reduce the number of students. Be more racially equal. Most of the class was white. Dedicate time equally to students, and be more patient.
- I would have liked to have had an ungraded exam, that mimics the VTNE, taken at the very start of the program (like during the first week of the first year) and then the same test (still ungraded) given in the last quarter before graduation (in Proficiency Class). I learned so much but I wish I had something that I could have referred back to, to show my journey and settle my nerves regarding "do I know enough to pass the VTNE?"
- Offer some online courses for the ones that can be offered online. Students who live far struggle A LOT with balancing time. Offer opportunities for students who have to work full-time throughout the program. Overall, I loved the program and learned a tremendous amount. Completely worth it.

More hands on experience (internships, etc.)

- I think hands on experience and practice are the main areas that can be improved. Even with internship there is still room for students to get more skills practice in before graduating and I feel that most employers look for candidates who have the skills and the knowledge when choosing who to hire.
- I think it would be a great idea to start internship early because so many things that we learn can be put to use and remembered more easily if we were working.
- I think more needs to be done with pharmacology; not a negative comment about the class itself but I think the amount of depth of information you get in that class needs to be extended out to other classes or make the class a 2 part over 2 quarters.
- More mock client education; More radiology/dentistry practice
- Encourage more vet related volunteer work
- More hands on

Split difficult courses into two quarters

- For the really tough courses, split it like A&P so the future students can build a solid foundation. After having been through the program, maybe changing it into a 3 year program, is not a bad idea.
- Break up diseases into two quarters
- I think more needs to be done with pharmacology; not a negative comment about the class itself but I think the amount of depth of information you get in that class needs to be extended out to other classes or make the class a 2 part over 2 quarters.

Pharmacology-related

- More projects or activities to connect better in pharmacology.
- I think more needs to be done with pharmacology; not a negative comment about the class itself but I think the amount of depth of information you get in that class needs to be extended out to other classes or make the class a 2 part over 2 quarters
- I also think pharmacology should be divided into two quarter.

Alumni Year 1

Program Preparedness

Alumni who graduated one year ago indicated how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology. 33% (6) of respondents indicated they had been "Very well" prepared, 28% (5) "Extremely well" prepared, and 11% (2) indicated "Somewhat well" prepared.

How Prepared	#	%
Extremely well	5	28%
Somewhat well	2	11%
Very well	6	33%
(blank)	5	28%
Total	**18**	**100%**

Best Prepared Skills

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas which they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. The three highest areas respondents indicated they felt best prepared were "Basic clinical skills" (20%), "Treatment room procedures" (16%), and "Anesthesia" (11%)[5]

Best Prepared Skills	#	%
Basic clinical skills	9	20%
Treatment room procedures	7	16%
Anesthesia	5	11%
Medical nursing	4	9%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	3	7%
Surgical nursing	3	7%
Dentistry	3	7%
Diagnostic imaging	3	7%
Basic sciences	2	4%
Exam room procedures	2	4%
Emergency medicine	2	4%
Animal diseases and public health	1	2%
Office and hospital procedures	1	2%
Treatment room procedures	7	16%

[5] This table does not represent the total (18) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Least Prepared Skills

One-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program indicated the top three areas which they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given fourteen multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. The top three skills which respondents felt they were least prepared were "Pharmacy and pharmacology" (19%)[6], "Emergency medicine" (16%), "Office and hospital procedures" (16%), and "Clinical pathology" (16%).

Least Prepared Skills	#	%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	6	19%
Emergency medicine	5	16%
Office and hospital procedures	5	16%
Clinical pathology	5	16%
Anesthesia	4	13%
Diagnostic imaging	2	6%
Client communication skills	1	3%
None of the above	1	3%
Animal diseases and public health	1	3%
Basic sciences	1	3%
Dentistry	1	3%

Employment Status

All (18) respondents indicated they are currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation.

Employed	#	%
Yes	13	72%
No	5	28%
Total	**18**	**100%**

Work Status

61% (11) of respondents indicated they were working full-time and 11% (2) working part-time.

Work Status	#	%
Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more	11	61%
Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk\	2	11%
(blank)	5	28%
Total	**18**	**100%**

[6] This table does not represent the total (18) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Practice Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field (18) indicated any-and-all of thirteen veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their current practice.[7] A majority 45% (9) of respondents indicated their practice mostly served "Small animals dog and/or cat and/or pocket pets", 15% (3) served small animal plus avian

Practice Description	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	9	45%
Small animal plus avian	3	15%
Research	1	5%
Exotics	1	5%
Sales	1	5%
Emergency/critical care	1	5%
Veterinary Specialty and ER	1	5%
Mixed practice large and small animal	1	5%
Academic	1	5%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	1	5%

Time at position

Those surveyed (18) were asked to indicate how long they had worked at their current position. 50% (9) of survey respondents indicated they have been at their current position for at least one year, and 6% (1) indicating "Six months but less than one year."

