

FOOTHILL COLLEGE Institutional Research and Planning

DATE:	August 3, 2016
TO:	Lisa Eshman, Instructor/Program Director, Veterinary Technology Program
FROM:	Elaine Kuo, Institutional Researcher
RE:	Veterinary Technology (VT) Alumni and Employer Survey Results

Overview

As part of the Veterinary Technology (VT) program's accreditation process, alumni and employers were surveyed to assess their current employment; experience with program content and training; and satisfaction with graduates.

Highlights

- Alumni Year 1
 - The majority of alumni are employed for pay in a VT-related job as their primary occupation (72%), are working full-time (77%) and have been the in same position for at least a year (62%).
 - Most alumni are employed at a practice working with small animals (60%); and almost half report working in Santa Clara County (46%).
 - Among those alumni not currently employed in a VT-related job, most were looking for work (60%) and one was employed as a veterinary assistant (20%).
 - The majority of alumni believe that the program prepared them "extremely well" or "very well" for a VT career (84%).
 - The top three areas where alumni felt the most prepared are: 1) Medical nursing; 2) Anesthesia; and 3) Basic clinical skills.
 - The top three areas where alumni felt the least prepared in are: 1) Pharmacy and pharmacology; 2) Diagnostic imaging; and 3) Clinical pathology.
 - The majority of alumni employed in a VT-related job report earning \$15.01/hr to \$25/hr (77%).
 - All alumni (whether employed or not in a VT-related job) would recommend the VT program to others.
- Alumni Year 3
 - The majority of alumni are employed for pay in a VT-related job as their primary occupation (78%), working full-time (86%) and in same position for at least a year (100%).
 - Most alumni are employed at a practice that works with small animals (67%); and over half report working in Santa Clara County (57%).

- Among those alumni not currently employed in a VT-related job, one was employed as a developmental assistant (50%) and the other was self-employed (50%).
- The majority of alumni believe that the program prepared them "extremely well" or "very well" for a VT career (86%).
- The top three areas where alumni felt the most prepared are: 1) Basic clinical skills;
 2) Anesthesia; and 3) Animal diseases and public health.
- The top three areas where alumni felt the least prepared in are: 1) Pharmacy and pharmacology; 2) Clinical pathology; and 3) Anesthesia/Other (emotional issues related to be a VT, compassion, fatigue, suicide; large animal).
- The majority of alumni employed in a VT-related job report earning \$15.01/hr to \$25/hr (86%).
- All alumni (whether employed or not in a VT-related job) would recommend the VT program to others.
- Employer Survey
 - The majority of employers surveyed report their practice is located in either Santa Clara or San Mateo County (68%).
 - Half of the employers describe their practice as small animal (dog/cat) exclusive.
 - Almost all employers responded that VT grads "generally possess good knowledge and clinical skills related to the field" (95%) and that they would hire another Foothill graduate (90%).
 - The top three topics cited by employers as areas where VT graduates are generally better prepared than other program graduates are: 1) Basic clinical skills; 2) Basic sciences; and 3) Treatment room procedures.
 - The top three topics cited by employers as areas where VT graduates are generally less prepared than other program graduates are: 1) Emergency medicine; 2) Anesthesia; and 3) Dentistry/Diagnostic imaging/Other (including patient restraint, venipuncture, equine industry).
 - Over half the employers indicated that the starting salary for their VTs were between \$15.01/hr to \$20/hr (62%), and that the wages would increase among VTs with one to three years of experience to \$20.01/hr to \$25/hr (57%).

<u>Methodology</u>

Students who graduated from the VT program in 2015 (one year ago) and 2013 (three years ago) were sent an invite email from the VT program with the survey link embedded. The survey administration for alumni occurred from June 1 to June 30, 2016. Alumni Year 1 responses: 18 out of 36 or 50% Alumni Year 3 responses: 9 out of 36 or 25%

Employers identified by the VT program were sent an email with the survey link embedded. VT Employer survey May 10 to June 10, 2016 Employer responses: 22 out of 30 or 73%

<u>Source</u> FHDA IR&P Remark Survey Software [Vet Year 1, Vet Year 3, VetSurvey Employer]

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

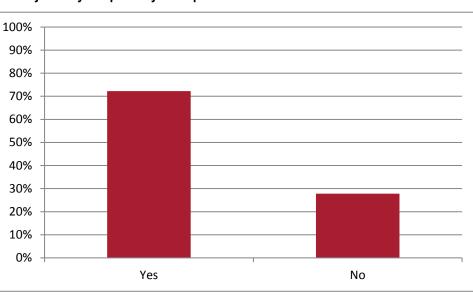
Response	Ν	%
Yes	13	72%
No	5	28%
Total	18	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

What is your current occupation status?

