

# INFORMATION ONLY



## Zoo Science

## Aquarium Science

Admissions Policies/Procedures

Fall 2020

### ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE DONE THROUGH DCCC EMAIL SYSTEM ONLY

Zoo Science and Aquarium Science admission policies and procedures are subject to change as necessary, **without notice**. Davidson County Community College's Zoo Science (**24 seats**) and Aquarium Science (**20 seats**) programs accept students for this full-time day program.

**NOTE:** Meeting all enrollment requirements by the deadline (May 8, 2020) does not guarantee entry into the Zoo Science or Aquarium Science program.

### ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

- **Phase 1 (Completed on CAMPUS or ONLINE)**
  - Complete a Davidson County Community College Application for Admission (*for those not currently enrolled at DCCC*).
  - Complete Residency Determination Services to ensure your residency status is current.
  - Submit high school or GED transcripts to DCCC (*high school seniors are required to submit a current transcript by the program's competition deadline and a final transcript after graduation*).
  - Submit ALL official college transcripts from college(s) attended to DCCC (*only transcripts in which you plan to transfer credit(s) must be submitted*). College transcripts **MUST BE OFFICIAL**. Transcripts must be in the original sealed envelope and either mailed to:

P.O. Box 1287 Lexington, N.C. 27295

Or sent electronically to: [admissions@davidsonccc.edu](mailto:admissions@davidsonccc.edu)

- **Phase 2 (Completed on CAMPUS or TELEPHONE)**
  - Students are expected to register and attend an Enrollment Information Session (EIS) and a New Student Orientation. The EIS provides foundational information for students being successful. The link for registering for an EIS is: <https://enrollmentinformationsession.as.me/>. After completion of an EIS, students are given the opportunity to register for the New Student Orientation.

- **Phase 3 (Completed on CAMPUS)**

- Complete a Zoo and Aquarium Science Program Information Session in person (Zoo Science and Aquarium Science information session is separate from **New Student Orientation** and **Enrollment Information Session**).

- Zoo Science and Aquarium Science information session is held in the:

**Mary E. Rittling Conference Center, Room #110**

**6:00pm to 8:00pm on the following date:**

**Monday, April 20**

If you are unable to attend, or missed the information session date, please contact Jennifer Sink at [jennifer\\_sink@davidsonccc.edu](mailto:jennifer_sink@davidsonccc.edu)

- **Phase 4 (Completed on CAMPUS or TELEPHONE)**

- Complete an ADMISSIONS REVIEW with an **Enrollment Specialist** starting **April 21:**

**After DCCC has received your general admission application and all transcripts have been received and processed (for those not currently enrolled), complete an ADMISSION REVIEW in person in the Enrollment Center located in Mendenhall Bldg., first floor of Davidson campus or the Administration Bldg. at Davie campus. NO appointment is required.**

- **Phase 5**

- Evaluation Process

The Admission Counselor will begin the evaluation process after the deadline. The following will be considered in the evaluation process.

- Zoo and Aquarium Sciences Questionnaire and Essay (at the end of the packet)
- High School GPA and College GPA (if applicable)
- Completion of any of the following **General Education Courses:**
  - ENG 111 (Expository Writing)
  - MAT 143 (Quantitative Literacy) - **Zoo Track Only**
  - BIO 111 (General Biology I)
  - BIO 242 (Natural Resources Conservation)
  - COM 231 (Public Speaking)
  - PSY 150 (General Psychology)
  - BIO 112 (General Bio II)
  - BIO 243 (Marine Bio) – **Aquarium Track Only**
  - CHM 131/131A (Introduction to Chemistry) - **Aquarium Track Only**
  - PHI 240 (Introduction to Ethics)

- **Phase 6**

- Acceptance Process

- An email (emailed to your DCCC email account **only**) of acceptance will be sent out to all applicants admitted into DCCC's Zoo Science and Aquarium Science programs by **Friday, May 29, 2020**. A Confirmation Form will be attached.
- After notification of acceptance, your **Confirmation Form** must be returned to the Admission Counselor for Programs with Special Criteria by **Friday, June 12, 2020**.
- On **Monday, August 3, 2020** (Briggs Technology, Room #222, 6-8 PM) **admitted** students must attend a mandatory Zoo Science or Aquarium Science Orientation session to finalize course enrollment (*this session is separate from DCCC's New Student Orientation, and Zoo and Aquarium Science Information Session*).

**Alternate List for Zoo and Aquarium Science:**

- Applicants meeting the primary deadline and attending the Zoo and Aquarium Science Information Session, but not accepted into the program, will be placed on an alternate list and admitted if space becomes available.
- **Alternates will not be carried over to the next year and will need to reapply for the next Zoo and Aquarium cycle.**

**Late program applicants:**

- Late applicants may be considered if Zoo Science or Aquarium Science does not fill all designated seats.
- Applicants qualifying after the May 8<sup>th</sup> deadline may also be placed on the alternate list, but will only be considered after all applicants meeting the May 8<sup>th</sup> deadline have been considered and finalized. Late applicants must contact an Enrollment Specialist in admissions for an admission review; no appointment is required.
- Placement on the alternate list will be based upon the date of review and the date applicant meets eligibility.