Time at Position	#	%
At least 1 year	9	50%
6 months but less than 1 year	1	6%
Less than 3 months	3	17%
(blank)	5	28%
Total	**18**	**100%**

[7] This table does not represent the total (18) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

VT Job Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field were asked to describe their job title in an open-ended response. Open-ended responses have been grouped for readability. 50% of respondents (7) indicated their job description as "Registered Veterinary Technician," 7% (1) "ER/ICU RVT," 7% (1) "Registered Veterinary Technician, Outpatient Services and Surgery," and 36% (6) did not respond to the prompt.

Job Description	#	%
RVT	5	28%
Registered Veterinary Technician	1	6%
Senior Sales Representative at Elanco	1	6%
Veterinary Technician	1	6%
(blank)	10	56%
Total	**18**	**100%**

Hourly Wage

Those surveyed (18) were asked to indicate how long they had worked at their current position. 50% (9) of respondents indicated they made $20-$30 per hour at their current position.[8]

Hourly Wage	#	%
$15.01/hr to $20/hr	5	28%
$20.01/hr to $25/hr	4	22%
$25.01/hr to $30/hr	2	11%
More than $30/hr	1	6%
(blank)	6	33%
Total	**14**	**100%**

County

Those surveyed indicated which county their current employment is located, given ten response options with one open-ended option. A majority 28% (5) of respondents indicated Santa Clara County and 11% (2) in San Mateo County.

County	#	%
Santa Clara	5	28%
San Mateo	2	11%
Sonoma	1	6%
Alameda	1	6%
Washington County (Oregon)	1	6%
Butte	1	6%
Santa Cruz	1	6%
(blank)	6	33%
Total	**18**	**100%**

[8] 28% at $20-$25 per hour; 22% $25-$30 per hour

Volunteer Status

Those surveyed were asked to indicate if they volunteered in a veterinary technician related position. 11% (2) of respondents indicated they currently volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position, while 89% (16) did not.

Volunteer	#	%
Yes	2	11%
No	16	89%

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others. One-year alumni were provided three options (Yes, No, Maybe), and asked to explain their selection. 78% (14) of respondents indicated they would recommend Foothill's veterinary technician technology program to others, and 22% (4) indicating they might recommend the program to others.

Recommend	#	%
Yes	14	78%
Maybe	4	22%

Open-ended responses (13) of those asked if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others were grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented.[9] Full responses are listed at the end of this section.

Response Groupings	#
The program prepared me well	5
Hands-on	5
Others	3

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (11) have been grouped into themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.[10]

Grouping of Ideas	#
Provide more emotional support	3
More hands on experience	2
Others	5

[9] This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent, while some responses did not deliver a clear message or category.

[10] This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

One-year Alumni – Open-ended responses[11]

Would you recommend Foothill's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Yes

Program Prepared Me Well

- When comparing my knowledge and skills with someone else of similar background but they came from another school or program, it seems I have more knowledge and/or skills.
- Amazing education, hands on education definitely helped advance my career in vet med,
- I would recommend it because the faculty is very thorough with explaining things and drilling the information into our heads. I come across people who used online schools or other tech programs that don't seem as knowledgeable about a lot of topics we learned in school.
- They prepare you well
- By far the best program compared to RVTs who have graduated from other schools.

Provides Hands-On Experience

- You learn so much and you definitely get the hands on training you need.
- I feel that the information learned, the hands on experience in and outside the classroom, and the individual help student can receive after hours is extremely helpful and helps everyone to succeed.
- You learn so much and you definitely get the hands on training you need.
- Lots of opportunity to practice skills easy to understand lectures

Others

- It's a fun and extremely helpful program. It's very comfortable and the teachers are very good.
- Good program
- Very detailed program

Maybe

- Depends if they can dedicate a lot of time and can afford not making an income during the time of being in the program. Must be able to time manage well also
- I wouldn't tell someone to go out of their way for this specific program, but they can decide. There are pros and cons as with other places I'm sure.

[11] Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

More Emotional Support

- Bring more awareness/support on mental health and the field.
- More encouraging environment
- Protection from burn-out. This year has been intense due to COVID and probably unlike other years. Many smaller clinics are closed or see fewer patients. This resulted in three-times the case load for larger clinics, which is not sustainable, no matter how hard management tries to ease the pain.

More Hands On Experience

- Better explanation to surrounding veterinary practices in the Bay Area that students are going to need clinical hours and have to allow them practice. Seems like that was a big source of stress for students in my class.
- More hands on experience would be ideal because I felt under prepared at times because some things we rushed through in school.

Others

- Maintain professionalism within the academic organization
- When working in a clinical practice, do not work as a receptionist, work as a kennel tech if you have to start somewhere. I noticed some clinics make it very difficult for receptionist to switch as vet techs as opposed to kennel techs to vet techs. Plus the skill level of a kennel tech to vet tech correlates to the programs studies.
- Clinical skills
- More advice on how to handle fractious animals, how to approach or best way to restrain
- Maybe have some of the teachers take a teaching course and it might help them learn how to better teach a variety of students. Not everyone learns the same. Bring more awareness/support on mental health and the field. For teachers that are in the field themselves, you'd think they would be more understanding, but often felt more like a kick down. Thank you to those teachers that truly do their best to help us succeed. It is appreciated more than we may have shown.

