



Application for Admission to Exotic Animal Training and Management Program

Students wishing to be considered for admission to the Exotic Animal Training and Management (EATM) Program must complete the following steps:

1. Submission of the following documents **in one envelope** to America's Teaching Zoo, EATM Application, 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, CA 93021. **All documents must be received by January 31:**
 - A. This completed application form
 - B. All official, sealed high school and college transcripts (send to America's Teaching Zoo, not the records office of Moorpark College.) College transcripts must show successful completion of the required 5 college prerequisites.
 - C. An unofficial copy of all college transcripts with the 5 prerequisite courses highlighted with a colored highlight marker. (Only highlight the 5 required prerequisite courses).
2. Participation in an Applicant Information Meeting (AIM) to be conducted at Moorpark College. The purpose of AIM is to provide an opportunity for the program staff to inform applicants of the requirements of the program and to answer questions. In this way, the applicant will be better able to make a decision concerning entering the program if selected.
3. All applicants who have met the above requirements, will be reviewed for the final selection. If more applicants apply than there are spaces available, a random selection of all qualified applicants will be made.

Applicants are selected in the Spring to begin the program in the Fall semester starting in August.

Directions for completing application form:

- Type the information requested. Attach additional pages if necessary.
 - Sign and date form. ALL communication from the EATM Program is via email. Read and follow all directions carefully...!!
 - **Applications are only accepted December 1 thru January 31.**
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Exotic Animal Training and Management Program Information

General Information

The Exotic Animal Training and Management (EATM) Program is a rigorous, demanding two-year course of study leading to a certificate of achievement or an associate's degree. Please refer to the Moorpark College Catalog for more details. The Moorpark College Catalog can be purchased from the college bookstore, Moorpark College, 7075 Campus Road, Moorpark, CA 93021. Call (805) 378-1400 for current price.

Minimum Requirements for Admission

The applicant must satisfy ALL of the following requirements:

1. High school graduation
or
General Education Development (GED) with a score of 45
2. Completion, prior to applying, of the following college prerequisite courses:
 - a. Introductory Zoology or Biology (with lab)
 - b. Freshman College English Composition
 - c. Public Speaking or Acting course
 - d. First Aid course
 - e. **Intermediate** Algebra Math (or higher level) course

NOTE: These 5 classes must be taken in college and appear on a college transcript. Work experience, life experience, or courses taken through a non-college program will not satisfy the prerequisites, and your application will not be reviewed.

Application and Admission Process

This is a very competitive program. We typically receive about 150 applications for the 50-60 spaces available. For students who will start in mid-August, the application period is from **December** through the end of January. There is only one new class of students admitted each year, in the Fall semester. The application for the EATM program is different from the regular application for admission to Moorpark College. A Moorpark College application does not need to be completed until the student has been admitted to the EATM program.

Recommendations to Applicants

Applicants must have completed the prerequisite courses identified above. This will help prepare the student to meet the academic rigors of the program. About 25% of the students starting the program already have bachelor degrees. It is also recommended that applicants complete the rest of the required general education college courses prior to entering the program. Some recommended courses are:

- introductory chemistry course
- United States history course
- physical education course
- acting or photography course

It is also recommended that applicants have some experience with animals, preferably non-domestic animals, in a volunteer or paid situation. Such experience will help the applicant develop a realistic idea of what is involved to work in the animal

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field. The more and varied the experience, the better. Some possible places to seek experience include zoos, wildlife rescue programs, wildlife rehabilitation programs, veterinary offices, stables, and animal shelters.

Demands of the EATM Program

The EATM program places special demands on its students. The following information is provided so the applicant can make an informed decision about applying for admission.

Strict attendance is required of all students. An animal in captivity depends upon its caretakers to meet all of its needs. Caring for animals, therefore, requires a high degree of commitment and responsibility. For this reason, excessive tardiness and absence from duties of the program is not tolerated.

America's Teaching Zoo must be completely cleaned every morning. To accomplish this, students sometimes must arrive at the zoo as early as 5 a.m. During the day, students are needed for maintenance projects, tours, shows, and to make sure the animals have shelter from the weather and access to water. Most of the animals in the collection are fed twice a day so students also have to return to the zoo between 3 and 5 p.m. for this feeding. Cleaning and feeding must be done regardless of weather, therefore students often must work in the rain, cold, or heat. The temperature in Moorpark occasionally drops below freezing in the winter and rises above 105°F in the summer.

