

Washington Branch AALAS

Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT)

Certification Study Course Syllabus

More Information:	Email Amanda at education@wbaalas.org for more information or to sign up for the ALAT Certification Study Course.
Eligibility:	Individual Members are eligible to participate in the WBAALAS ALAT Certification Study Course. Visit http://www.wbaalas.org/join/ to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign up for a Membership• Add Individual Members under your current Institutional Membership
Prerequisite(s):	<div style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><p>No high school diploma or GED with 2+ years of lab animal facility work experience OR</p><p>High school diploma or GED with 1+ year of lab animal facility work experience OR</p><p>Associates degree or higher with 6+ months of lab animal facility work experience</p></div> <p>Veterinary clinics, zoos, pet stores, or other similar businesses or organizations do not meet the definition of a “laboratory animal facility”. However, experience in non-laboratory animal environments (up to 3 years) can be applied to the required work experience using the following equation:</p> <p>6 months work in non-lab environment = 1 month of lab animal facility work experience</p>
Course Description:	American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) certification serves as the industry standard for entry level qualification for those working with laboratory animals. This study course will supplement participant study for the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) certification examination. Outside reading and study will be required. Participants will be assisted through the application and scheduling process to sit for the certification exam. Upon completion of this course and independent study, participants should have adequate laboratory animal science knowledge and test taking skills to pass the ALAT certification exam.
Method of Instruction:	<p>This program will use a blended learning format (where a portion of the traditional face-to-face instruction is replaced by web-based online learning).</p> <p>There will be weekly reading assignments outside of class and all participants should have access to the study materials (see below).</p> <p>Worksheets, quizzes, interactive modules, and videos will be completed through the online WBAALAS Learning Portal. A volunteer instructor from the Branch will evaluate materials submitted through the Learning Portal and make personalized recommendations for areas of further study.</p> <p>Face-to-face activities, such as matching games and group problem solving activities will be scheduled and facilitated at the discretion of each organization. Facilitator materials will be provided by the Branch through the WBAALAS Learning Portal so that organizational facilitators have ready-made materials and instructions for activities.</p>
Track Participant Progress:	Organizational facilitators will be granted some administrative rights within the WBAALAS Learning Portal in exchange for a commitment to host face-to-face study sessions for their course participants. Facilitators will be able to track and print reports on participant progress through the course. This beneficial feature enables organizational leaders to stay informed and address participant challenges as they arise.

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Required Study Materials: American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2010). *Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual*. Memphis, TN: AALAS.

OR

Subscription to the AALAS Learning Library (ALL) <https://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org/>

Optional Study Materials: American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2009). *Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician Training Manual Workbook*. Memphis, TN: AALAS.

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. (2012). *Laboratory Animal Regulatory Workbook* (5th ed). Memphis, TN: AALAS.

National Research Council. (2011). *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (8th ed.). Washington (DC): National Academies Press.

Other resources as recommended by AALAS for study.

Absence or Make-Up: Every effort will be made to adhere to the course schedule. However in the event of extenuating circumstances, modules will be rescheduled as necessary. Class participation is voluntary. As such, if a participant is not available to participate, it is the individual's responsibility to study the related material independently.

AALAS Affiliation: This program has no direct affiliation with AALAS. The program is designed solely as a tool to prepare the participant for the AALAS ALAT certification examination. There is no direct or implied guarantee of exam eligibility or success.

Course Goals: The following are participant goals for the ALAT Study Class program as outline by AALAS:

- Describe federal, state and local regulations and guidelines pertaining to animal research
- Observe and report alterations in animal room environment
- Understand the basic biology of common laboratory animal species
- Provide care for laboratory animals in a safe and sanitary manner
- Handle, restrain, and determine the sex of common laboratory animals
- Recognize common signs of clinical illness in laboratory animals
- Assist with animal identification and recordkeeping
- Provide technical assistance to a supervisor or research personnel
- Observe and report abnormalities in laboratory animals
- Provide routine treatments to animals as instructed
- Know concepts and methods of sanitation, disinfection, and sterilization

Participants will meet the goals listed above by:

- Completing weekly reading assignments
- Completing weekly ALAT Study Course worksheet and video assignments
- Participating in ALAT Study Course activities and practice tests

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Activity Outline: The following is an outline and brief description of weekly course activities:

Worksheets

Worksheets for each chapter will be included every week for participants to engage in focused practice of chapter concepts and principles. Worksheets will be submitted to the [WBAALAS Learning Portal](#) Instructor for evaluation and personalized feedback. Once submitted, the module will be marked as “complete” by the Instructor.

Test Taking Strategy Videos

Videos (each between 2 and 4 minutes in duration) are sprinkled throughout the 16-week course providing strategies that can be directly applied to practice quizzes and the certification exam. Participants will be asked view videos from the [WBAALAS Learning Portal](#) and to answer two simple questions about each video. Once answers are submitted, the module will be marked as “complete” by the Learning Portal Instructor.

Timed Test-Taking Practice

A timed multiple choice quiz will be included every week through the [WBAALAS Learning Portal](#) to get participants accustomed to using online test taking strategies. This test is not graded but results are provided immediately after completion. Participants will be able to retake the quiz an unlimited number of times.

Match Game Modules

Optional eLearning games will be available for participants on the [WBAALAS Learning Portal](#) for participant practice matching chapter terms with their definitions.

(varies by organization) Assorted Face-to-Face Activities

Face-to-Face and Hands-On activities may be scheduled and facilitated by leaders at each organization, but are not scheduled and facilitated by WBAALAS unless requested by a learning group manager. All activity materials and instructions will be provided to onsite facilitators through the [WBAALAS Learning Portal](#). Working with partners and in teams should be emphasized to help each other learn.

Note: Facilitation of these hands-on activities is an excellent opportunity for leaders and leaders-in-training to make a significant impact on the development of their colleagues and co-workers.