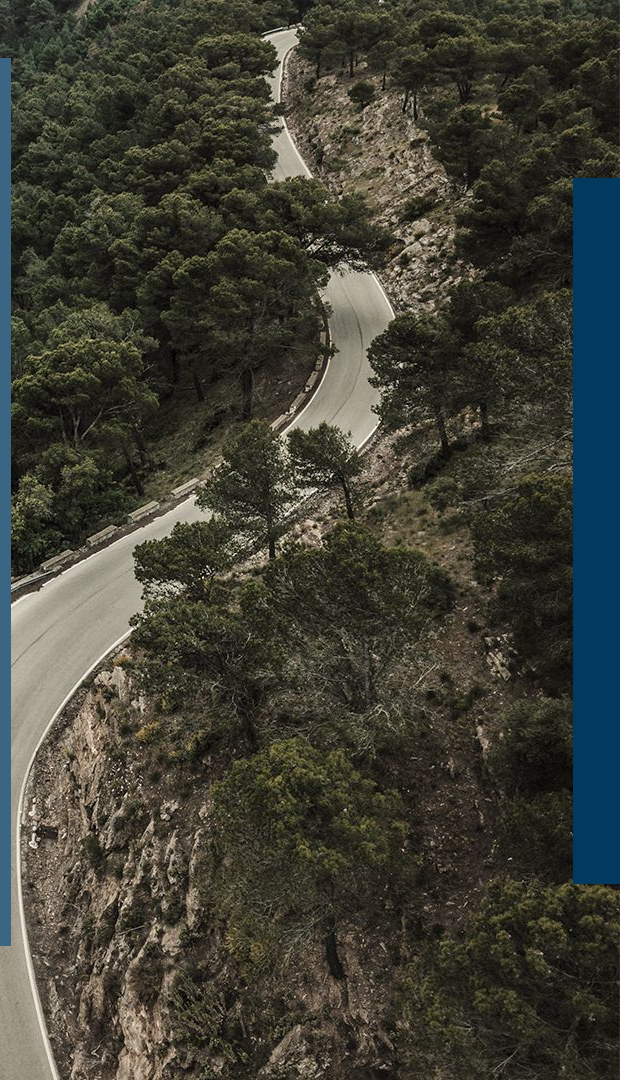


# Comprehensive Approach to Optimizing VTNE Pass Rates

Noah Meyers, LVT, FVTE, Tidewater Community College

Dr. Megan Taliaferro, DVM, Tidewater Community College

Pattie Seeger, LVT, BBA, Tidewater Community College



# Learning Objectives

01

**Analyze** how a **VTNE-aligned curriculum**, scaffolded coursework, and structured **active learning strategies** contribute to **student competency, knowledge retention, and VTNE pass rates**

02

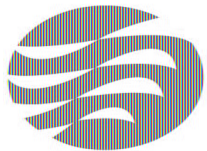
**Evaluate** the role of **immersive simulation labs and required clinical experience** in developing **critical thinking, technical proficiency, and confidence** in **anesthesia and surgical nursing**

03

**Develop** strategies for leveraging **real-time student feedback, individualized, study support, and structured remediation plans** to improve **student performance, retention, and program outcomes**

