



Master of Veterinary Clinical Care – A new veterinary advanced care provider

PRESENTED BY:

STACY ANDERSON

DVM, MVSc, PhD, DACVS-LA

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Lincoln Memorial University

Is Veterinary Technology/Nursing a Dead-End Job?

“A **dead-end job** is a job where there is little or no chance of career development and advancement into a better position.”

Fortunately, NO!

BUT...

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY/TECHNICIAN/NURSING

- 2-year Associate's Degree
- 4-Year Bachelor's Degree

No standardization for differentiation of skill set between 2- and 4-year degree

HIGH TURNOVER

CAREER LADDER CONCEPT

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY/TECHNICIAN/NURSING

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- 4-Year Bachelor's Degree

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MASTER LEVEL

WHAT ABOUT Veterinary Technician Specialists?

- Specializing is not related to a degree
- Nurses earn degrees in tandem with specialization
- Advanced training should assist obtaining VTS
- VTS are difficult to achieve

CAREER LADDER CONCEPT

- Comparable to human nursing
- MVCC represents first advanced degree specifically for credentialed veterinary technicians
- One part of the solution in advancing veterinary technology

SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL DEGREES AT LMU

MASTER OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, *established in 2009*

- *Physician Assistant Program*

DOCTOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE, *established in 2016*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, *established in 2006*

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE, *established in 2015*



MASTER OF VETERINARY CLINICAL CARE (MVCC)

- Aims
 - Provide an advanced knowledge-base to a person trained in veterinary technical skills
- ~~Alternative Aims~~
 - ~~Alternate veterinary career path~~

MASTER OF VETERINARY CLINICAL CARE (MVCC)

- ACCREDITATION
 - LMU's MVCC is the first program of its kind - no programmatic accreditor
 - Program approved to be offered by institutional accreditor (SACSCOC)
 - MVCC Advisory Board
 - Guides the program to ensure high standards for educational quality
 - Ensures program adds value to the profession
 - Veterinary technician leaders
 - Veterinary technician educators
 - Veterinarians
 - Industry professionals

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Credentialed veterinary technicians (proof of licensure required)
 - Preference for grads of CVTEA-accredited programs
- Hold a Bachelor of Sciences (any discipline), Bachelor of Arts (any discipline), or Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.8
- Prerequisite courses:
 - 6 credit hours General Biology or higher
 - 6 credit hours General Chemistry or higher
 - 3 credit hours English or higher

CAREER - FOCUS

22 Core Credits **8** Elective Credits

TRACKS



SMALL
ANIMAL



LARGE
ANIMAL



MANAGEMENT



LAB
ANIMAL



SHELTER
MEDICINE

Curriculum

- Designed to expand on existing veterinary technician training
 - No clinical skills
- Goal to allow graduates to expand scope of practice WITHIN existing laws
 - Scope of practice is highly variable
 - Many states have expanded scope of veterinary technician practice
 - Diagnostics
 - Advanced imaging
 - Sample collection
 - Treatment
 - Dentistry
 - Emergency procedures and case management
 - Shock wave and laser therapy
 - Patient care
 - Euthanasia
 - Regional anesthesia

ACCESSIBLE

- Online
- Asynchronous
- Part-time possible
- 30 credits over 3 semester
 - Pay by credit
 - Cost per credit = \$650
 - \$19,500 for degree



PROOF OF CONCEPT

- Economic modeling project lead by Jim Lloyd
 - Projections on how an advanced veterinary care provider will impact practices
 - Currently in data collection
- Collecting data on students and outcomes
 - Where they started and where they end up
 - Impact on practices that currently employ or hire them after graduation

NEXT STEPS

- Accrediting Organization
- Credentialing Examination
- Collaboration with other programs
- Engaging VMAs & lobbyists to expand scope of practice for higher trained veterinary technicians

WHAT ELSE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO SUPPORT THE VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CAREER LADDER CONCEPT?

- Title protection
- Uniform credentialing and scope of practice
- Technician empowerment and utilization
- Teaching veterinarians what technicians do
- Differentiation of an AS from a BS
 - Competencies
 - Credentialing Examination

WHAT ELSE IS LMU DOING TO ADDRESS THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE CRISIS?

- Creation of a Center for Optimization of Veterinary Healthcare Teams (OpVet) to address the problems facing veterinary healthcare team utilization and optimization
 - Curriculum changes for DVM and VMT students
 - MVCC
 - Research

KEY CONCEPTS

- MVCC is FOR veterinary technicians/nurses
- No one in the industry seems to like the term “mid-level practitioner”
 - Veterinary Professional Associate
- There are multiple issues to address to solve the veterinary workforce shortage

Questions?

