



ALAMO
COLLEGES

PALO ALTO COLLEGE

PROGRAM REVIEW

Academic Programs

Veterinary Technology Program
2008-09 through 2012-13
Submitted 2013-14

*Laurie Pawelek, RVT; Leanna Ruiz, RVT; Tamra Schroeder, RVT;
Program Review Team
Dr. Fonzie Quance-Fitch, Director
J. Gary Shelman, Dean*

March 2014

SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)

The strengths of the Veterinary Technology Program are:

1. A new 15,000-square-foot, \$5.2 million state-of-the-art facility on the main campus of PAC.
2. A comprehensive, critical thinking, problem-based learning oriented curriculum taught by highly motivated faculty and staff.
3. A rich curriculum that provides students with integrated field trips and work place laboratory experiences.
4. The continued increase in faculty and staff support, facilities, and equipment.
5. Excellent administrative support from the College and the Alamo Community College District.
6. A program being offered at an excellent academic institution in the second largest city in Texas, as well as in a region of Texas that has no other VTPs.
7. An excellent working relationship with an effective and dedicated advisory committee.
8. The collaborative efforts of the local industry to help provide instruction and laboratory settings to the students.

The challenges for the Veterinary Technology Program are:

1. Difficulty recruiting and retaining faculty and staff.
2. Challenge of recruiting students, especially more rural students and those interested in large animal medicine.
3. Challenge of retaining a higher percentage of students in an academic rigorous program.
4. Challenge of facing a growth period in a phase of budgetary tightening.

Program Review Outcomes and Conclusions

1. Recommendations and Five-Year Goals:

Our goals for the next five years include continuing to increase student enrollment by 3% per year, increase student retention by 2% per year, increase graduation rates by 2% per year, maintain licensure pass rates at 90% or better, maintain cutting edge program equipment and learning experiences, maintain registrations and continue to fully adhere to state and federal regulations including USDA (animal research and teaching), DEA and TxDPS (controlled drugs), and TxDSSH (radiation control), and maintain rigorous standards of accreditation for AVMA CVTEA accreditation of our VTP.

2. Five-Year Action Plan

1. In order to increase enrollment we will need to continue to heavily market our program to both our feeder high schools as well as surrounding community. We need to continue to update our website to make it relevant recruiting tool for today's students. We will need additional personnel to support recruiting events. It would be ideal to have a CTE recruiter as a resource.

2. To help with retention, we will need to fully develop our program's tutoring program. We will also continue to advise and mentor program students to include development of a peer mentoring program.
3. If we can increase enrollment and retention our graduation numbers should subsequently increase.
4. Continue to train students in all the essential skills necessary to become a registered veterinary technician in order to maintain >90 % pass rate on credentialing exams.
5. Continue to pursue alternative grant funding for the program so equipment and facilities can be maintained at the cutting edge level.
6. Continue to maintain registrations necessary to operate program including maintaining registrations and fully adhering to regulations for USDA for animal research, DEA and TxDPs for controlled drugs, and TxDSHS for radiation control.