For further explanation of this process, contact:

**Paul Riley**

**College Recruiter and Admissions Counselor**

**Mendenhall Office #108**

[pwsc@davidsonccc.edu](mailto:pwsc@davidsonccc.edu)

**Scheduling of Classes, Labs and Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBL):**

Enrollment in the Zoo and Aquarium Science Program will require attendance at class, and WBL at varying times of the day or evening and varying days of the week. Travel to and from regional (state-wide) and local animal facilities is expected. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

**Legal Requirements for Labs and Internships (Background Check):**

In the first semester students register for lab and internship experiences at animal facility partners. The paperwork required for these labs and internship experiences mirrors the employment application process each of these animal facilities has established. While conviction of a misdemeanor/felony does not exclude the applicant to the program, a criminal background check and/or drug test may be required by the animal clinical site and DCCC prior to participation in the clinical experience.

**Health Evaluation:**

Applicants should be aware that admission to the Zoo and Aquarium Science Program is dependent upon physical and emotional health, compatible with the ability to provide safe animal care. An applicant with problems in physical or emotional health must provide evidence that appropriate treatment and/or counseling has taken place and that the problem has been alleviated. Persons with physical or emotional problems, which have not responded to treatment within a reasonable time, may be denied admission to the program.

**For Zoo track students only**, a physical examination performed no more than one year prior to the prospective program date of entry is required, and students will be responsible for the cost of health evaluations and inoculations, where applicable. Required vaccinations include measles, TB, tetanus, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and rabies. Information about obtaining the hepatitis A & B and rabies inoculation will be included in your acceptance letter.

**For Aquarium track students only**, a physical examination performed no more than one year prior to the prospective program date of entry is required, and students will be responsible for the cost of health evaluations. There are no required vaccinations for the aquarium track.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:**

If an accepted applicant believes that he/she cannot meet one or more of the standards listed below without accommodations or modifications, the applicant should consult with an instructor of the program.

**Performance Standards for Zoo and Aquarium Science students include but are not limited to:**

1. Display professionalism by projecting a positive attitude, working as a team member, and showing initiative and responsibility.
2. Integrate legal and ethical principles of animal welfare into job responsibilities including, but not limited to, animal nutrition, animal husbandry and preventative health procedures.
3. Recognize, analyze, and solve problems related to the daily care of assigned animal collection.
4. Demonstrate academic knowledge and technical skills for entry-level zookeeper positions.
5. Maintain regular animal health, environmental enrichment and behavioral records of assigned animal collection according to professional standards.
6. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills with consumers and co-workers.
7. Demonstrate effective written presentation and oral communication skills with the general public. Topics include but are not limited to animal welfare (nutrition, healthcare, etc.), basic animal ethics issues, species natural history, conservation and the history and purpose of each animal facility partner.

*Davidson County Community College Zoo and Aquarium Science Program*

*Zoo and Aquarium Science Program Supplemental Application Questionnaire*

**Basic Information:** This questionnaire supplements the DCCC Zoo and Aquarium Science Admissions Policies and Procedures packet found on the DCCC Website. This questionnaire will be considered during the application process. **Please print neatly.**

1. Name, Address, Telephone, Email
  
2. Please answer the following questions by checking the appropriate blanks:
  - a. Have you previously taken any college level courses?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Are you currently enrolled at DCCC?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Are you currently enrolled as a Pre-ZAS student at DCCC? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Which degree or diploma pathway are you applying for?
    - i. Associate in Applied Science in Aquarium Science Technology      \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Diploma in Aquarium Science Technology      \_\_\_\_\_
    - iii. Associate in Applied Science in Zoo Science Technology      \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. If you aren't offered a seat in your chosen track (zoo or aquarium) would you be interested in a seat in the other track if available?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Professional Background:** Zoo and Aquarium Science Program applicants are not required to have previous professional experience with animals. However, certain volunteer and employment opportunities may provide potential students with realistic expectations of careers in Zoos and Aquariums.

3. Have you reviewed the material on the "DCCC ZAS Program Information" and other program requirements available on the DCCC website?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Have you taken care of animals before (excluding your own pets)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes, what types of animals and what types of experiences?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Have you worked or volunteered at a zoo, aquarium, or other animal facility before?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of facility:  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have experience with public speaking/guest interactions/customer service?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe your experiences?

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**Academic Considerations:** During the application process for the DCCC Zoo and Aquarium Science Program, academic background will be evaluated. Official transcripts must be submitted to the DCCC Admissions Office as instructed in the Zoo and Aquarium Science Program Admissions Packet.