# Program Background

## SECTION 1



**TIDEWATER  
COMMUNITY C**  
From here, go anywl



# First new program in VA in over 40 years

## New Program Challenges:

- Lack of curriculum
- Lack of instructors
- Accreditation hurdles

## Additional Challenges

- Lack of infrastructure to support clinical skill acquisition



# TCC BY THE NUMBERS



## Accreditation

2020 Initial Accreditation  
2025 **Full Accreditation**

## 3 Year VTNE Pass Rate

**91%**

## Retention Rate

**90%** of students **graduate  
on-time**

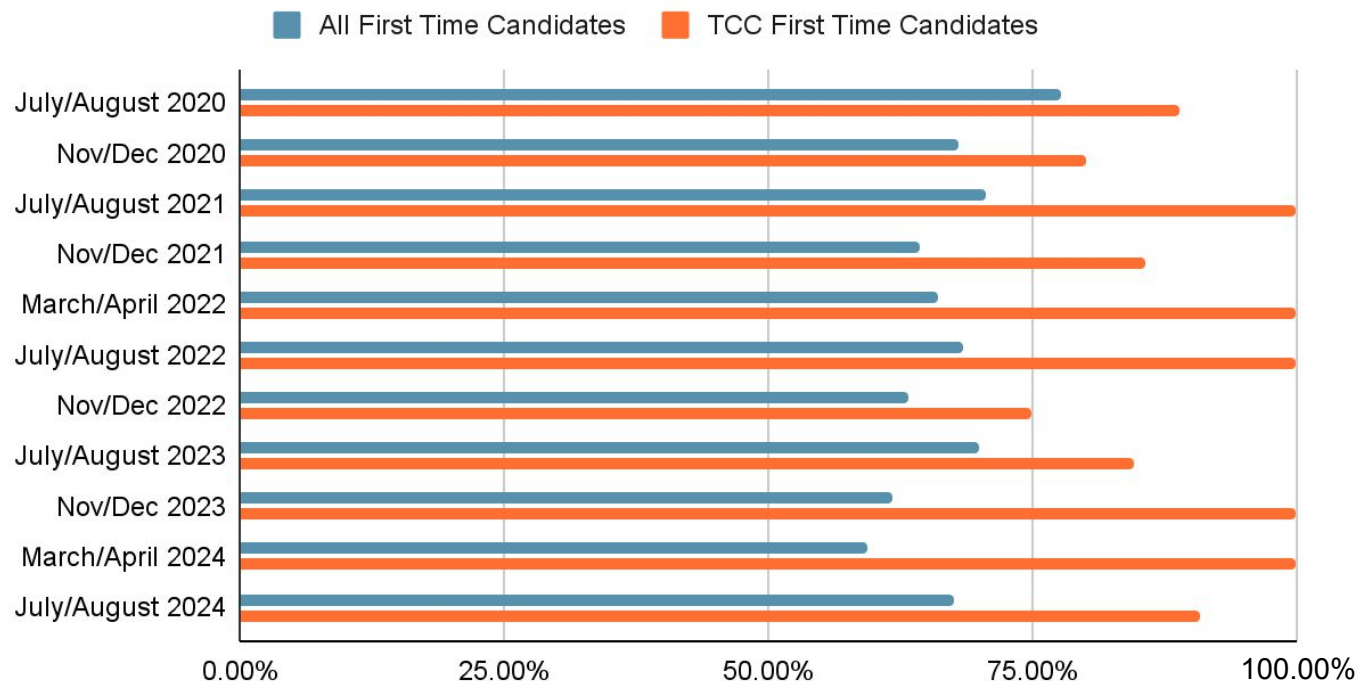


# Student VTNE Success

## Open Admission Policy:

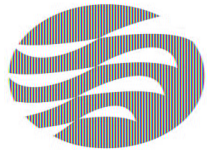
- Minimal prerequisites
- No GPA weighting in admissions