Alumni Year 3

Preparedness

Alumni who graduated three years ago indicated how their experience in Foothill's AVMA-accredited program had prepared them for a career in veterinary technology. Of (15) respondents, 53% (7) indicated that they had been "Extremely Well" prepared by Foothill's program and 40% (6) indicated "Very Well"..

How Prepared	#	%
Extremely well	8	53%
Very well	6	40%
Somewhat well	0	0%
No Response	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

Best Prepared Skills

Three-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program were asked to pick the top three areas which they felt best prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given 14 multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. 47% (6) of respondents indicated "Anesthesia", "Basic Clinical Skills, and "Medical Nursing" were the best-prepared skills.

Best Prepared Skills	#	%
Anesthesia	9	16%
Basic clinical skills	9	16%
Medical nursing	8	15%
Diagnostic imaging	6	11%
Surgical nursing	4	7%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	3	5%
Treatment room procedures	3	5%
Animal diseases and public health	3	5%
Exam room procedures	3	5%
Clinical pathology	2	4%
Basic sciences	2	4%
Emergency medicine	1	2%
medical math	1	2%
Dentistry	1	2%

Least Prepared

Three-year alumni of Foothill's AVMA-accredited veterinary technology program were asked to pick the top three areas which they felt least prepared for in their career as a paid or volunteer veterinary technician, given 14 multi-choice options and one open-ended response option. The top skills which respondents felt they were least prepared were "Emergency Medicine" (18%), "Dentistry" (15%), "Office and Hospital Procedures" (13%), and "Pharmacy and Pharmacology" (13%).[12]

Least Prepared Skills	#	%
Emergency medicine	7	18%
Dentistry	6	15%
Office and hospital procedures	5	13%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	5	13%
Animal diseases and public health	4	10%
Clinical pathology	3	8%
Anesthesia	3	8%
Intubation	1	3%
Treatment room procedures	1	3%
Catheter placement	1	3%
Equine	1	3%
blood collection	1	3%
Exam room procedures	1	3%
Diagnostic imaging	1	3%

Employment

93% (15) of respondents indicated "Yes," they were currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician related job as their primary occupation, and 7% (1) indicated "No."

Employed	#	%
Yes	14	93%
No	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

Work Status

Of the (15) respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field, 73% (11) indicated they worked "Full Time," and 20% (3) indicating they worked "Part-Time".

Work Status	#	%
Full-time: 40 hours per week or more	11	73%
Part-time: Less than 40 hours per week	3	20%
No Response	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

[12] This table does not represent the total (15) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response. Respondents who indicated "No" to be currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician related job as their primary occupation were omitted for non-response.

Practice Description

Respondents who indicated being employed in the veterinary technician field (15) were asked to identify any-and-all of 13 veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their current practice.[13] 50% (9) of respondents indicating "Small Animal (Dog and/or Cat and/or Pocket Pet)", 17% (3) "Not-for-Profit Organization (Humane Society, Nature Center, etc.)", and 11% (2) for "Small Animal plus Avian".

Practice Description	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet	9	53%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	3	18%
Small animal plus avian	2	12%
I started a business providing marketing and remote administrative assistance specific to equine practitioners and veterinary non-profits	1	6%
Research	1	6%
Shelter	1	6%

Time at position

Of respondents who indicated current employment in the veterinary technician field (15), 67% (10) for "More than 2 Years", and 20% (3) of respondents indicated "More than 1 Year but Less Than 2 Years".

Time at Position	#	%
More than 2 years	10	67%
More than 1 year but less than 2 years	3	20%
Less than 6 months	1	7%
No Reply	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

[13] This table does not represent the total (15) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

County

Respondents who indicated current employment in the veterinary technician field (15) were asked to indicate which county their current employment is located, given ten response options with one open-ended option. 60% (9) of respondents each indicated the location of their practice was in one of the counties in the Bay Area. 74% (11) indicated they currently hold positions located in California.

County	#	%
Santa Clara	5	33%
San Mateo	2	13%
Contra Costa	1	7%
San Francisco	1	7%
Santa Cruz	1	7%
San Joaquin	1	7%
Jackson (OR)	1	7%
Seattle, WA	1	7%
Remote Work	1	7%
No Reply	1	7%
Total	15	100%

Hourly Wage

Of respondents who indicated current employment in the veterinary technician field (15), 87% (13) indicated they make over $20.00 per hour. 53% (8) makes $20-25 per hour, 20% (3) makes $25.01-$30 per hour, and 13% (2) makes more than $30 per hour.

Hourly Wage	#	%
$15.01/hr to $20/hr	1	7%
$20.01/hr to $25/hr	8	53%
$25.01/hr to $30/hr	3	20%
More than $30/hr	2	13%
No Reply	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

Volunteer

Those surveyed were asked to indicate if they volunteered in a veterinary technician related position. 13% (2) of the respondents indicated “Yes”, and 87% (13) indicated “No”.

