

2018

Excellence in Action Award

Carl Wunsche Sr. High School

Veterinary Science Program

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources Career Cluster

OVERVIEW

The Veterinary Science Program at the Carl Wunsche Sr. High School in Spring, TX, was established in 2006 and serves more than 100 students from the Spring Independent School District. The four-year program prepares its learners for postsecondary and career success by providing a rigorous sequence of academic and technical courses, which allows learners to gain critical knowledge and skills and use their experiences to make informed decisions about their future areas of specialization. Learners can earn up to 30 college credits with the Lone Star College System, graduate with 30 internship hours, and earn up to two state-recognized certifications, equipping them with the skills they need for success in a high-skill and high-demand industry.

Student Demographics (141)	Percentage
Male	24%
Female	76%
Low Income	63%
Minority	86%

PROGRAM OFFERINGS MEET INDUSTRY DEMAND

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association partnered with Carl Wunsche Sr. High School to develop a program of study to prepare level 1 and level 2 certified veterinary assistants. To earn these industry-recognized credentials, students must complete 500 internship hours for the veterinary assistant level 1 and 1,000 internship hours for level 2. Upon completion, learners can immediately enter the workforce or work part time while simultaneously attending postsecondary with the goal of becoming a licensed veterinary technician or a licensed veterinarian.

For those not obtaining the certifications, work-based learning opportunities are still extensive,

including a 30-hour internship requirement. The Veterinary Science Program offers numerous internships with industry partners, such as the Northwest Animal Hospital, Spring Independent School District Police Department K9 Units, Critter Fixer, Aldine Animal and My Family Vet. These partners connect the knowledge students gain in the classroom with hands-on learning opportunities. Northwest Animal Hospital in Houston, TX, for example, offers a unique opportunity for learners to observe and participate in small animal live surgical demonstrations in the veterinary surgical suite at the High School Pet Clinic.



PATHWAY TO POSTSECONDARY

The Veterinary Science Program is designed to create seamless pathways from secondary to postsecondary education. Learners begin with a broad understanding of the veterinary science field and, as they progress, determine their specialization and what career and college option is best suited for them.

The Veterinary Science Program supports students in their postsecondary endeavors by offering 17 Advanced Placement courses, which articulate up to 30 dual credits at the Lone Star College System. Learners who are on track to earn an associate degree in veterinary technology can complete nearly half their coursework toward their degree before graduation.

Additionally, the partnerships with Texas A&M University — Kingsville and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University offer direct pathways into their degree programs.

AUTHENTIC WORK-BASED LEARNING

The Wunsche Pet Clinic, located on school grounds, also serves as a work-based learning site, while simultaneously providing affordable and quality pet care to the community for up to 12 patients daily. Services include basic grooming, vaccinations, monthly and yearly exams and a pet spa. There is also an outdoor area for cattle, horses, pigs and goats. The money earned through the clinic is used for student scholarships to cover the expense of their industry certification examination fees, which can be a barrier.

“The students, school district personnel and business partners have worked tirelessly to make the Veterinary Science Program one that produces students who are educated, informed, prepared, and equipped with the knowledge and skills to begin their career in the field of veterinary medicine and/or agriculture or pursue postsecondary education.”

— Jessica Graham, M.Ed., LVT,
Veterinary Science Teacher

Success by the Numbers



100%

Participated in Work-Based Learning



100%

Graduated High School



92%

Enrolled in Postsecondary Education



100%

Earned an Industry-Recognized Credential



5%

Earned Postsecondary Credit

ADVANCE  **CTE**

State Leaders Connecting Learning to Work

CAREERTECH.ORG