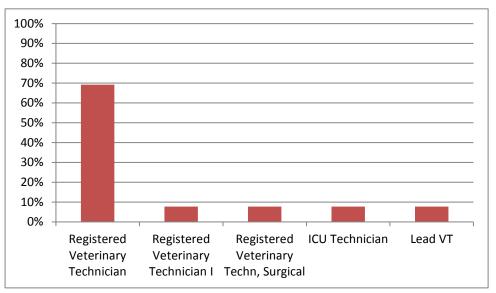
Response	Ν	%
Not working, looking for work	3	60%
Not working, not looking for work	1	20%
Employed for wages	1	20%
Total	5	100%

Employed for wages as a veterinary assistant



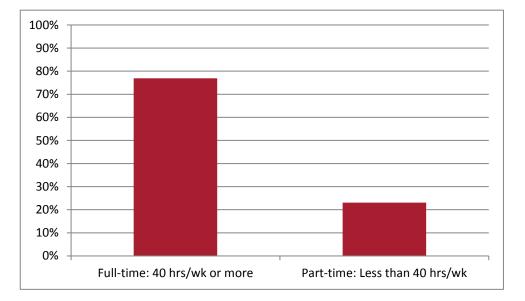
What is your job title (in your veterinary technician-related job)?

Response	Ν	%
Registered Veterinary Technician	9	69%
Registered Veterinary Technician I	1	8%
Registered Veterinary Techn, Surgical	1	8%
ICU Technician	1	8%
Lead VT	1	8%
Total	13	100%



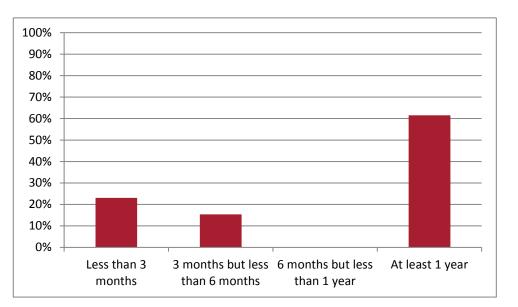
What is the employment status of your current position?

Response	Ν	%
Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more	10	77%
Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk	3	23%
Total	13	100%



How long have you been at your current position?

Response	Ν	%
Less than 3 months	3	23%
3 months but less than 6 months	2	15%
6 months but less than 1 year	0	0%
At least 1 year	8	62%
Total	13	100%



What county is your current position located?

Response	Ν	%
Santa Clara	6	46%
Alameda	2	15%
Marin	1	8%
San Francisco	1	8%
San Mateo	1	8%
Santa Cruz	1	8%
Other	1	8%
Total	13	100%

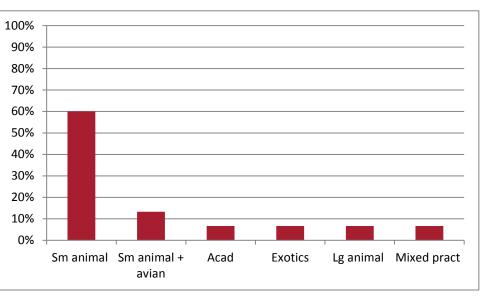
Other response includes Nevada



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

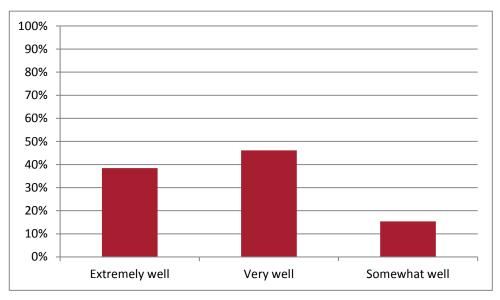
Response	Ν	%
Small animal (dog/cat/pocket pet)	9	60%
Small animal plus avian	2	13%
Academic	1	7%
Exotics	1	7%
Large animal exclusive	1	7%
Mixed practice large/small animal	1	7%
Total	15	100%

12 respondents responded to this question



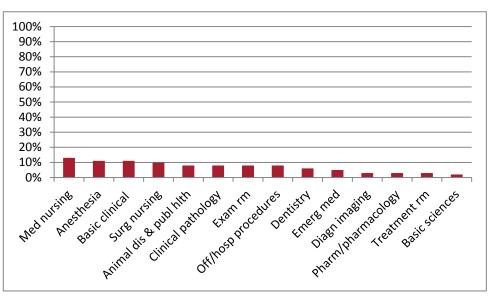
How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

Response	Ν	%
Extremely well	5	38%
Very well	6	46%
Somewhat well	2	15%
Not so well	0	0%
Not at all well	0	0%
Total	13	100%



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

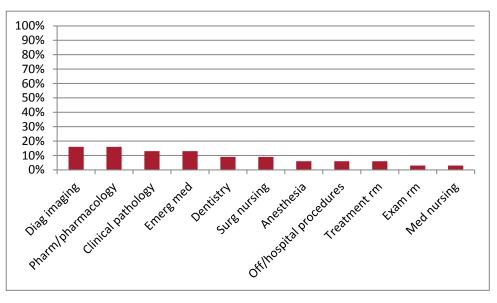
Response	Ν	%
Anesthesia	7	11%
Animal diseases and public health	5	8%
Basic clinical skills	7	11%
Basic sciences	1	2%
Clinical pathology	5	8%
Dentistry	4	6%
Diagnostic imaging	2	3%
Emergency medicine	3	5%
Exam room procedures	5	8%
Medical nursing	8	13%
Office and hospital procedures	5	8%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	2	3%
Surgical nursing	6	10%
Treatment room procedures	2	3%
Other	0	0%
Total	62	100%