## Pass/Fail Rates Report



# Core Educational Model: Curriculum, Simulation, Clinical Experience

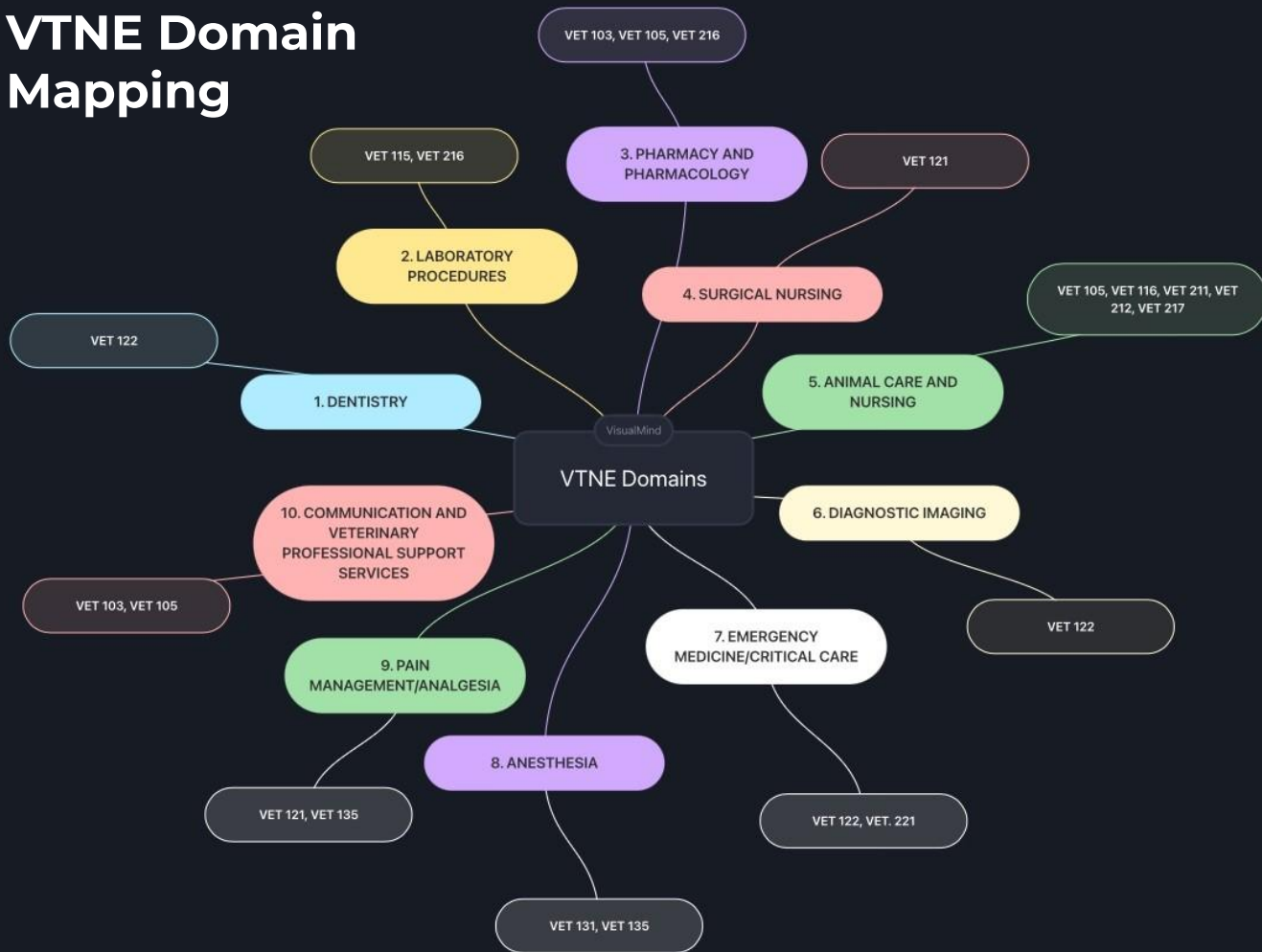
## SECTION 2



**TIDEWATER  
COMMUNITY C**  
From here, go anywl



# VTNE Domain Mapping





# Scaffolding Progression: Course Mapping

**VET 121 & 135 - Anesthesia, Analgesia, & Surgical Assisting -  
Using Medical Math on Live Patients**

**VET 216 - Pharmacology - Using Medical  
Math on Written Case Reports**

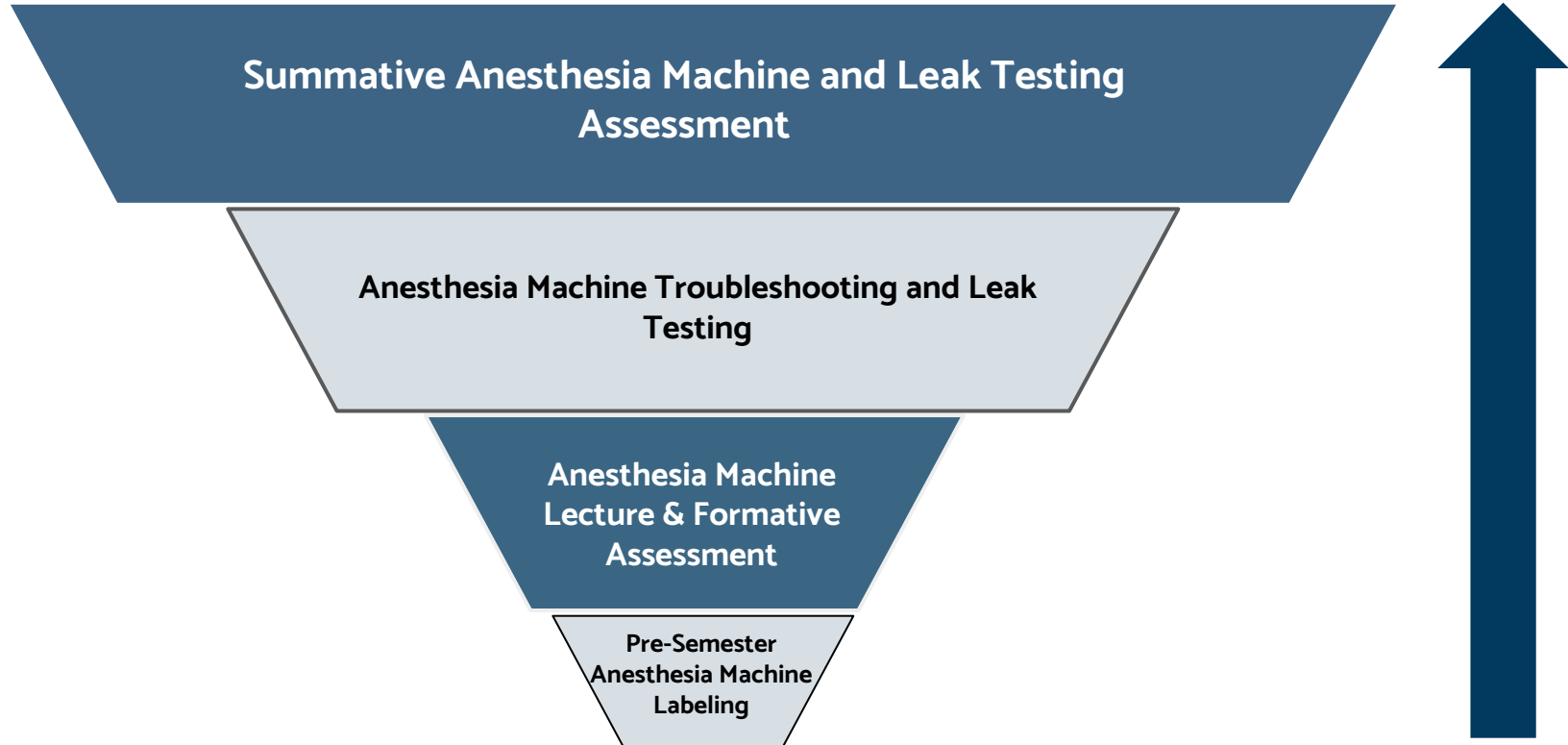
**VET 105 Reviewing  
Basic + Advanced  
Calculations**

**VET 103 Basic  
Medical Math**



# Scaffolding Progression: Projects & Assignments

VET 121



Course: VTNE

TESTS BY PRACTICE

VTNE  
READINESS 1

VTNE CALCS, IMAGE AND  
VOCAB QS

### VTNE Readiness 1



### VTNE Readiness 2



Study Progress  
(17/1921 completed)

[Extend My Membership](#)

Dentistry	93
Diagnostic Imaging	146
Emergency/Critical Care	155
Lab Results	359
Nursing	541
Pain Mgt/Analgesia	62
Pharmacy	156
Surgery	187

01:58:31

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ... 125

[Hide Jumper](#) [Show Jumper](#) [Show all](#)

What kind of teeth do horses have?

- ☐ Aradicular hypsodontic
- ☐ Apical orthodontic
- ☐ Radicular hypsodontic
- ☐ Radicular brachyodontic
- ☐ Aradicular brachyodontic

Select Language: [US](#) [FR](#) [ES](#)

[Back](#)



Overview



Calculator



Mark Question



Report Problem

0

0% (0 / 187)

0% (0 / 0)

[Save & Exit](#)

[HIDE](#)

[HIDE](#)

[HIDE](#)


[HIDE](#)

[HIDE](#)

[Next](#)

# Clinical Training That Reinforces the Classroom

- 20 hours/week minimum **Veterinary Assistant** work in approved clinical sites
- Sites evaluated against a gold-standard checklist by faculty
- **Direct application of concepts learned in classroom in clinical setting**

  
**Tidewater Community College Veterinary Technology Program**  
**Clinical Facility Hospital Standards**

To be approved as a clinical site, veterinary hospitals must meet certain minimum criteria regarding medical standards. Adherence to these standards ensures that students in TCC's Veterinary Technology program receive a quality education that emphasizes acceptable medical standards. These standards must also be maintained for the program's accreditation.

