



Veterinary Technology Open Learning Diploma Program Clinical Guide

1) Purpose & Partnership

Thank you for partnering with us to support the hands-on learning journey of our VTEC OL students. Your clinic plays a vital role in shaping capable, confident Veterinary Technology graduates, and this Clinic Affiliation Guide offers an overview of the expectations and shared responsibilities involved in mentoring a TRU student in practice.

We deeply value the thoughtful consideration you bring to taking on this role. Successful participation depends on a mature, self-directed student with strong time-management skills, at least six months of experience in your practice, and—most importantly—a positive, supportive working relationship within the clinic team.

Your encouragement and commitment are truly the foundation of a student's success in our VTEC OL program.

2) Clinic Affiliation Site (CAS) — Qualifications

- CVBC/CVMA-approved, full-service clinic capable of diagnostic imaging, dentistry, lab procedures, surgeries, client communication, and pharmaceutical dispensing.
- Small animal or mixed animal practice.
- Employing the student as a paid employee for ≥ 260 hours per semester for the duration of the program.
- Submit a Clinical Affiliation Form with the student's application; it auto-renews annually while the student remains enrolled and conditions are unchanged.
- The Clinical Mentor should not be a current instructor at any Veterinary Technology or Animal Health Program in Canada, as this may constitute a conflict of interest

3) Clinical Mentor (CM) — Qualifications

- DVM (CVMA/AVMA-accredited degree) licensed in Canada with ≥ 2 years post-graduation clinical experience; or
- RVT (CVMA/AVMA-accredited program graduate) licensed with ≥ 2 years post-graduation clinical experience.
- Not a current instructor at a Canadian Veterinary Technology/Animal Health Program.
- Multiple CMs are encouraged and must be listed on the CAF.



4) CM Role & Supervision

- Mentor the student, demonstrate essential skills, and sign off competencies once mastered.
- Directly supervise any procedure with potential to cause pain or harm (e.g., venipuncture, cystocentesis, eye/ear exams).
- Participate in clinical check-ins with the Open Learning Faculty Member each term.
- Encourage academic honesty: offer explanations/demonstrations, ensure assignments are completed by the student.
- Discuss evaluation feedback with the student before submitting to the OLFM/Program Coordinator when possible.
- Workload impact: Expect periodic supervision, check-ins, and skill signoffs. Many assignments occur without direct supervision but require permission and occasional animal sourcing/scheduling support.

5) What to Expect in Practice

- Students manage nomenclature, anatomy ID, microbiology, imaging basics, surgical prep, common diseases, and other tasks—many without direct supervision.
- The student is responsible for logistics (scheduling, helpers, animals, permissions, video recording).
- For invasive procedures: CM must supervise; the clinic may require written owner consent. We will provide you with a letter as a resource for you to use.
- TRU demonstration videos illustrate acceptable methods; equivalent clinic techniques are acceptable—consult the OLFM if they differ.

6) Academic Integrity — Clinic's Part

- Do not allow unauthorized collaboration or use of unauthorized aids/AI for assessments.
- Report concerns the OLFM or Program Coordinator. Proven dishonesty can result in course failure and possible removal from the program.

7) Safety & Animal Welfare

- Maintain a safe learning environment consistent with WHMIS, radiation safety, anesthetic gas safety, sharps management, and SOPs.
- No clinic or student animal should be used for more than two assignments per semester.
- Support pregnancy-related accommodations in line with guidance and clinic policy.

8) Equipment & Resources — Clinic Responsibilities

- See Appendix 1 for a list of Essential Equipment Requirements

9) Special Considerations for Students in Veterinary Clinics

Because VTEC OL students complete required paid clinical hours, clinics must ensure:

- Students are supervised appropriately and never asked to perform unsafe tasks
- Workloads account for learning needs as well as academic commitments
- Students receive equitable access to learning opportunities
- Pregnant students receive accommodations in alignment with WorkSafeBC hazard guidelines and human rights protections
- Bullying, harassment, and discrimination concerns are addressed promptly and thoroughly

10) Support from Thompson Rivers University- Veterinary Technology

TRU Veterinary Technology is committed to supporting clinics throughout the entire experience of mentoring a Veterinary Technology student.

Our faculty stay connected with you during the check in process, offering guidance, answering questions, and helping navigate any challenges that may arise.

We truly value the partnership with our clinical affiliation sites, and our team is always happy to help—whether that's supporting the student's growth, assisting your mentorship team, or simply being a friendly resource whenever you need us.

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Program Website:

[Veterinary Technology Diploma: Open Learning: Thompson Rivers University](#)



Appendix.7¿Clinical.Equipment.™.Supplies.Checklist

Clinic must be able to provide access to the following equipment by the required semester & ensure items are available before the relevant semester begins:

Semester	Required Equipment & Supplies
Semester 1	Video device & tripod; Tonometry equipment; Ophthalmoscope; Otoscope; Swabs; Schirmer tear test; Fluorescein dye stain; Stethoscope; Dissected stifle joint
Semester 2	Microscope; Slides; Necropsy equipment; Cytology specimen collection supplies; Stomach tube; Laryngoscope; Shipping & labelling materials; Necropsy specimen/cadaver
Semester 3	Bandaging supplies; Bathing and grooming equipment
Semester 4	Centrifuge (full-size & microhematocrit tubes); Refractometer; Microhematocrit tubes & reader; Diff-Quik stain
Semester 5	Urine chemistry sticks; Male cat catheters; Incubator (instructions provided if unavailable)
Semester 5 – Student Purchase	5 inoculating loops; Gram stain kit (crystal violet, Gram’s iodine, decolorizer, safranin)
Semester 6	Gravity displacement autoclave; Standard surgical instruments; Ultrasonic instrument cleaner; Paper and/or linen drapes; Steripeel; Microchip & scanner; Infusion pump; Sterile lubricant; Huck towels; Towel clamps; Surgical gown, gloves & caps; Surgical prep & scrub solutions; Monitoring equipment (ECG strongly recommended)
Semester 7	Full radiology PPE (gown, thyroid shield, gloves, eye protection if possible); Barium; Stomach tube; Basic dental hand instruments (explorer/probe, curette, scaler); Anesthetic equipment (rebreathing & non-rebreathing); Monitoring equipment (ECG strongly recommended); Ultrasonic scaler; Polisher/low-speed handpiece; Radiography equipment (including dental radiography)