

Veterinary Career Evidence Guide

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Three members of a veterinary team

All pay figures are **May 2024 U.S. median annual wages**. They are not starting pay and not DFW-local wages. Outlook and openings are national projections for **2024-2034**.

CAREER	WHAT THE WORKER DOES	TYPICAL ENTRY ROUTE	2024 U.S. MEDIAN	2024-34 OUTLOOK	OPENINGS EACH YEAR
Veterinary Assistant or Laboratory Animal Caretaker	Provides routine animal care, prepares equipment, cleans work areas, and supports the veterinary team	High school diploma or equivalent; short-term on-the-job training	\$37,320	9% growth	About 22,200
Veterinary Technician	Performs medical tests, records results, prepares animals and equipment, and assists with treatment under a veterinarian's direction	Usually a 2-year associate degree in veterinary technology; credentialing requirements vary by state	\$45,980	9% growth	About 14,300
Veterinarian	Examines animals, diagnoses illness or injury, treats patients, performs surgery, and protects animal and public health	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent professional degree; state license	\$125,510	10% growth	About 3,000

READ THE MEASURES CORRECTLY

- **Median** means half of workers earn more and half earn less. It does not predict a new worker's first salary.
- **Growth rate** describes the expected percentage change in the occupation.
- **Annual openings** includes new jobs and openings created when workers leave the occupation.
- More education can expand responsibility and pay, but it also requires more time, cost, and preparation.

FIRST LOOK

Highest median: _____ Fastest growth: _____ Most annual openings: _____

District workbook pathway evidence

Find Your Future pp. 100-101 name **Animal Science** and **Plant Science** at Nimitz High School. The Animal Science section describes a mentorship with Irving Animal Services, pet-care work, animal-science projects, Elanco Fundamentals of Animal Science certification, FFA, and CTE Completer opportunities. Use the workbook wording when you record a local program or experience.

Important boundary: A high-school pathway builds knowledge and experience. It does not make a student a veterinarian or replace the college, professional degree, licensing, or credentialing route listed above.

SOURCES CHECKED AUGUST 9, 2026

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers; Veterinary Technologists and Technicians; Veterinarians. Pay: May 2024. Outlook and openings: 2024-2034.
- Find Your Future, Irving ISD district pathway pages 100-101.

Day 1: Choose one role

Word bank: median = mediana · preparation = preparación · openings = vacantes

Frame: I would investigate [career] because the work includes [daily task] and the preparation requires [education or training].

Role I would investigate: _____

One daily task:

One preparation requirement:

ONE NUMBER QUESTION

Why can the career with the most annual openings have the lowest median pay?