AAHA-accreditation number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Records:**

- ☒ There must be an established system of medical record keeping within the practice.
- ☒ Medical records must be legible and entries noted with the practice team members' initials.
- ☒ Problem-oriented medical records are utilized. All medical records must include:
  - o Chief Complaint
  - o Patient History
  - o Physical Examination Results
  - o Assessment (tentative or definitive diagnosis)
  - o Plan (diagnostic and/or therapeutic)
- ☒ In addition to the above, all medical records must clearly reflect client communication, discharge instructions, consultations, procedures (including descriptions of surgical, dental, anesthetic, and medical procedures) and i
- ☒ Each patient must be properly identified, accurately on each patient's medical reco
- ☒ There must be a separate medical record i
- ☒ records of juvenile offspring until the age
- ☒ Each client must be identified properly. Th
- ☒ telephone numbers must be recorded acc
- ☒ All patients must be given an appropriate
- ☒ procedures. A systematic procedure of exi
- ☒ Medical records must be filed and/or digit
- ☒ Medical records must be retained for the
- ☒ patient care and in accordance with state

**Examination Facilities:**

- ☒ Examination facilities must be provided, be of sufficient size for patient examinations, and
- ☒ feature adequate lighting.
- ☒ Each examination room must be supplied with cleaning materials, disinfectant, disposable
- ☒ towels, and a waste receptacle.
- ☒ To facilitate hand washing between each patient, a sink must be located in or convenient to
- ☒ each examination room.

**Pharmacy**

- ☒ Controlled drugs must be stored in a securely locked, substantially constructed cabinet or safe
- ☒ as required by federal, state, or provincial regulations with access limited to licensed
- ☒ veterinarians and licensed veterinary technicians.
- ☒ Drugs must only be dispensed or administered by order of a licensed veterinarian.
- ☒ Child-resistant containers are used unless otherwise requested by the client. Requests must be
- ☒ documented in the medical record.
- ☒ The pharmacy contains a current written or electronic reference text of pharmaceuticals.
- ☒ Current antidote information must be readily available for emergency reference in addition to
- ☒ the telephone number of an animal poison control center.
- ☒ A separate log is maintained for all administered and dispensed Schedule II controlled
- ☒ substances and kept in an area separate from the controlled substances. A separate log is
- ☒ maintained for Schedule III-V controlled substances.
- ☒ An adequate supply of drugs and supplies must be available and organized in a standard
- ☒ manner. Drugs should be stored under conditions recommended by the manufacturer.
- ☒ All expired drugs must be removed from working stock promptly and returned or disposed of in
- ☒ accordance with federal, state, or provincial regulations.
- ☒ When dispensing medication, each label must:
  - o Be typed or printed
  - o Be permanently affixed to the container
  - o Include warning labels, if appropriate
- ☒ Each label must be recorded with:
  - o Client's first and last name
  - o Patient's name and species
  - o Date dispensed
  - o Name of drug and strength
  - o Usage directions including route of administration
  - o Dosage and quantity dispensed, including number of refills
  - o Hospital's name, address, and phone number
  - o Name of the veterinarian dispensing the drug
- ☒ Drugs used in euthanasia procedures must be identified, segregated, and stored in a locked
- ☒ cabinet.
- ☒ Each dose of any medication administered, dispensed, or prescribed must be recorded on the
- ☒ medical record.