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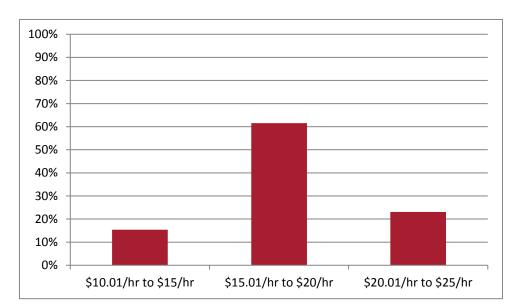
Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

Response	Ν	%
Anesthesia	2	6%
Animal diseases and public health	0	0%
Basic clinical skills	0	0%
Basic sciences	0	0%
Clinical pathology	4	13%
Dentistry	3	9%
Diagnostic imaging	5	16%
Emergency medicine	4	13%
Exam room procedures	1	3%
Medical nursing	1	3%
Office and hospital procedures	2	6%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	5	16%
Surgical nursing	3	9%
Treatment room procedures	2	6%
Other	0	0%
Total	32	100%



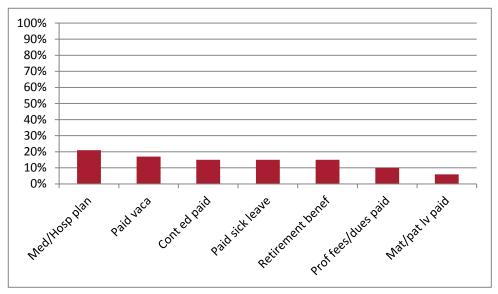
What is the hourly wage at your current position?

Response	Ν	%
Less than \$10/hr	0	0%
\$10.01/hr to \$15/hr	2	15%
\$15.01/hr to \$20/hr	8	62%
\$20.01/hr to \$25/hr	3	23%
\$25.01/hr to \$30/hr	0	0%
More than \$30/hr	0	0%
Volunteer or no pay	0	0%
Total	13	100%



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

Response	Ν	%
Continuing education paid	8	15%
Medical/Hospitalization plan	11	21%
Pension, Retirement, 401K	8	15%
Paid maternity/paternity leave	3	6%
Professional license fees/dues paid	5	10%
Paid sick leave	8	15%
Paid vacation	9	17%
Profit sharing	0	0%
Total	52	100%

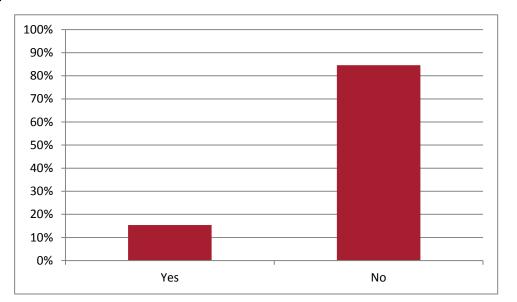


Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	2	15%
No	11	85%
Total	13	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	3	60%
No	2	40%
Total	5	100%

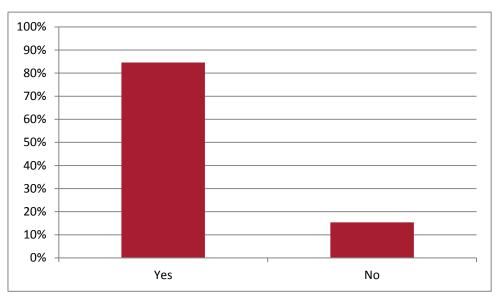


Are you currently a member of an organized veterinary or technician association?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	11	85%
No	2	15%
Total	13	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

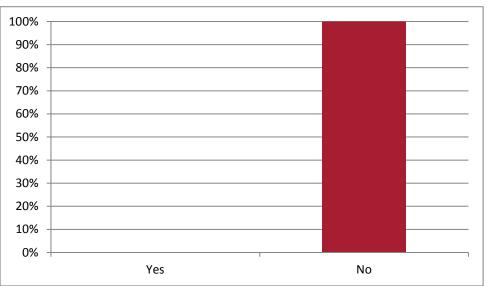
Response	Ν	%
Yes	5	100%
No	0	0%
Total	5	100%



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

Response	Ν	%
Yes	0	0%
No	13	100%
Total	13	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary		
Response	N	%
Yes	2	40%
No	3	60%
Total	5	100%

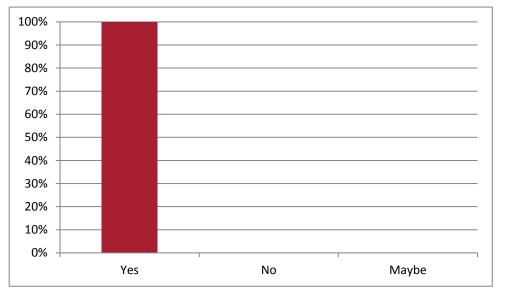


Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	13	100%
No	0	0%
Maybe	0	0%
Total	13	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	3	100%
No	0	0%
Maybe	0	0%
Total	3	100%



2 respondents did not answer this question.