Volunteer	#	%
Yes	2	13%
No	13	87%
Total	15	100%

VT Job Description

Respondents who indicated having employment in the veterinary technician field were asked to describe their job title in an open-ended response; similar responses grouped for readability. 53% (8) of respondents indicated their job title was "RVT" or "Registered Veterinary Technician".

Job Description	#	%
RVT	5	33%
Registered Veterinary Technician	3	20%
Credentialed Veterinary Technician	1	7%
Creative Director	1	7%
Surgery technician	1	7%
Life science technician lll	1	7%
Licensed Veterinary Technician	1	7%
Total	**15**	**100%**

Recommend Foothill's Program

Those surveyed indicated if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others. All (15) respondents indicated "Yes" they would. Some respondents submitted open-ended responses to accompany their answers.

Recommend	#	%
Yes	11	100%
Maybe	0	0%
Total	11	100%

Open-ended responses (10) of those asked if they would recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others were grouped by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented.[14] Responses sorted into those who responded "Yes" (7) along their open-ended responses. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.

Response Groupings	#
The program prepared me well	9
Positive experience	2
Hands on experience	2
Affordable	1

Those surveyed were asked to provide any ideas for strengthening the program that could have prepared them better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician with an open-ended response. Open-ended responses (7) sorted by themes present in an attempt to categorize messages presented. Full responses are listed at the end of this section.[15]

Grouping of Ideas	#
More encouragement, mental health support from instructors	2
Incorporate more hands-on or real-life scenario practice.	1
Other	2
Comment, not suggestion	3

[15] This table does not represent the total number of responses as some (longer) responses were tagged with multiple themes in an attempt to capture their intent.

Three-year Alumni – Open-ended responses[16]

Would you recommend Foothill's Veterinary Technology program to others?

Yes:

Positive Experience

- The beat program ever!!
- I felt that the program was very well done. I wish an equine track was possible but understand the majority of interest is in SA medicine.

Hands On Experience

- Foothill was an amazing program and learning experience. I'm glad that I chose this program and not carrington. I feel like I got more hands on experience and one on one help.
- While working in the field I have found that there are things taught at FH that students coming from other programs don't seem to grasp coming out the VT-school gate. The hands on experience I obtained and courses dedicated to each aspect of the field are beyond beneficial. I wholly recommend it to anyone I meet who is interested.

Affordable

- A good program with good instructors that is affordable and portraits students for the field.

The Program Prepared Me Well

- Very rigorous, but that's why you come out prepared.
- I was so we'll prepared to go straight into the clinic and be a productive member of the team.
- I feel like the Foothill VT program gave me more information than necessary (which is great!) to excel in the field. I definitely feel like I was taught more, and held to higher standards than my colleagues from other institutions. The program was actually fun and engaging.
- Foothill gave me a great foundation for going into this field. I had no prior experience and the combination of the program and clinical work really helped me develop my skills and grow my confidence.
- While working in the field I have found that there are things taught at FH that students coming from other programs don't seem to grasp coming out the VT-school gate. The hands on experience I obtained and courses dedicated to each aspect of the field are beyond beneficial. I wholly recommend it to anyone I meet who is interested.
- Prepares you for the skills you will be using in the field, and foothill has good connections and reputation to get you a job afterwards
- The program prepared me very well for written tests, and most of the teachers were very approachable and willing to put in a great deal of time to help their students.
- I felt prepared to do my job and that the program was similar to a community that I will be connected to in the long term.
- Foothill prepares you very well for the veterinary field. The staff cares about your learning and progress. I always felt supported.

[16] Names of faculty have been removed from these responses.

What ideas do you have for strengthening the program that could have prepared you better for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

More encouragement, mental health support from instructors

- Self-care. How to recognize a toxic work environment and exit gracefully.
- Emphasize hardships of the job that can lead up to burn out. Emphasize and instill more skills related to anesthesia and dentistry.

More hands-on experience

- More hands-on skill practice would be the biggest improvement this program could make.
    - Incorporate more hands on or real-life scenario practice

Others

- More large animal exposure.
- Implementing a review class at the end of each quarter that briefly discusses and tests knowledge and skills learned cumulatively from all subjects studied during that quarter and/or previous quarters.

Comment, not suggestion

- I think the program is perfect. Every practice is different so it's hard to say.
- Starting my job prior to starting the program made a huge difference in my ability to relate school and practical skill. I felt like I had a leg up on the other students.
- I think the program overall was great! I wouldn't make any changes

Employer

Best Prepared

Those surveyed were asked to indicate three topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates, given fourteen areas and one open-ended response option. 51% (37) of respondents indicated "Medical Nursing", "Basic Clinical Skills", "Anesthesia", and "Basic Sciences" as areas they are better prepared for.

