

Level Up: Tips to Power Up Your VTS game
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Are you happy just checking boxes on treatment plans or do you want to know the pathophysiology behind medical orders? What new procedures that you would like to learn about? Do you become frustrated by using the same treatment protocols over and over while continually running into the same shortfalls without finding useful solutions? Are you interested in becoming part of community of technicians that continually push each other to learn? If you have answered “yes” to any of these questions, earning credentials as a Veterinary Technician Specialist might be for you!

There are sixteen Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) academies that technicians can apply to in pursuit of acquiring advanced credentials. Each academy has its own rigorous training requirements, application process, and certifying exam. VTS credentials provide possibilities for positions both on and off of the floor in lecturing, mentorship, journal publications, and authoring texts, among others. Advanced credentials can make you highly desirable and sought after on the job market.

Technicians must have a solid framework of technical skills in order to master and demonstrate their advanced technical knowledge. The application process requires in depth documentation of the applicants medical knowledge and skill set. Applying to an academy requires a commitment to developing an advanced skill set and knowledge base. Once technicians have demonstrated the mastery of these skills they may apply to their desired academy. The entire process requires stamina and a strong drive to complete the requisite 3-5 year timeframe before exam eligibility.

The following Veterinary Technician Specialist academies are recognized by NAVTA:

- The Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Anesthesia and Analgesia
- The Academy of Veterinary Behavior Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Clinical Pathology Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice
- The Academy of Veterinary Dental Technicians
- The Academy of Dermatology Veterinary Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians
- The Academy of Equine Veterinary Nursing Technicians
- The Academy of Internal Medicine Veterinary Technicians
- The Academy of Physical Rehabilitation Veterinary Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Ophthalmic Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Zoological Medicine Technicians
- The Academy of Veterinary Technology in Diagnostic Imaging

If earning advanced credentials interests you, more information about VTS academies can be found on NAVTA’s website: www.navta.net. As professionals we have a responsibility to advocate for ourselves and our career longevity.