Please explain your response to the previous question.

It's the best school around

The program has great teachers who are willing to help a student if they are having trouble with class work. The program is equally divided into lecture and lab classes. The subjects given during the program are fulfilled with material that will prepare a student for their future career. It also houses a few Overall it is a good program and I learned a great deal.

I had an overall great, unforgettable experience being a part of this program. Being in the real world now and applying what I've learned can be difficult at times but this RVT program prepared me for a lot.

I feel that on top of being at a community college, thus being a much more affordable option, Foothill VT provides very hands-on and thorough education in smaller classes. It is a very in depth and close learning environment which allows the most opportunity for a VT student to grow.

Foothill College Vet Tech program is wonderful and really prepares you for the real world. The teachers are wonderful and very helpful. The teaching style is such where students are set up for success.

Foothill college Vet tech program is more invasive and gets you more prepared. The teachers as well try there best for everyone to understand. I really enjoy having access to the lab at any time to study.

I think of all the VT programs in the area foothill is making the best techs most of the anesthesia techs and emergency/icu techs at my clinic are foothill I feel that the teaching staff is very committed to the students, and I feel like the program prepares students well. I think the vibe is optimal for learning and

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Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Dedicated staff, program animals, professional atmosphere, community service

Foothill has the best instructors for teaching the necessary skills to be a good vet tech. I never had a doubt that I wasn't ready to pass the VTNE or start my career as a credentialed technician. Some programs may be "diploma mills" and more interested in collecting tuition instead of equipping and educating students, but that's not Foothill.

Incredible instructor support, good diversity of curriculum, broad emphasis in classwork, practical skill opportunities, emphasis on professionalism and teamwork.

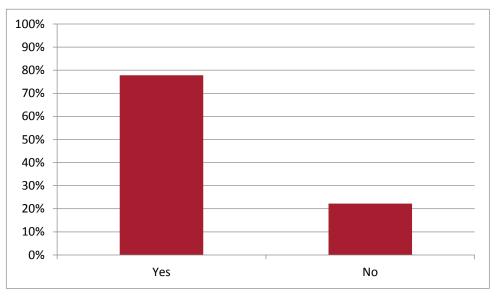
Are you currently employed for pay in a veterinary technician-related job as your primary occupation?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	7	78%
No	2	22%
Total	9	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary What is your current occupation status?

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Response	Ν	%
Employed for wages	1	50%
Self-employed	1	50%
Total	2	100%

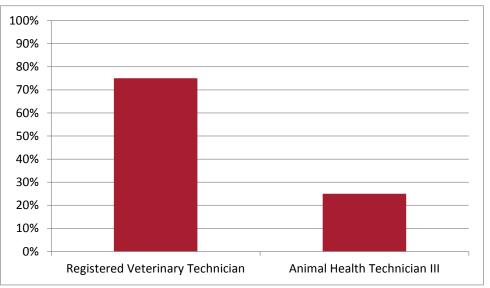
Employed for wages as a developmental assistant



What is your job title (in your veterinary technician-related job)?

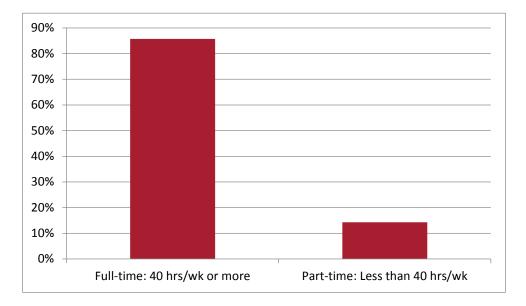
Response	Ν	%
Registered Veterinary Technician	3	75%
Animal Health Technician III	1	25%
Total	4	100%

3 respondents did not answer this question



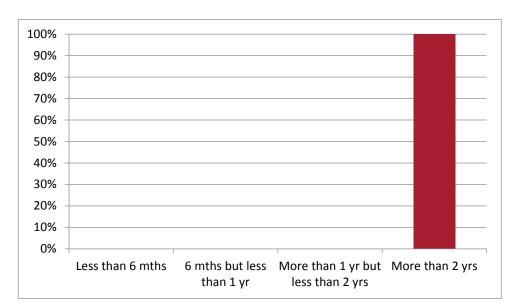
What is the employment status of your current position?

Response	Ν	%
Full-time: 40 hrs/wk or more	6	86%
Part-time: Less than 40 hrs/wk	1	14%
Total	7	100%



How long have you been at your current position?

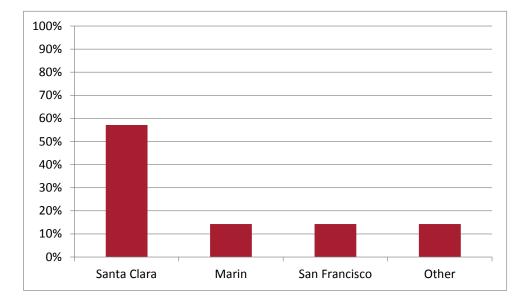
Response	Ν	%
Less than 6 mths	0	0%
6 mths but less than 1 yr	0	0%
More than 1 yr but less than 2 yrs	0	0%
More than 2 yrs	7	100%
Total	7	100%



What county is your current position located?