# Clinical Training Continued

## 15. PERFORM CEPHALIC VENIPUNCTURE (CANINE AND FELINE)\*

### Required Reading/Videos:

- *Essential Clinical Procedures for Veterinary Technicians* pgs. 115-116

### Supplies Needed

- Syringe and needle

### Animal(s) Needed

- Dog
- Cat

### Standard Criteria:

- The student identified the distended vein and placed their thumb alongside for stabilization
- The student inserted the needle bevel side up
- The student drew back on the plunger steadily
- The student told the assistant to release compression of the vein
- The student withdrew the needle and syringe from vein

**Material(s) to be Submitted for Instructor Evaluation:** This sheet signed by your mentor.

*The final evaluation of this task will be done by TCC veterinary technology faculty at the Nursing Skills lab.*

"I certify that the student properly performed the procedure according to the standard criteria as outlined above under my direct supervision."

Signature of Clinical Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Canine)

Signature of Clinical Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Feline)





# Structured Clinical Assignments

## CONTINUOUSLY

Students are required to **discuss assignments**, such as drug selection and anesthetic protocols, with clinical mentors

## FROM THE START

Clinical assignments and labs are **linked to didactic content**

## UNTIL GRADUATION

Concepts and ideas are **reinforced** through active reflection and critical thinking in real-time

# IMMERSIVE SIMULATION LABORATORIES: *BRINGING CLASSROOM MATERIAL TO LIFE*

## Nursing Sim Lab

2nd Semester, **basic nursing care for simulated patient** going through the hospital

## Anesthesia Sim Lab

4th Semester, **hands-on learning, improved confidence & clinical readiness.**

Mimics hospital team dynamic and time pressures



Purposeful LOW ratios 1:1 for live animal anesthesia cases

**All labs planned with close collab between faculty members**

## Lab Ratios and Planning

For cases, **students are exposed to a wide variety of abnormalities** that occur and instructed on how to respond

## Gold Standard Protocols

# IMPACT OF SIMULATION



## Why It Matters:

- Simulation creates a **safe, repeatable, and immersive environment** for skill building.
- Enables development of **clinical confidence, decision-making, and team-based communication**—without risking live patients.

## What the Research Shows:

*“Simulation-based training delivers all the benefits of world-class medical education—without putting patients at risk.”*

*“NCSBN’s landmark study (2014) concluded that simulation can effectively replace up to 50% of clinical hours without compromising competency.”*

**Source:** Hayden et al., *Journal of Nursing Regulation*, 2014, *Surgical Science, An Introduction to Medical Simulation for Veterinary Training*, 2024

# Program Evaluations



## Employer Evaluation of 2023 Veterinary Technician Graduates

As we grow as a program, we rely on the feedback from the employers of our graduates to help us enhance and improve our students' educational experience.

For this evaluation, all responses will be anonymous.

There will be 3 sections to evaluate regarding the knowledge, clinical skills, and overall performance of your employee as an entry level LVT.

**If viewing this survey on a mobile device, please scroll to the right to view all assessment options.**

**Section 2. Clinical Skills-** How would you rate your employee's skill proficiency in the following areas?

If you select a 3 or below, please describe the areas that need improvement in the provided comment box.

1= Poor 5=Excellent \*

	1	2	3	4	5
Dentistry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Urinalysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parasitology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hematology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anesthesia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surgery	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nursing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments?

Your answer

# Program Evaluations



American Association of Veterinary State Boards  
380 West 22nd Street, Suite 101  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108  
1-877-698-8482

## VETERINARY TECHNICIAN NATIONAL EXAMINATION

School: 867 — Tidewater Community College

Testing window July 15 - August 20

Test Form: VTNA13B      Tested 7/15/2021 - 8/20/2021

Generated on: September 14, 2021

Score Report Prepared by PSI Services, LLC

Internal Verification Report

### YOUR SCHOOL FIRST TIMERS DATA BASED ON 13 CANDIDATES

	Maximum Raw Scores	Range of Raw Scores	Average Raw Scores	Standard Deviation	Average Percent Correct
Scaled Total	800	457 - 690	581.23	82.12	72.65%
Raw Total	150	97 - 133	116.23	12.70	77.49%
Pharmacy and Pharmacology	18	11 - 18	14.92	2.43	82.91%
Surgical Nursing	17	6 - 17	12.15	3.21	71.49%
Dentistry	12	6 - 12	8.46	1.45	70.51%
Laboratory Procedures	17	9 - 17	13.15	2.57	77.38%
Animal Care and Nursing	30	20 - 29	24.54	2.85	81.79%
Diagnostic Imaging	11	6 - 11	9.31	1.32	84.62%
Anesthesia	22	13 - 19	16.15	2.18	73.43%
Emergency Medicine/Critical Care	12	6 - 12	9.23	2.04	76.92%
Pain Management/Analgesia	11	6 - 11	8.31	1.38	75.52%