Best Prepared Skills	#	%
Medical nursing	11	15%
Basic clinical skills	10	14%
Anesthesia	8	11%
Basic sciences	8	11%
Diagnostic imaging	6	8%
Other	4	6%
Clinical pathology	4	6%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	4	6%
Surgical nursing	4	6%
Exam room procedures	4	6%
Office and hospital procedures	2	3%
Animal diseases and public health	2	3%
Dentistry	2	3%
Emergency medicine	2	3%
Treatment room procedures	1	1%

Least Prepared

Those surveyed were asked to indicate three topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally less prepared compared to other program graduates, given fourteen areas and one open-ended option. Of respondents, 18% (8) indicated "Dentistry," 16% (7) indicated "Surgical Nursing", 11% (5) "Anesthesia", and 11% (5) "Other".

Least Prepared Skills	#	%
Dentistry	8	18%
Surgical nursing	7	16%
Other	5	11%
Anesthesia	5	11%
Office and hospital procedures	4	9%
Emergency medicine	3	7%
Exam room procedures	3	7%
Medical nursing	2	5%
Treatment room procedures	2	5%
Basic clinical skills	2	5%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	1	2%
Animal diseases and public health	1	2%
Clinical pathology	1	2%

Valued Characteristic

Employers were asked to indicate the single characteristic they most valued when hiring veterinary technicians, given four options and the option to add an open-ended response. 33% (25) of respondents indicated "Communication Skills", 26% (20) indicated "Interpersonal Relationships", and 18% (14) "Self-Awareness".

Valued Characteristic	#	%
Communication Skills	25	33%
Interpersonal Relationships	20	26%
Self-Awareness	14	18%
Fear-Free Training	10	13%
Basic Business Acumen	3	4%
Additional Training	2	3%
Professional Resume	2	3%

Location

Employers surveyed were asked to indicate the county in which their practice is located, given ten options and one open-ended response option. 48% (12) indicated Santa Clara county and 24% (6) San Mateo County.

Location	#	%
Santa Clara County	12	48%
San Mateo County	6	24%
Santa Cruz County	2	8%
Alameda County	2	8%
San Francisco County	2	8%
Contra Costa County	1	4%
Total	25	100%

Practice Description

Employers surveyed were asked to identify any-and-all of thirteen veterinary practice descriptions that best represented their practice.[17] The majority of respondents (58%) indicated "Small animal (dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet)," and 23% (7) each indicating "Other".

Practice Description	#	%
Small animal dog and/or cat exclusive	18	58%
Other	7	23%
Not-for-profit organization humane society nature center etc.	3	10%
Small animal plus avian	2	6%
Government	1	3%

Other practice descriptions are listed unedited below:

- Pocket pets
- ER - Small animal & other, etc.
- Plus reptiles and small mammal exotics
- Companion including exotics
- Exotics and Feline only
- Small Animal and Exotic

Starting Wage

Employers surveyed were asked about the starting wage offered for veterinary technicians at their practice, given five hourly rate options ranging from $15/hr to $30+/hr. 44% (11) of respondents indicated "$15.01/hr - $20/hr" and 44% (11) indicated "$20.01/hr - $25/hr".

Starting Wage	#	%
$15.01/hr - $20/hr	11	44%
$20.01/hr - $25/hr	11	44%
$25.01/hr - $30/hr	3	12%
Total	**25**	**100%**

After Wage

Employers surveyed were asked about wages offered by their practice for veterinary technicians with one to three years of experience. 56% (14) of respondents indicated "$20.01/hr - $25/hr" and 24% (6) "$25.01/hr - $30/hr".

After Wage	#	%
$15.01/hr - $20/hr	2	8%
$20.01/hr - $25/hr	14	56%
$25.01/hr - $30/hr	6	24%
$30/hr or more	3	12%
Total	25	100%

[17] This table does not represent the total (17) number of respondents, as multiple fields could represent one response.

Would Hire from Foothill

Employers surveyed indicated if they would hire another graduate of Foothill's veterinary technology program, given three options (Yes, No, Maybe) and the option to explain their response in an optional field. Majority of the respondents (92%) indicated "Yes," with (8%) respondents indicating "Maybe." Open-ended responses listed in full below the following table.

Would Hire from FH	#	%
Yes	23	92%
Maybe	2	8%
Total	25	100%

Would Hire from Foothill – Yes

- Best tech school around!
- Feel the technology course is comprehensive and provides a good base of education
- Foothill College graduates are taught clinical skills as well as soft skills. Their knowledge base is excellent.
- Foothill College produces the most well rounded and more prepared technicians compared to other programs.
- Foothill graduates are far and away more competent and prepared than any others!
- Foothill students develop a good base of knowledge and they are prepared to be immediately productive in a clinical setting.
- Foothill students have a great base of knowledge, more commitment to the profession and a good base of skills!
- For the right hire, the Foothill program provides strong basics.
- I've hired a number of Foothill grads and have been impressed by all of them
- Our practices have not yet had the opportunity to host an intern, but seeing "graduate of Foothill" on a resume is definitely a plus!
- Overall, Foothill students seem better prepared. My above response, for emergency & surgical preparedness is simply based on actual practical experience.
- Very well prepared, dedicated graduates
- Very well trained
- We are always looking to develop our team and if an opening is available, a Foothill student is most welcome to apply.
- We have seen excellent additions to our staff from Foothill RVTs!
- We hire based upon the ability to learn, personality, work ethic, and skill/knowledge....not based upon which vet program they attended.