Response	Ν	%
Santa Clara	4	57%
Marin	1	14%
San Francisco	1	14%
Other	1	14%
Total	7	100%

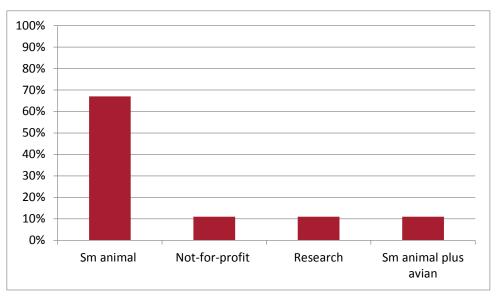
Other response includes Flagstaff, AZ



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

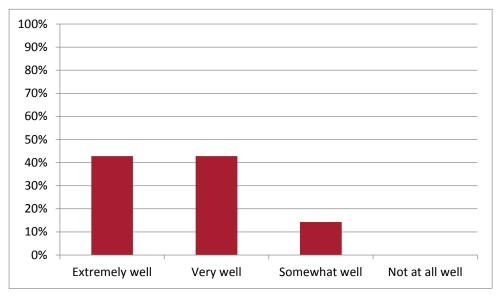
Response	Ν	%
Small animal (dog/cat/pocket pet)	6	67%
Not-for-profit organization	1	11%
Research	1	11%
Small animal plus avian	1	11%
Total	9	100%

7 respondents answered this question.



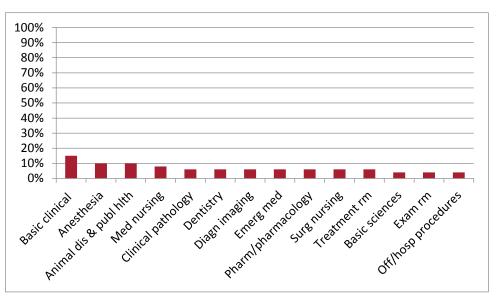
How well did your AVMA-accredited program prepare you for a veterinary technology career, whether for pay or as a volunteer?

Response	Ν	%
Extremely well	3	43%
Very well	3	43%
Somewhat well	1	14%
Not at all well	0	0%
Total	7	100%



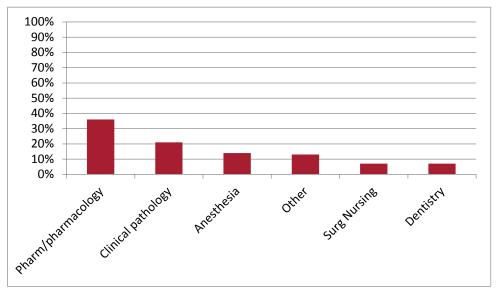
Which of the following areas do you feel you were the best prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

Response	Ν	%
Anesthesia	5	10%
Animal diseases and public health	5	10%
Basic clinical skills	7	15%
Basic sciences	2	4%
Clinical pathology	3	6%
Dentistry	3	6%
Diagnostic imaging	3	6%
Emergency medicine	3	6%
Exam room procedures	2	4%
Medical nursing	4	8%
Office and hospital procedures	2	4%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	3	6%
Surgical nursing	3	6%
Treatment room procedures	3	6%
Other	0	0%
Total	48	100%



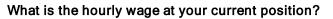
Which of the following areas do you feel you were the least prepared? Check the top 3 areas.

Response	Ν	%
Anesthesia	2	14%
Animal diseases and public health	0	0%
Basic clinical skills	0	0%
Basic sciences	0	0%
Clinical pathology	3	21%
Dentistry	1	7%
Diagnostic imaging	0	0%
Emergency medicine	0	0%
Exam room procedures	0	0%
Medical nursing	0	0%
Office and hospital procedures	0	0%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	5	36%
Surgical nursing	1	7%
Treatment room procedures	0	0%
Other	2	14%
Total	14	100%



Other responses include: Emotional issues related to being a VT (compassion, fatigue, suicide); Large animal

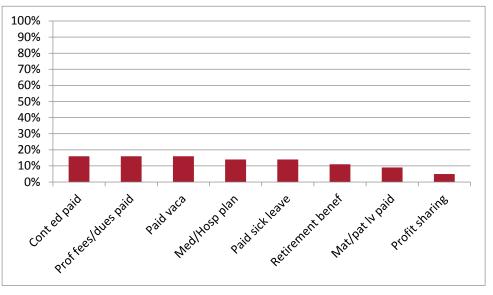
Response	N	%
Less than \$10/hr	0	0%
\$10.01/hr to \$15/hr	0	0%
\$15.01/hr to \$20/hr	4	57%
\$20.01/hr to \$25/hr	2	29%
\$25.01/hr to \$30/hr	1	14%
More than \$30/hr	0	0%
Volunteer or no pay	0	0%
Total	7	100%





