

Course **Pre-Enrolment Guide**

Training Area:

Animal Care

Training Product:

ACM40418

Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

ACM40418 Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing

Release number	2
Required number of units for course completion	21 units of competency: ○ 17 core units plus ○ 4 elective units
Course Duration	One year, 2 semesters
Location/s	Geraldton Campus
Delivery mode	• Face to Face - Requires you to attend classes on campus and may include activities such as demonstrations, practice and feedback, discussions and group activities. In some courses there may be a requirement to undertake some of the training and/or assessment in a workplace. • Recognition of Prior Learning - If you think you have existing experience, knowledge and skills in one or more of your units of study, you may apply for RPL. Should you apply for RPL, you will be supported through the process by a lecturer. For further information visit our website here.

Course Description

This qualification reflects the role of a veterinary nurse who works under the supervision of a registered veterinarian to provide nursing care to animals, to support veterinarians to carry out medical and surgical procedures, and to support clients to maintain health of animals.

The Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing requires access to patients (animals), clients, medical and surgical cases, veterinary staff, and practice policies and procedures.

To achieve this qualification, the candidate must have completed at least 240 hours of work placement as detailed in the Assessment Requirements of the relevant units of competency.

The scope of practice for veterinary nurses is determined by state and territory legislative and regulatory requirements. Users of this qualification must refer to the relevant legislation and regulations in the development of training and assessment strategies.

Course Considerations

Physical Capability

This qualification involves practical work in veterinary clinic environments and requires a reasonable level of physical fitness. Students undertaking this qualification must have the physical capability to:

- Safely handle and restrain a variety of animals
- Carry out tasks that may involve repetitive movements or standing for extended periods
- Perform tasks that involve bending, kneeling, reaching, and crouching
- Work in a range of environments, including confined or small spaces such as consult rooms and animal housing
- Use safe manual handling techniques when lifting or carrying animals or equipment

- Move quickly and safely within a busy clinical environment and perform tasks within industry standard timeframes

Emotional and Mental Demands

Working as a veterinary nurse can present emotional challenges, and students should be prepared for experiences such as:

- Caring for animals that are sick, injured, distressed or in pain
- Situations involving animal welfare concerns, neglect or abuse
- Exposure to emergency care situations, end-of-life discussions and euthanasia
- Handling animals that are frightened, aggressive, or suffering
- Discussions about mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, which many include suicide
- Supporting challenging, distressed or grieving clients
- Working in a fast-paced environment where outcomes can be unpredictable

Environmental Requirements

As a veterinary nursing student, you should be prepared to:

- Work in environments that may be noisy, dirty, hot, cold or have strong odours
- Be exposed to biological materials such as hair, fur, dander, urine, faeces, blood and cleaning chemicals
- Carry out tasks across a range of settings, including clinics, kennels, shelters, and outdoor facilities

You should also consider any allergies, sensitivities, or health conditions that may affect your ability to work safely and comfortably in these environments.

Cultural and Social Considerations

Throughout this course, you will work and learn in veterinary settings alongside people from a range of cultural and social backgrounds. As a student veterinary nurse, you should be prepared to:

- Work respectfully and collaboratively as part of a team with diverse cultural perspectives and experiences
- Communicate professionally and compassionately with clients, supervisors and colleagues
- Interact appropriately with a wide range of people, including working in close proximity to others and engaging respectfully with individuals of all genders
- Provide inclusive and respectful care to both clients and their animals

Demonstrating respectful, inclusive and professional behaviour is essential in the veterinary industry and contributes to positive outcomes for animals, clients and the veterinary team.

General Requirements

As a veterinary nursing student, you will be expected to demonstrate commitment, professionalism and effective time management throughout your studies. You should be prepared to:

- Attend scheduled classes 4 days per week
- Commit approximately one additional day per week to independent study and course-related activities outside of class time
- Attend an industry workplace for the duration of your studies
- Demonstrate consistent professional behaviour, including punctuality, respectful communication and maintaining confidentiality in both clinical and learning environments
- Accurately record and maintain detailed patient records and clinical notes
- Communicate clearly and effectively with veterinarians, nurses, clients and peers
- Take responsibility for your actions, including maintaining professionalism in the use of social media
- Follow instructions carefully, work safely and complete practical and theoretical tasks within required timeframes
- Use basic computer programs and digital technologies, including Microsoft Office applications, Outlook and Microsoft Teams to access learning materials, participate in online activities, and submit assessments and documentation

Course fees

For information about fees, refer to the Course Website.

[Courses | Central Regional Tafe](#)

Course Pathways

Learners will gain a nationally recognised Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing, making them eligible to apply for registration with the Veterinary Surgeon's Board of Western Australia (a requirement to practice). The qualification prepares learners for employment in veterinary clinics, animal hospitals, shelters and other animal care settings. It also fosters personal development, workplace readiness, and an understanding of industry expectations.

Further details can be found on our website [here](#).

National/State Course Entry Requirements

Entry into this qualification is open to individuals who:

- hold a Certificate II in Animal Studies

OR

- hold a relevant Certificate III or higher level qualification in an animal science discipline

OR

- can demonstrate equivalent skills and knowledge in a relevant animal science discipline to any of the above qualifications..

Central Regional TAFE (CR TAFE) Entry Requirements

You must have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) to enrol in and complete any nationally recognised training in Australia. If you do not have a USI or need help getting one, we can assist you with the process.