Attendance is also required at special work days and guest lectures. These events sometimes occur with very little prior notice so the student must be flexible. On occasion, the health status of an animal makes it necessary for students to spend the night at the zoo to provide medication or for monitoring.

The animal collection requires care year round, so students are required to work on holidays and other times when school is normally not in session. Students are on-call 24 hours a day in the case of an emergency. The high degree of commit-

ment required by the program leaves the student with little time for him or herself. Therefore, it is important that the student makes sure other areas of his or her life are in order.

The work at America's Teaching Zoo involves working around potentially dangerous animals. For this reason, a great deal of emphasis is placed on following safety rules and protocols, and on communication and teamwork.

First-year students are not permitted to handle any of the animals or talk to them without specific instructions from a supervisor. Many of the animals are being trained and any contact with someone other than the trainer would be detrimental to the training process. Adherence to this rule as well as the other rules allows the student to demonstrate the self-discipline required for working in the animal industry.

Some of the animals in the collection periodically require fresh meat in their diet. To provide this, the student is required to kill rodents, pigeons, and rabbits. The students are instructed in the proper way to humanely kill these animals and are supervised when doing so.

Most of the maintenance of the cages and grounds is carried out by the students. This requires the student to build or repair cages, night boxes, fences, storage areas, equipment, and training props.

The student must wear a uniform of EATM shirt or sweat shirt and blue jeans, tan pants, or tan shorts and EATM jacket (if needed) when on duty at America's Teaching Zoo, when performing presentations, and on field trips. **The student must provide his or her own rain gear, have access to a sleeping bag, gloves, and hand tools (pliers, hammer, etc.).**

Expenses

It is important for applicants to plan carefully to meet the costs of attending the EATM program so they can gain the maximum educational experience. The following information is provided to help the applicant plan.

We currently estimate the cost of attending the program, including room, board, tuition, etc., is **about \$15,000 per year for California residents. The cost will be about \$5000-\$6000 higher for non-residents as tuition is \$220+ per semester unit (compared to \$46 per unit for residents).** Most students establish California residency their second year.

The irregular nature of the work schedule and the number of hours required make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to hold even a part-time job while attending the program. The student's EATM schedule will change frequently, often from week to week, sometimes with little or no notice. Most employers are unable to be as flexible with work schedules as the student requires. Anyone considering applying for the program needs to carefully evaluate the resources available for supporting them through the program. Some financial aid is available through the Financial Aid Office. The applicant should contact that office directly for information about such assistance. Their number is (805) 378-1462.

Moorpark College does not have any on-campus housing available for students. There are a number of rental properties near by that have been rented by groups of three or four EATM students each year. Some students find housing in the city of Simi Valley. The EATM Student Learning Lab maintains a bulletin board for admitted students which facilitates their finding roommates or housing.

It is important each student have a car for transportation. This is because there is no on-campus housing and because some of the course work will require the student to drive to the Los Angeles and Santa Barbara zoos. The expense of a car will vary a great deal from student to student. The applicant should remember to include not only the cost of gasoline but also the cost of routine maintenance, insurance (required by California law), and emergency repairs.

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The Ventura County Community College District subscribes to and promotes the principles and implementation of equal opportunity and Affirmative Action. Pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 803, the Governing Board has adopted a policy and procedure to ensure that its programs and activities are available to all persons without regard to ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, color, physical or mental disability, or Vietnam veteran status. Both the policy and the procedure apply to students, employees, and applicants. Inquires regarding these laws and regulations, and the corresponding Board policies, may be directed to the District Affirmative Action Officer, c/o District Admin Center, 255 W. Stanley Ave., Suite 150, Ventura, CA 93001.