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

Response	Ν	%
Continuing education paid	7	16%
Medical/Hospitalization plan	6	14%
Pension, Retirement, 401K	5	11%
Paid maternity/paternity leave	4	9%
Professional license fees/dues paid	7	16%
Paid sick leave	6	14%
Paid vacation	7	16%
Profit sharing	2	5%
Total	44	100%

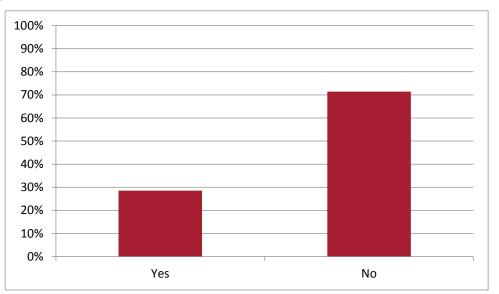


Do you volunteer in a veterinary technician-related position?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	2	29%
No	5	71%
Total	7	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	1	50%
No	1	50%
Total	2	100%

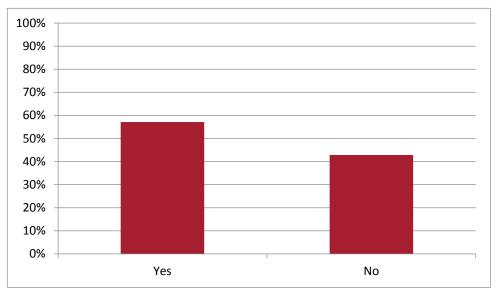


Are you currently a member of an organized veterinary or technician association?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	4	57%
No	3	43%
Total	7	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related iob:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	0	0%
No	2	100%
Total	2	100%



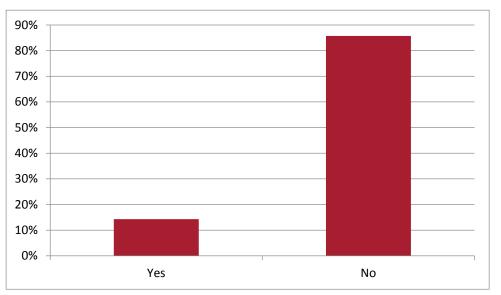
Do you have additional credentials in any veterinary technician specialty group?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	1	14%
No	6	86%
Total	7	100%

Additional certification: LAT

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	0	0%
No	2	100%
Total	2	100%

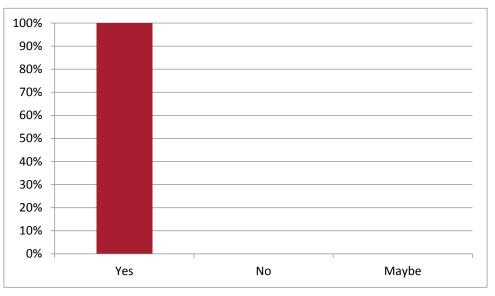


Would you recommend Foothill College's veterinary technology program to others?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	7	100%
No	0	0%
Maybe	0	0%
Total	7	100%

Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Response	Ν	%
Yes	2	100%
No	0	0%
Maybe	0	0%
Total	2	100%



Please explain your response to the previous question.

This program has a great reputation for producing reliable, smart techs. The education we receive is on the same level as some vet schools. I strongly believe this program set a good foundation for me as an RVT and that is why I highly recommend any new vet assistants looking at tech schools to I learned so much during my time at foothill. The vet tech program prepared me for the work force and board exams.

I was well prepared for a low cost. Excellent school and resource

I feel it is a great program and would benefit anyone who wants to become a vet tech.

Overall an amazing program. However in my profession I needed more experience in my pharmaceutical because I am a surgical nurse and large animal husbandry.

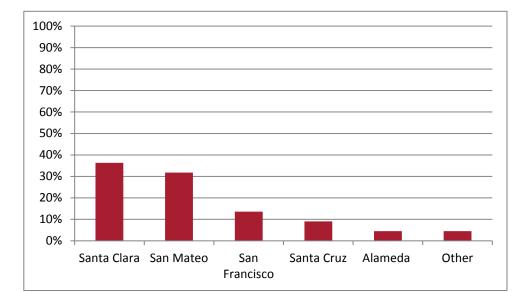
Among those not currently employed in veterinary technician related job:

Foothill prepared me for the technical aspects of the job, but I wasn't prepared for the job itself. It is a good program and I passed both exams without a problem.