Entry into this course is through the TAFE admissions process, which assesses and ranks applicants based on the information provided. Offers are made to the highest-ranked applicants.

All applicants who receive an offer must attend an interview with at least one course lecturer prior to enrolment. This interview ensures applicants have a clear understanding of course expectations and includes an aptitude assessment to confirm suitability and support successful course completion.

Applicants must also demonstrate well-developed communication skills, a sound level of basic mathematics, and have access to reliable transport to attend work placements across multiple local veterinary businesses, totalling six (6) weeks throughout the year.

All students must undertake training and work placement under the direct supervision of a registered veterinarian in accordance with the requirements of the Veterinary Practice Board of Western Australia.

Language, Literacy, Numeracy and Digital (LLND) Requirements

CR TAFE is required to review your language, literacy, numeracy and digital (LLND) skills to help you decide if the course is right for you, identify any support you might need, or whether other courses may be better suited to you at this time.

For this course, the method of LLND review will be completion of an LLND quiz and interview with a course lecturer.

Learning resources and equipment you need to bring

You are required to provide (at your own expense) the following list of resources/equipment:

Course Clothing

- Students are required to wear the approved scrub top and pants during practical classes at TAFE and on excursions
- Students are responsible for ordering, paying for and collecting their scrubs from Totally Workwear Geraldton

Footwear

- Closed-in footwear, such as runners or work shoes must be worn at all times for safety reasons.
- Work boots are required for large animal and horse handling activities.

Sun Protection

- A broad-brimmed hat or cap is required for outdoor practical activities to ensure adequate sun protection.

Textbooks

- Mosby's Veterinary PDQ, 4th edition (approx. \$50)
- Aspinall's Complete Textbook of Veterinary Nursing, 3rd Edition (approx. \$120)
- These should be purchased externally, prior to commencement of the course.

Online Learning Materials

Learning resources, including learner guides, videos, website links, and assessments, are provided online through Microsoft Teams, the student learning system used by Central Regional TAFE.

Students are encouraged to bring an electronic device, such as a laptop or tablet, to class to access Teams and course materials as required. If you do not have access to a personal device, laptops, the computer room in N Block and library computers are available for student use.

Please note that some course resources are large files and cannot be distributed via email.

Online learner guides are the principal resource for written assessments. They will be released throughout the year in line with delivery of the units.

Work Placement

A mandatory work placement of 240 hours is required for this course. Your lecturer will assist to organise your work placement and will consult with you to ensure the location and arrangements are accessible and suitable to your individual needs.

Licensing/Registration Requirements that Apply on Completion

Successful completion of the Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing course at CR TAFE qualifies graduates to apply for registration as a veterinary nurse with the Veterinary Practice Board of Western Australia (VPBWA). Registration with the VPBWA is a mandatory requirement to practise as a veterinary nurse in Western Australia.

The application fee for initial registration is \$132, with an annual renewal fee of \$81. The registration period runs annually from 1st July.

Timetable and Training Hours

The timetable provided helps you plan your week and understand your study commitments. The timetable shows which days and times you need to attend training. It helps you plan ahead and manage your participation.

Term 1

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00am-12:00pm	N Block N016 Skills for Study	N Block N016	N Block N016	N Block N016	
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm LUNCH BREAK					
12:45pm-4:00pm	N Block N016	N Block N016			
12:45pm-3:00pm			N Block N016	N Block N016	

Term 2, 3 and 4

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9:00am-12:00pm	N Block N016 Skills for Study	N Block N016	N Block N016	N Block N016	
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm LUNCH BREAK					
12:45pm-4:00pm		N Block N016			
12:45pm-3:00pm			N Block N016	N Block N016	

Assessment Methods

- Knowledge questions: This involves answering questions, either orally or in writing relating to the unit of competency.
- Observations: This involves your assessor or a third party (workplace supervisor) observing you perform tasks in the workplace and/or simulated workplace to check that you have the knowledge and skills required for the unit of competency.
- Portfolio: This is a collection of evidence you put together, such as documents, examples of your work, or completed activities, to show that you have the knowledge and skills required for the unit of competency.

Note: The specific assessments required for each unit of competency will be outlined in the Training and Assessment Plan (TAP) for that unit. You will receive a copy of the TAP for each unit when you enrol.

Further information

More information can be found in our Student Handbook, available for download off our website [here](#)

Contacts

Portfolio Name: Marine, Environment and Technology

Phone number: 9956 6118

Email: CRT.MET.Portfolio.Assistant@crtafe.wa.edu.au

Building: Geraldton Campus - N Block

Alternatively, you may contact the college on 1800 672 700

Or enquire via our website enquiry form [here](#).



**Central
Regional**

RTO: 52789



1800 672 700



enquiries@crtafe.wa.edu.au



centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au



© 2026 Central Regional TAFE

All rights reserved. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) and subsequent amendments, no part of this publication may be reproduced, adapted, amended, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means – including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods – without the prior written permission of Central Regional TAFE.

Central Regional TAFE is committed to developing high-quality resources that meet the needs of our customers. Every effort has been made to ensure this publication is free from errors or omissions. However, Central Regional TAFE accepts no responsibility or liability, whether in negligence or otherwise, for any loss, damage, or injury arising from the information contained within.