Would Hire from Foothill – Maybe

- Hard to say, so far with my experiences I would say yes but i also think i have gotten very lucky with our two new students.
- I do believe that the Foothill Vet Tech program is the best program in the area. However, there has been a change in the type of student. Overall they seem less interested in the why behind the reason and only interested in information that is spoon fed to them.

Employer - Open Ended Responses

What ideas do you have for improving the Veterinary Technology (VT) program at Foothill?

Hands-on Experience

- More hands on time with animals for logistics like blood and catheters
  - I believe that starting these students internships sooner might help. That way they aren't learning restraint and what things are while they are trying to learn how to perform clinical pathology, radiology, animal diseases, and dentistry in the hospital setting.
  - Advise applicants to have more clinical experience prior to entering the program.

Training

- Provide them with more training in anesthesia through more wet lab time with very close supervision and guidance.
- Communications training is key. Some of the most eager interns we've interviewed have virtually no interpersonal skills. Those individuals should be encouraged to seek internships with shelters or places where client interaction is not as emphasized. Or perhaps Foothill could provide additional communication skills training.

Source
FHDA IRP

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY GRADUATING STUDENT SURVEY

The Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program faculty work hard to make sure that the education and training received by our students help prepare them to be successful in the field. One way we evaluate achieving this goal is through surveys. Your feedback is critical in identifying changes that may be needed, and ensures that the program remains accredited so that your degree and/or certificate will be recognized by the field.

Your responses are confidential and anonymous as no individual answers will be shared with any faculty or staff affiliated with the program. All survey responses will be aggregated and results will be used to improve the veterinary technology program.

If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu .
Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. How well has your AVMA-accredited program prepared you for a veterinary technology career?

- ◯ Extremely well
- ◯ Very well
- ◯ Somewhat well
- ◯ Not so well
- ◯ Not at all well

2. Which of the following areas do you feel you are best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- ☐ Anesthesia
- ☐ Animal diseases and public health
- ☐ Basic clinical skills
- ☐ Basic sciences
- ☐ Clinical pathology
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Diagnostic imaging

- [ ] Emergency medicine
- [ ] Exam room procedures
- [ ] Medical nursing
- [ ] Office and hospital procedures
- [ ] Pharmacy and pharmacology
- [ ] Surgical nursing
- [ ] Treatment room procedures
- [ ] Other

3. Which of the following areas do you feel you are least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- [ ] Anesthesia
- [ ] Animal diseases and public health
- [ ] Basic clinical skills
- [ ] Basic sciences
- [ ] Clinical pathology
- [ ] Dentistry
- [ ] Diagnostic imaging
- [ ] Emergency medicine
- [ ] Exam room procedures
- [ ] Medical nursing
- [ ] Office and hospital procedures
- [ ] Pharmacy and pharmacology
- [ ] Surgical nursing
- [ ] Treatment room procedures
- [ ] Other

4. What will be your employment status after graduation this spring?

- ◯ Employed full-time
- ◯ Employed part-time
- ◯ Still looking for employment
- ◯ Other

5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10/07/2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

The mission statement for Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program is "To empower the future veterinary technician to be a progressive and compassionate member of the veterinary team and community." As one of our graduates, we are eager to find out from you what your experience has been so far in this field.

One way we evaluate achieving this goal is through surveys. Your feedback is critical in identifying changes that may be needed. In addition to this, the AVMA-CVTEA requires that we follow up with our graduates to maintain our accreditation so your help is much appreciated.

Your responses are confidential and anonymous as no individual answers will be shared with any faculty or staff affiliated with the program. All survey responses will be aggregated and results will be used to improve the veterinary technology program.

If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu .
Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1. What is your current occupation status?

- ◯ Employed for wages
- ◯ Self-employed
- ◯ Not working, looking for work
- ◯ Not working, not looking for work
- ◯ Student, whether employed or not
- ◯ Unable to work

1.2. If employed for wages, what is your job title?

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1 What is your job title?

1.2 What is the employment status of your current position?

- ◯ Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more
- ◯ Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk

1.3 How long have you been at your current position?

- ◯ Less than 3 months
- ◯ 3 months but less than 6 months
- ◯ 6 months but less than 1 year
- ◯ At least 1 year

1.4 What county is your current position located?

- ◯ Alameda
- ◯ Contra Costa
- ◯ Marin
- ◯ Napa
- ◯ San Francisco
- ◯ San Mateo
- ◯ Santa Clara
- ◯ Santa Cruz
- ◯ Solano
- ◯ Sonoma
- ◯ Other

1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Avian exclusive
- ☐ Equine exclusive
- ☐ Exotic exclusive
- ☐ Government

