Students will learn the basics of routine veterinary surgical assisting. This course will cover instrumentation, aseptic technique, proficiency in the proper preparation of the operating room and general nursing care. This course will also cover pre-surgery preparation and post-surgical care of small animals, principles of surgery, aseptic technique, fluid therapy, and surgical assisting through practical experience. Other topics include performance of routine veterinary dental prophylactic techniques, emergency procedures, and control of post-surgical pain. Prerequisites: VTEC 1250

B. Course Effective Dates: 8/21/17 – Present

C. Outline of Major Content Areas
   As noted on course syllabus

D. Learning Outcomes
   1. Administer anesthetic-related drugs (injection, endotracheal tube, mask)
   2. Administer parenteral medications
   3. Assist with care of exposed tissues and organs
   4. Be familiar with routine surgical procedures and related equipment
   5. Create diagnostic dental radiographic images
   6. Demonstrate proper operating room conduct and asepsis
   7. Identify and know proper use for instruments
   8. Identify common suture materials, types, and sizes
   9. Maintain and care for IV catheters
   10. Maintain proper operating room conduct and asepsis
   11. Operate and maintain autoclaves
12. Operate and maintain suction and cautery machines during surgery
13. Palpate the urinary bladder and express it as needed
14. Participate in small animal surgeries
15. Perform appropriate resuscitation procedures as needed (e.g., calculate and administer appropriate anesthetic antagonists and emergency drugs as directed)
16. Perform basic suturing techniques
17. Perform post-surgical clean-up (e.g., equipment, instruments, room, proper disposal of hazardous medical waste)
18. Perform pre-surgical set-up
19. Perform routine dental prophylaxis
20. Place endotracheal tubes in patients
21. Place intravenous catheters
22. Position patient for common procedures
23. Prepare surgical instruments and supplies
24. Prepare surgical site using aseptic techniques
25. Properly handle and pass surgical instruments and supplies
26. Properly identify patients and surgical procedures
27. Properly position dogs and cats for pre-surgical radiographic images
28. Provide client education regarding home care of dentistry patients
29. Provide operating room sanitation and care
30. Provide post-operative care
31. Recognize and respond appropriately to patients in compromised states
32. Record and maintain operative/surgical records
33. Sterilize instruments and supplies using appropriate methods
34. Understand the principles of operation and maintenance of fiber optic equipment
35. Use resuscitation bag
36. Utilize clinical signs and appropriate equipment to monitor patient status during anesthetic procedures (e.g., esophageal stethoscope, blood pressure monitor, capnometer, electrocardiogram, pulse oximeter)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

F. Learner Outcomes Assessment

   As noted on course syllabus

G. Special Information

   None noted