7. What degrees and certifications have you previously received? (if applicable)

If yes, please list the institutions and year.

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8. Please provide a typed 1 page essay, no more than 400 words that explains why you want to pursue a degree and employment in the Zoo or Aquarium field.

9. Please include any additional materials such as a resume', references or letters of recommendations that will strengthen your application.

10. Please read, sign, and date the Zoo and Aquarium Science program Essential Functions and Technical Standards.

**Davidson County Community College  
Zoo and Aquarium Science Program  
Essential Functions and Technical Standards for ZAS Students**

**Purpose Statement:** The following standards reflect reasonable expectations of a student in the ZAS Program. Students will be learning and using skills and procedures that are required of professional animal keepers. These standards do reflect what may be required for employment of the graduate. To verify the students' ability to perform these essential functions, students may be required to demonstrate the following technical standards:

**Criteria: Critical thinking /Problem Solving Skills**

Standard: Ability to collect, interpret, integrate and synthesize information to make decisions and develop a plan of action.

Example: Read and comprehend relevant information in textbooks, professional literature; acquire information from written documents and computer-information systems; identify cause/effect relationships; ability to understand and follow procedures; ability to solve problems and to develop, design and implement animal enrichments; use effective teaching, learning and test taking skills.

**Criteria: Interpersonal Skills**

Standard: Ability to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.

Example: Students should be courteous at all times when dealing with each other, the professional staff and especially the public.

**Criteria: Management Skills**

Standard: Ability to function under stress and adapt to changing environments.

Example: Manage academic schedules, deadlines and internship requirements; reporting at the designated location and time based upon the rotation and animal facility; Investing considerable time and effort above and beyond that which is minimally required to complete a task or project during lab/internship hours; ability to find meaningful tasks to occupy your time after your routine work is complete and assist others towards job completion.

**Criteria: Communication Skills**

Standard: Ability to communicate effectively in English using verbal, nonverbal and written formats with faculty, professional staff, peers and visitors to assure smooth operation of the animal facility.

Example: Animal keepers are required to be educators as well as stewards. Students will be given the opportunity to develop interpretive and educational skills by conducting keeper talks and/or interpretive experiences at their lab and internship facilities. Students will also document relevant animal information, using correct terminology and must demonstrate active listening and observation skills.

**Criteria: Mobility/Motor Skills**

Standard: Possess manual dexterity and motor skills to perform safe and effective husbandry tasks in a satisfactory manner.

Example: Demonstrate adequate coordination; ability to stand for long periods; Perform husbandry procedures such as rinsing, scrubbing, and cleaning animal areas; Ability to lift 50 lbs. (bale of hay/bucket of water); Ability to walk, bend, kneel, reach and climb into tight exhibit spaces.

**Criteria: Auditory Skills**

Standard: Hearing ability to monitor and assess animal health and husbandry needs; Ability to communicate effectively with faculty, professional staff, peers and visitors.

Example: Hear equipment and emergency alarms; hear calls for help; hear codes on the walkietalkies to alert others to various safety issues; hear professional staff and visitor questions.

**Criteria: Visual Skills**

Standard: Visual ability to monitor and assess animal health and husbandry needs.

Example: Your ability to observe and to look for signs of distress/stress in animals you are working with that might make them more likely to bite or act dangerously; ability to fully understand chemicals you are using.

**Criteria: Tactile Skills**

Standard: Sense of touch to sufficiently to perform physical tasks.

Example: Ability to handle animals with proper amounts of pressure; ability to use chemicals, tools, construction and maintenance tools and equipment, or heat apparatuses.

**Criteria: Behavioral/Emotional**

Standard: Ability to demonstrate professional behavior.

Example: Demonstrate flexibility, initiative, integrity and cooperation. Accept responsibility, accountability and ownership for own actions as an emotionally mature individual; ability to exercise mature and prudent behavior, with regard to safety issues.

Example: Demonstrate respect for the program, animal facility, professional staff and peers.

Example: Present a professional appearance because it reflects on DCCC, the animal facility, the keeper profession, and you.

Example: Your ability and willingness to recognize your weak points and to take positive action to strengthen those weaknesses.

Assistance for Students with Disabilities: The College intends that all courses of study be fully accessible to all qualified students. Reasonable accommodations for verified disabilities are available upon request. It is the students' responsibility to make their disability known to the Office of Disability Services for the purpose of requesting academic accommodations or auxiliary aids. Student should initiate this process as soon as possible (prior to the start of classes and/or field experience).

Davidson County Community College does not discriminate nor does it approve of discrimination against students or applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, pregnancy, political affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other characteristic that is protected by law.

**I have read and understand the Essential Functions and Technical Standards for the Zoo and Aquarium Science program. In addition, I understand that these standards are expectations of a student in the ZAS program and these standards do reflect what may be required for employment once I graduate.**

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Signature

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Date