- ☐ Industry or commercial organizations
- ☐ Large animal exclusive
- ☐ Mixed practice, large and small animal
- ☐ Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)
- ☐ Small animal (dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet)
- ☐ Small animal plus avian
- ☐ Uniformed services
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Other

1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

- ○ Extremely well
- ○ Very well
- ○ Somewhat well
- ○ Not so well
- ○ Not at all well

1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- ☐ Anesthesia
- ☐ Animal diseases and public health
- ☐ Basic clinical skills
- ☐ Basic sciences
- ☐ Clinical pathology
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Diagnostic imaging
- ☐ Emergency medicine
- ☐ Exam room procedures
- ☐ Medical nursing
- ☐ Office and hospital procedures
- ☐ Pharmacy and pharmacology
- ☐ Surgical nursing
- ☐ Treatment room procedures
- ☐ Other

1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- ☐ Anesthesia

Animal diseases and public health

- [ ]
- [ ] Basic clinical skills
- [ ] Basic sciences
- [ ] Clinical pathology
- [ ] Dentistry
- [ ] Diagnostic imaging
- [ ] Emergency medicine
- [ ] Exam room procedures
- [ ] Medical nursing
- [ ] Office and hospital procedures
- [ ] Pharmacy and pharmacology
- [ ] Surgical nursing
- [ ] Treatment room procedures
- [ ] Other

1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position?

- ○ $15.01/hr to $20/hr
- ○ $20.01/hr to $25/hr
- ○ $25.01/hr to $30/hr
- ○ More than $30/hr
- ○ Volunteer or no pay

1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Continuing education paid
- [ ] Medical or hospitalization plan
- [ ] Pension, retirement, 401K
- [ ] Paid maternity or paternity leave
- [ ] Professional license fees or dues paid
- [ ] Paid sick leave
- [ ] Paid vacation
- [ ] Profit sharing
- [ ] Reduced fees for veterinary care

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. If you do volunteer, indicate the location:

4. Do you have additional credentials in any veterinary technician specialty group?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

4.1. List your additional credentials.

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

The mission statement for Foothill College Veterinary Technology Program is "To empower the future veterinary technician to be a progressive and compassionate member of the veterinary team and community." As one of our graduates, we are eager to find out from you what your experience has been so far in this field.

One way we evaluate achieving this goal is through surveys. Your feedback is critical in identifying changes that may be needed. In addition to this, the AVMA-CVTEA requires that we follow up with our graduates to maintain our accreditation so your help is much appreciated.

Your responses are confidential and anonymous as no individual answers will be shared with any faculty or staff affiliated with the program. All survey responses will be aggregated and results will be used to improve the veterinary technology program.

If you have questions about the survey administration, please contact Elaine Kuo, College Researcher, at kuoelaine@fhda.edu .
Thank you for your participation.

This survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete.

1. Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1. What is your current occupation status?

- ◯ Employed for wages
- ◯ Self-employed
- ◯ Not working, looking for work
- ◯ Not working, not looking for work
- ◯ Student, whether employed or not
- ◯ Unable to work

1.2. If employed for wages, what is your job title?

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VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

1.1 What is your job title?

1.2 What is the employment status of your current position?

- ◯ Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more
- ◯ Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk

1.3 How long have you been at your current position?

- ◯ Less than 6 months
- ◯ 6 months but less than 1 year
- ◯ More than 1 year but less than 2 years
- ◯ More than 2 years

1.4 What county is your current position located?

- ◯ Alameda
- ◯ Contra Costa
- ◯ Marin
- ◯ Napa
- ◯ San Francisco
- ◯ San Mateo
- ◯ Santa Clara
- ◯ Santa Cruz
- ◯ Solano
- ◯ Sonoma
- ◯ Other

1.5 Which of the following descriptions best describes your current practice? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Avian exclusive
- ☐ Equine exclusive
- ☐ Exotic exclusive
- ☐ Government

- ☐ Industry or commercial organizations
- ☐ Large animal exclusive
- ☐ Mixed practice, large and small animal
- ☐ Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)
- ☐ Small animal (dog and/or cat and/or pocket pet)
- ☐ Small animal plus avian
- ☐ Uniformed services
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Other

1.6 How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

- ○ Extremely well
- ○ Very well
- ○ Somewhat well
- ○ Not so well
- ○ Not at all well

1.7 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- ☐ Anesthesia
- ☐ Animal diseases and public health
- ☐ Basic clinical skills
- ☐ Basic sciences
- ☐ Clinical pathology
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Diagnostic imaging
- ☐ Emergency medicine
- ☐ Exam room procedures
- ☐ Medical nursing
- ☐ Office and hospital procedures
- ☐ Pharmacy and pharmacology
- ☐ Surgical nursing
- ☐ Treatment room procedures
- ☐ Other

1.8 Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

- ☐ Anesthesia

Animal diseases and public health

- [ ]
- [ ] Basic clinical skills
- [ ] Basic sciences
- [ ] Clinical pathology
- [ ] Dentistry
- [ ] Diagnostic imaging
- [ ] Emergency medicine
- [ ] Exam room procedures
- [ ] Medical nursing
- [ ] Office and hospital procedures
- [ ] Pharmacy and pharmacology
- [ ] Surgical nursing
- [ ] Treatment room procedures
- [ ] Other