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|-----------------|--|-------------|-------------|--------------|------|---------------|--|
| Last Name: | | First Name: | | Middle Name: | | Date of Birth | |
| Street: | | City: | | State: | Zip: | Country: | |
| E-mail address: | | | Home Phone: | | | Cell Phone: | |

Education - Documentation (transcripts) must be submitted to verify the information below:

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| High School Diploma Year Received | GED Year Received | Score | High School Grade Point Ave. | Cumulative College Grade Point Ave. | Sem. College Units Completed |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|

| College/State (Most recent first) | From | To | Major | Degree Acheived | Semester Units Completed |
|-----------------------------------|------|----|-------|-----------------|--------------------------|
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Work Experience List in reverse chronological order. (Most recent first)
Employer (City/State)

| Employer (City/State) | Position Held | From | To | Reason for Leaving |
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Volunteer Experience List in reverse chronological order. (Most recent first)
Organization (City/State)

| Organization (City/State) | Position Held | From | To | Average Hours Per Week |
|---------------------------|---------------|------|----|------------------------|
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Summary of EATM Program Demands

Please read the following information about the Exotic Animal Training and Management (EATM) Program:

The EATM program makes substantial demands on the time and energy of the students. Requirements of the program include:

- Spending the night or part of the night at America's Teaching Zoo when warranted, i.e., to care for a sick animal, maintain watch on a pregnant animal, etc..
- Assisting with the cleaning of the zoo seven days a week.
- Working at the zoo on holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.
- Strict adherence to the safety and attendance regulations of the program.
- Maintenance of a grade point average of not less than 2.0 each semester.
- Attainment of a grade of C or better in all EATM classes.
- Humanely killing of rodents, rabbits, and pigeons for consumption by other animals.

Because of the potential for severe injury to both people and animals at America's Teaching Zoo, it is particularly important students complete assigned tasks and responsibilities with strict adherence to the safety regulations. Failure to do so carries with it a strong likelihood of disciplinary consequences which may include dismissal from the program. The application of discipline must always be consistent with the safeguarding of the student's rights. A copy of "Student Rights and Responsibilities" is contained in the Moorpark College Catalog. In addition, the procedures involved in the application of discipline within the EATM program are described in the EATM Program Student Handbook.

Recognizing that the demands of the EATM program may create pressure for some students, the Counseling Department has assigned a special counselor, who has familiarity with the program, to be available to advise these students. It is the hope of Moorpark College that, given a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities, a prior knowledge of potential conduct sanctions and understanding of student rights, and the availability of counseling, students will be able to function in a successful, informed, and responsible manner.

Certification Statement

I certify that I have read and understood the material in this packet and that all the information I have provided in this application is true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Send the Following (in the same envelope) to:

America's Teaching Zoo
EATM Application
7075 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA 93021-1695

email address = _____

Moorpark College Student Number (if known) = _____

- ☐ This completed application
- ☐ Official copies of all college transcripts
- ☐ Official copies of high school transcripts
- ☐ Unofficial copies of all college transcripts with the 5 prerequisite courses highlighted
- ☐ Include an e-mail address that will be valid for at least 6 months after we receive your application.

NOTE - All communication from the EATM Program is via email to the email address provided on the application.

PLEASE - be very sure your email address is very clear and legible - print it again very neatly in the space above.

(You DO NOT need to mail us the first 2 pages - the instructions pages - PLEASE, keep these for yourself.)

By approximately the end of February you will receive notification by email, concerning your status in the application process. EATM AIM dates (usually in March or April) will be emailed to you, if you have met all application requirements.

America's Teaching Zoo

Exotic Animal Training and Management Program

Optional Survey

Please take a few minutes and answer the questions below. We are very interested in your career goals and expectations at the EATM program. We hope to help you find your dream job after you complete this program, and this will help us to better meet your needs. This optional survey is not a part of the application process, and this page will be removed before the application is reviewed by program staff. Please attach additional pages if needed. Thank you for your assistance!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age _____ Birth Date: _____

Ethnicity: _____ Term Applying For – Fall 20 _____

Country of citizenship: _____

Are you interested in continuing your education after completion of the EATM Program? How?

How did you learn about the EATM program? (Web Site, TV, Newspaper, Etc.)

Do you speak, read, or write any foreign languages? (If so, please list)

What are your career goals?

What kind of animals are you particularly interested in?

Write a brief history of your animal experience. (Attach additional pages if needed).