1. Indicate what county your practice is located.

County	Ν	%
Santa Clara	8	36%
San Mateo	7	32%
San Francisco	3	14%
Santa Cruz	2	9%
Alameda	1	5%
Other	1	5%
Total	22	100%

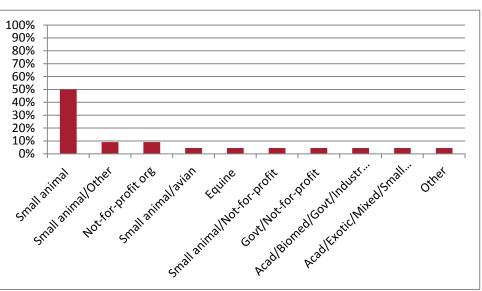
Other response: San Francisco and San Mateo



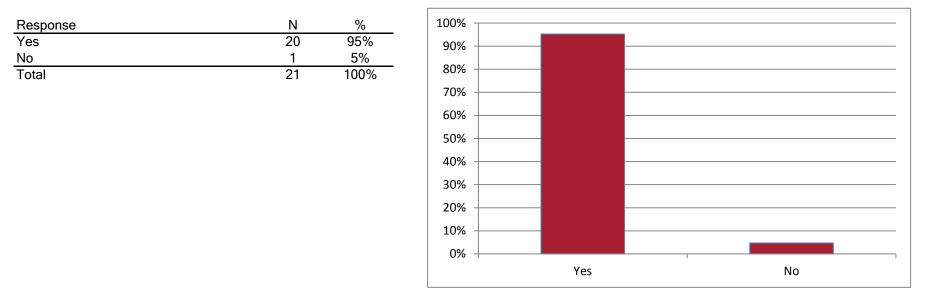
2. Which of the following descriptions best describes your practice? Check all that apply.

Description	Ν	%
Small animal (dog/cat) exclusive	11	50%
Small animal (dog/cat) exclusive; Other	2	9%
Not-for-profit organization	2	9%
Small animal plus avian	1	5%
Equine exclusive	1	5%
Small animal exclusive; Not-for-profit org	1	5%
Government; Not-for-profit org	1	5%
Academic; Biomed; Govt; Industry;	1	5%
Mixed practice; Not-for-profit org; Other		
Academic; Exotic; Mixed practice;	1	5%
Small animal plus avian; Other		
Other	1	5%
Total	22	100%

Other responses includes: All lab animal species; Small mammal; Specialty and emergency; Veterinary ophthalmology



3. Indicate whether Foothill College veterinary technology graduates generally possess good basic knowledge and clinical skills related to the fie



Please explain your response.

Both external that have shadowed with me arrive professionally dressed, ask appropriate questions, and exhibit a knowledge base consistent with my expectations.

Excellent knowledge

Foothill graduates are generally well prepared to begin in an entry level position in the veterinary field upon graduation. They commonly seem well informed in their "book knowledge," while their "hands on, technical" experience often still needs practice.

General love of working with animals is we look for. Understanding behavior and being a voice for the animals is a must for a successful technician. Basic handling, understanding of dose routes, understanding of aseptic procedures is something I have seen and appreciate from Foothill candidates. For us in I find this to be the best RVT program in the area and actively recruit from Foothill. The students tend to be dedicated, bright, informed.

I have worked with a few Foothill students over the last few years. Depending on the student, some have been great and some have struggled with technical skills and processes.

In my experience with Foothill students/graduates they have always had excellent clinical and technical skills.

My foothill student is not a graduate, but I have hired other students that were and all were able to begin at an above basic level.

The former students we have working for us have acquired great knowledge in terminology, biology, and anatomy from the Foothill Program. They are always eager to share their knowledge from school, but also know there is much to learn from experience on the job as well. We always look forward to meeting an applicant that is in or has graduated the Foothill program, as we know that we are going to get someone who is motivated, and knowledgeable. They have more than just the basic knowledge, they have a good understanding of the why's and how's of disease processes and treatments, knowledgeable of the physiology of diseases and pharmacology

Though they may not have a lot of clinical experience, they do tend to have a good solid knowledge base.

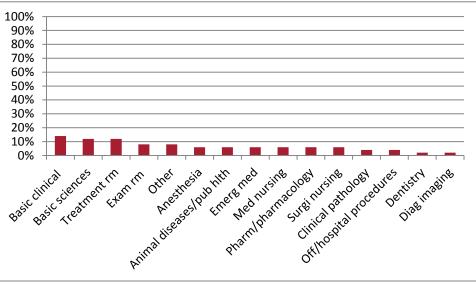
We had two students I hired as very inexperienced techs. I had to end their employment. They both had issues with retaining information. We have found that the Techs coming out of Foothill are generally the ones that turn into those Super Techs! We have several Foothill RVTs in our employment, and they are all intelligent and well educated.

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

Торіс	Ν	%
Anesthesia	3	6%
Animal diseases and public health	3	6%
Basic clinical skills	7	14%
Basic sciences	6	12%
Clinical pathology	2	4%
Dentistry	1	2%
Diagnostic imaging	1	2%
Emergency medicine	3	6%
Exam room procedures	4	8%
Medical nursing	3	6%
Office and hospital procedures	2	4%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	3	6%
Surgical nursing	3	6%
Treatment room procedures	6	12%
Other	4	8%
Total	51	100%