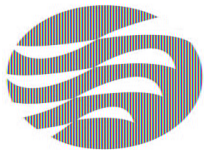
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# Promoting Student Success Through Active Support

## SECTION 3



**TIDEWATER  
COMMUNITY C**  
From here, go anywl



# PROMOTING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH ACTIVE FACULTY SUPPORT



## Tutoring

- Individualized support
- **Faculty**-led

## Financial Assistance

- School pays 50% of Zukureview



## Remediation

- Faculty identify students who are **struggling**
- Faculty meet to determine **support strategies**

## Advising

- Students assigned **vet faculty** member as **advisor**



# STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH ACTIVE SUPPORT

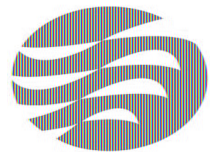
- **Student Check-In**
  - Inquires about classroom AND clinical skills
- **Mid** and **End** of Semester Evaluations from Clinical Mentors
- QR code **post lab**, for instructor to receive **immediate** feedback on lab experience for students
  - Able to adjust material in realtime

## Post VET 105 Simulation Lab Survey (2025)

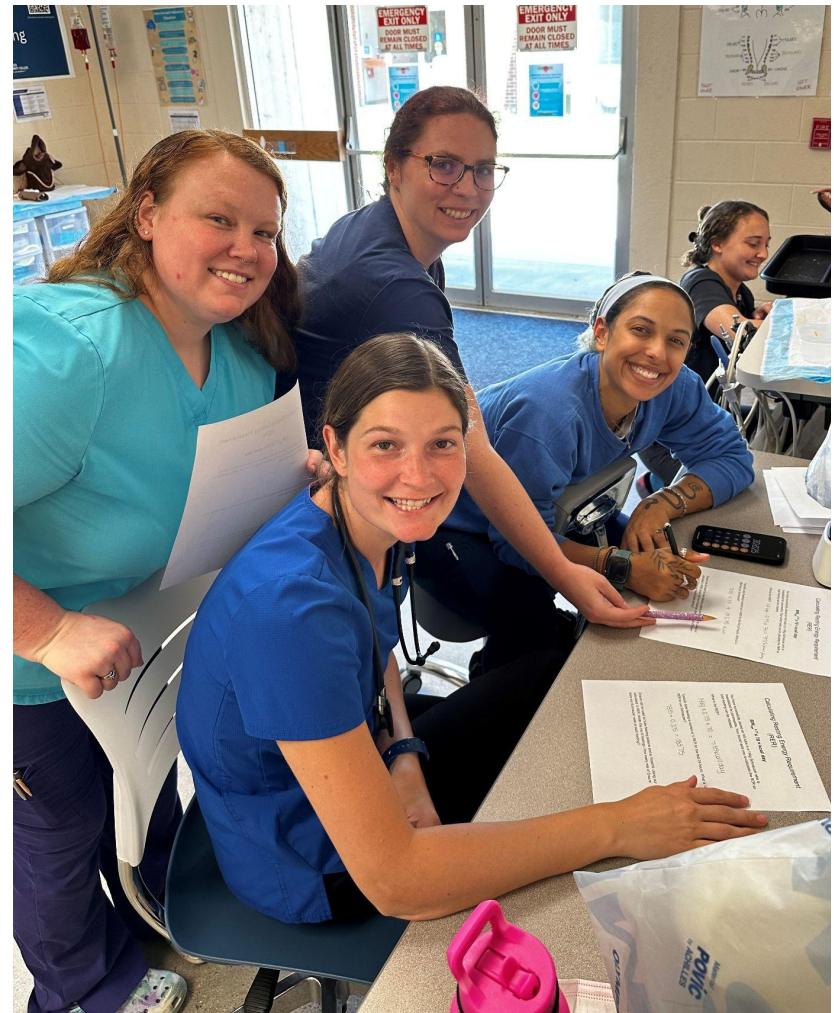


# Key Elements of Success

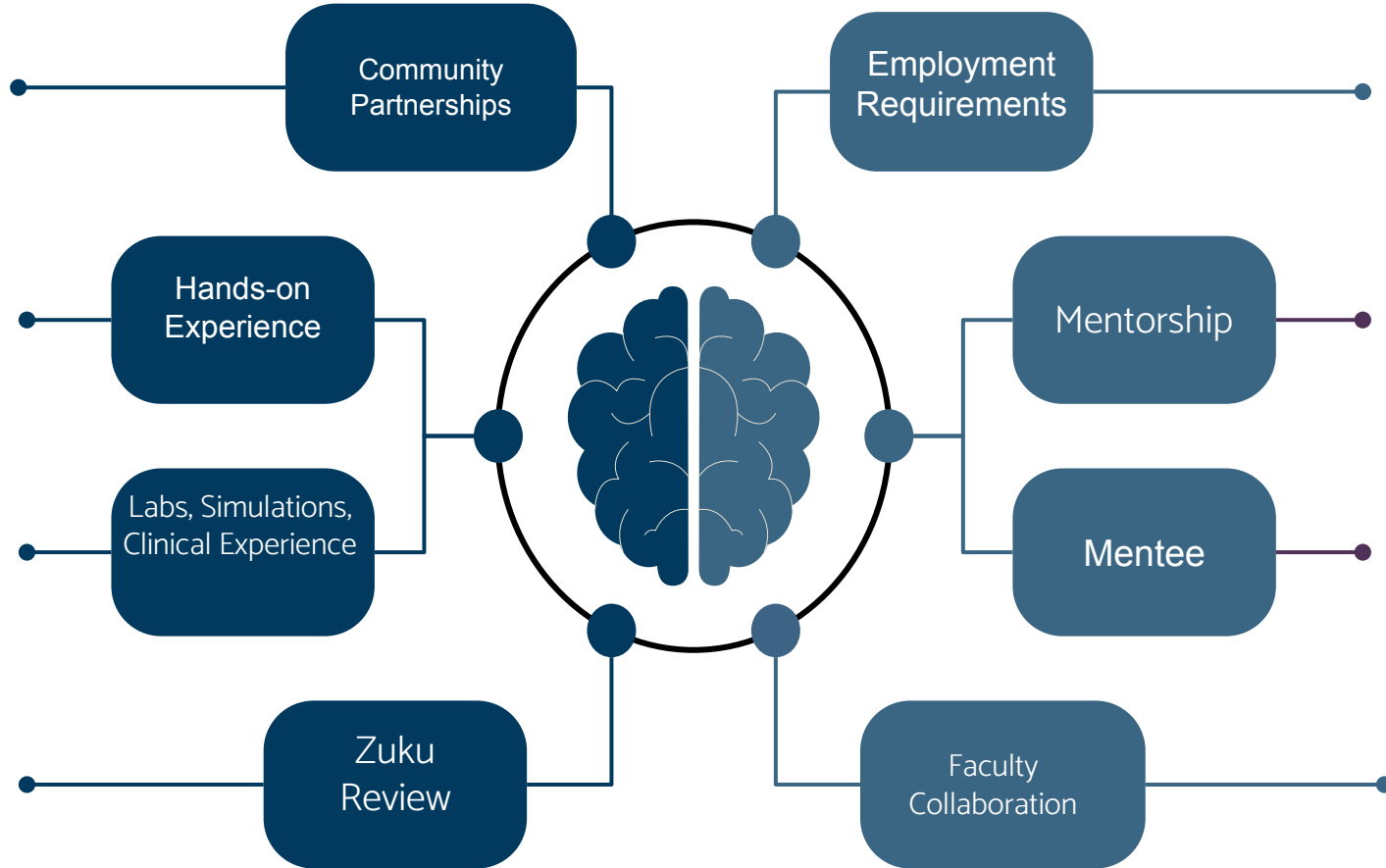
## SECTION 4



**TIDEWATER  
COMMUNITY C**  
From here, go anyw!



# Strategies for Program Success





# Q & A