1.9 What is the hourly wage at your current position?

- ○ $15.01/hr to $20/hr
- ○ $20.01/hr to $25/hr
- ○ $25.01/hr to $30/hr
- ○ More than $30/hr
- ○ Volunteer or no pay

1.10 Indicate whether your position includes any of the following benefits. Check all that apply.

- [ ] Continuing education paid
- [ ] Medical or hospitalization plan
- [ ] Pension, retirement, 401K
- [ ] Paid maternity or paternity leave
- [ ] Professional license fees or dues paid
- [ ] Paid sick leave
- [ ] Paid vacation
- [ ] Profit sharing
- [ ] Reduced fees for veterinary care

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

2. Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

3. If you volunteer, indicate the location:

4. Do you have additional credentials in any veterinary technician specialty group?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

4.1. List your additional credentials.

Next

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

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FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI SURVEY

5. Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Maybe

6. Please explain your response to the previous question.

7. What ideas do you have for strengthening the program so students could be better prepared for entry-level practice as a Veterinary Technician?

Submit

Foothill Institutional Research and Planning

Updated 10.07.2020

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
EMPLOYER SURVEY

Foothill College's veterinary technology program works hard at making sure the education and training received by its students help prepare them to be successful in the field. As part of the accreditation process, the program needs to ensure that this goal is being accomplished. Your feedback ensures that the program serves you and the students better, and insures that we comply with our accreditation rules. Therefore, we hope you complete this short survey.

All survey responses will be aggregated, and your individual responses will not be shared with the program. Thank you for this valuable contribution to our program. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Lisa A. Eshman, D.V.M. (eshmanlisa@fhda.edu)
Veterinary Technology Program Director

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1. Indicate what county your practice is located.

- ○ Alameda County
- ○ Contra Costa County
- ○ Marin County
- ○ Napa County
- ○ San Francisco County
- ○ San Mateo County
- ○ Santa Clara County
- ○ Santa Cruz County
- ○ Solano County
- ○ Sonoma County
- ○ Other (please specify) _____

2. Which of the following descriptions best describes your practice? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Avian exclusive
- Biomedical research
- ☐ Government
- ☐ Industry or commercial organizations
- Large animal
- ☐ Small animal (dog and/or cat) exclusive
- ☐ Small animal plus avian

- ☐ non-academic
- ☐ exclusive
- ☐ Uniformed services
- ☐ Equine exclusive
- ☐ Mixed practice, large and small animal
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Exotic exclusive
- ☐ Not-for-profit organization (humane society, nature center, etc.)

3. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally better prepared compared to other program graduates.

- ☐ Anesthesia
- ☐ Clinical pathology
- ☐ Exam room procedures
- ☐ Surgical nursing
- ☐ Animal diseases and public health
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Medical nursing
- ☐ Treatment room procedures
- ☐ Basic clinical skills
- ☐ Diagnostic imaging
- ☐ Office and hospital procedures
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Basic sciences
- ☐ Emergency medicine
- ☐ Pharmacy and pharmacology

4. Indicate 3 topic areas where Foothill College veterinary technology graduates are generally less prepared compared to other program graduates.

- ☐ Anesthesia
- ☐ Clinical pathology
- ☐ Exam room procedures
- ☐ Surgical nursing
- ☐ Animal diseases and public health
- ☐ Dentistry
- ☐ Medical nursing
- ☐ Treatment room procedures
- ☐ Basic clinical skills
- ☐ Diagnostic imaging
- ☐ Office and hospital procedures
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Basic sciences
- ☐ Emergency medicine
- ☐ Pharmacy and pharmacology

5. Would you hire another Foothill College's veterinary technology graduate?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Maybe

Please explain your response.

6. What is the starting hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization?

- ○ $15/hr or less
- ○ $15.01/hr - $20/hr
- ○ $20.01/hr - $25/hr
- ○ $25.01/hr - $30/hr
- ○ $30/hr or more

7. What is the hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization after 1-3 years of experience?

- ○ $15/hr or less
- ○ $15.01/hr - $20/hr
- ○ $20.01/hr - $25/hr
- ○ $25.01/hr - $30/hr
- ○ $30/hr or more

8. While our program is confident in the technical skills of our program graduates (> 92% pass rate on the VTNE and our AVMA accreditation status), they should excel in "soft skills." Please select the top 3 preferred soft skills when hiring/promoting:

- ☐ Basic Business Acumen (Accounts Receivable, Inventory Management)
- ☐ Communication Skills
- ☐ Fear-Free Training
- ☐ Interpersonal Relationships
- ☐ Interviewing Skills
- ☐ Professional Resume
- ☐ Self-Awareness
- ☐ Additional Training (Suicide Prevention, CPR, QPR, AVMA Wellness Certification, Harassment Training)

If other, please explain:

9. Suggestions to further improve Foothill's program:

Submit

Updated 10/21/2020