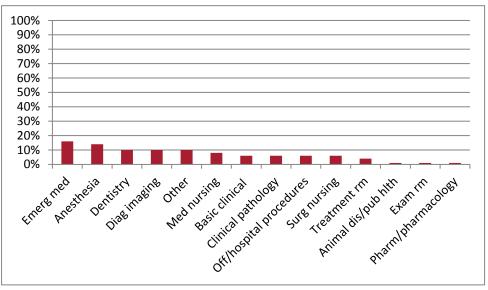
Other responses includes: Client communication; All of the above; Book knowledge; Self-accountability & professionalism

Respondents could select up to three topics 18 respondents completed this question



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

Торіс	Ν	%
Anesthesia	7	14%
Animal diseases and public health	1	2%
Basic clinical skills	3	6%
Basic sciences	0	0%
Clinical pathology	3	6%
Dentistry	5	10%
Diagnostic imaging	5	10%
Emergency medicine	8	16%
Exam room procedures	1	2%
Medical nursing	4	8%
Office and hospital procedures	3	6%
Pharmacy and pharmacology	1	2%
Surgical nursing	3	6%
Treatment room procedures	2	4%
Other	5	10%
Total	51	100%



Other responses includes: Patient restraint; venipuncture; basic restraint; General knowledge of equine industry

Respondents could select up to three topics 15 respondents completed this question

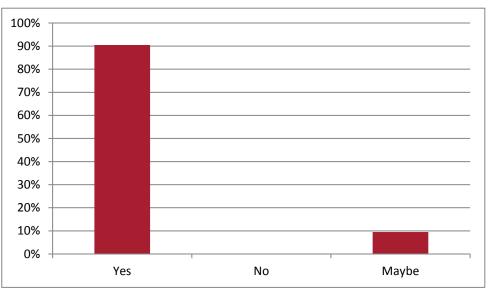
6. Would you hire another Foothill College veterinary technology graduate?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	19	90%
No	0	0%
Maybe	2	10%
Total	21	100%

Please explain your response.

I've hired three Foothill students in the past. Two were extremely knowledgeable and thorough but struggled with both technical skills and sense of urgency in actual practice. The third hire struggled in all areas. I do believe, however, that these opportunities were dependent on the individual and not reflective of the program.

We only had two new people come through out hospital. Our last graduate was great but that was 7 years ago. Need to have more students come through.



Foothill graduates generally have a solid foundation of veterinary medical knowledge, eagerness to learn & passion for the field as a whole. They are consistently hard workers. Should their exposure to more hands on experience be strengthened in school, it would only benefit them & the facility they become a part of giving them a much smoother transition into a permanent position as a working Veterinary Technician.

It would be dependent on whether they went through our internship program as well as their overall skill set, personality, and eagerness to learn and work hard.

Veterinary Technology students are skilled in the profession and are driven to excel and use their education.

I am currently interviewing two students now! Wish I had the workload to hire both.

The students that come from the Foothill Program seem to be more dedicated to the career path that they have invested their time in, and are better at following through with the licensing process.

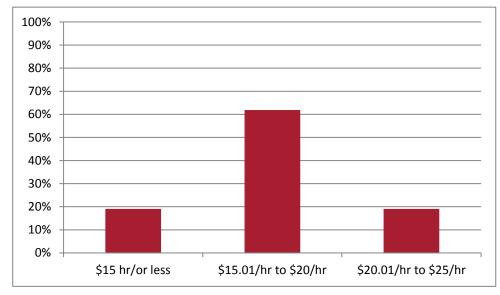
Best prepared out of all other programs

Yes, I've generally had great experiences with graduates from your program

I attended the first year program at Foothill and once I started my internship I was immediately offered a full time position for that vet hospital. At the time, the idea of full time money and health benefits lured me away from completing the second year of the program and testing for my RVT. It was within my second year at the vet hospital that I was offered to interview with SRI international. I took that position as an entry level tech in 1994. I am now the director of the same group and have ~30 technicians working with me. I am all for more Foothill students looking at research as another option when striving for an RVT.

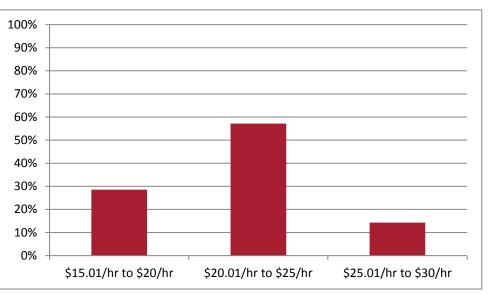
7. What is the starting hourly wage for veterinary technicians at your organization?

Wage	Ν	%
\$15 hr/or less	4	19%
\$15.01/hr to \$20/hr	13	62%
\$20.01/hr to \$25/hr	4	19%
\$25.01/hr to \$30/hr	0	0%
\$30/hr or more	0	0%
Total	21	100%



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

Wage	Ν	%
\$15 hr/or less	0	0%
\$15.01/hr to \$20/hr	6	29%
\$20.01/hr to \$25/hr	12	57%
\$25.01/hr to \$30/hr	3	14%
\$30/hr or more	0	0%
Total	21	100%



9. Would you be interested in becoming more engaged with Foothill College's veterinary technology program?

Response	Ν	%
Yes	8	44%
No	10	56%
Total	18	100%

