

# Animal Care Specialist (ASD)

**2019-2020**

**Type: Career, Degree (AAS)**

**Special admissions requirement**

**Division: Stem And Education**

The Animal Care Specialist program is designed for students wishing to work with dogs, cats and other small animals in various aspects. The first year is identical for all of the Animal Care Programs.

Graduates of the ASD degree program could seek employment in various fields such as: Animal Control, Shelter and Rescue, Animal Day Care and Boarding, Kennel Management, Dog Walking, Training, Grooming, Retail, and other professional occupations related to the management and care of pets.

For more information email us at: [Animalcare@northshore.edu](mailto:Animalcare@northshore.edu) or call (978)-762-4048

## First Year

### Fall

Course Number	Title	Credits
ANS102	Canine & Feline Behavior	3
ANS104	Breed ID	2
ANS107	Medical Terminology for Animal Science 1	1
ANS122	Fundamentals of Grooming	1
BIO101	Biology 1:The Basics of Life	4
MGT102	Principles of Management	3
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>		<b>14</b>

### Spring

Course Number	Title	Credits
ACC101	Basic Accounting 1	3
ANS110	Canine and Feline Nutrition	2
ANS112	Ethics and Law for Pet Care Professionals	2
ANS116	Fundamentals of Animal Health	3
ANS120	Canine Training	2

ANS142	Animal Facilities Management	3
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>		<b>15</b>

## Second Year

### Fall

Course Number	Title	Credits
ANS124	Herpetology for Pet Care Professionals	2
ANS126	Introduction to Small Mammals in the Laboratory and Home	3
BUS101	Math for Business and Finance	3
CMP101	Composition 1	3
CPS100	Information Technology and Its Applications	3
OPN-ELECTIVE	Open Elective	2
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>		<b>16</b>

### Spring

Course Number	Title	Credits
ANS128	Avian Science for Pet Care Professionals	3
ANS140	Merchandising in the Animal Care Industry	3
BUS102	Business Law	3
CMP102-150	Composition 2 Elective	3
LA-ELECTIVE	Liberal Arts Elective	3
<b>Total Semester Credits:</b>		<b>15</b>

### Requirement Notes

*CPS100: May be fulfilled by challenge exam and 3 liberal arts elective credits.*

### Program Notes

*Communication and Mathematics proficiency required to graduate.*

*See guided pathway sheets for advising information specific to your area of focus.*

**TOTAL PROGRAM CREDITS: 60**

**Program Student Learner Outcomes**

- Recognize the basic elements of animal care for companion pets, such as handling, management, and nutrition.
- Observe and interpret canine and feline body language communication to improve overall health during care.
- Identify legal and ethical issues that impact companion pets.
- Describe the basic methods utilized in canine training.
- Explain the benefits of vaccine protocol and preventative treatment methods in animal health.
- Compare the proper care, housing and nutrition for birds, reptiles, and small mammals.

**Occupational Skills required**

- Lift up to 50 pounds to get dogs onto grooming tables and into tubs
- Stoop to clean cages
- Crouch to safely move animals in and out of cages
- Handle sharp tools, scissors, electric clippers, heavy dryers, cages and strong, sometimes aggressive dogs and cats 5½feet above the floor to move animals in upper
- Reach level cages
- Grasp electric clippers, some grooming tools, leashes
- Administer other animal restraints for strong, sometimes frightened or aggressive dogs and cats
- Stand for prolonged periods of time while performing grooming tasks, bathing, training and exercising animals
- Feel growths on skin, mats in coat, soap and water in coat
- Manipulate large and sometimes uncooperative dogs and cats
- Hear barking, whining, hissing and other sounds of distressed dogs and cats
- See membrane colors, facial expressions of dogs and cats
- Talk to communicate in English, welfare and health issues to clients and co-workers
- Read typed, handwritten, computer information in English
- Precautions and instructions of products used in animal care
- Guidelines and instructions for animal's care
- Write to communicate in English pertinent information about an animal's physical condition
- Function safely, effectively, and calmly under stressful and loud conditions
- Maintain composure while managing multiple tasks simultaneously
- Prioritize multiple tasks
- Exhibit social skills necessary to interact effectively with clients and co workers of the same or different cultures; such as respect, politeness, teamwork and tact
- Display attitudes and actions consistent with the ethical standards of the animal care profession

**MOST COMMON LINKED OCCUPATION TITLE - ASSOCIATE'S OR LESS**

- Animal Care Taker

**Average Annual Growth (10-Year Projection)**

- Boston MSA – 13%
- Boston MSA Average Entry-Level Wages (2016) – \$25,510