

2025/2026 Course Description - Veterinary Technical Assistant

Note: The below changes will be effective as of Summer 2025. Please review the [2024/2025 Academic Calendar](#) for current program details.

Term 1:

ANH1050 - Introduction to the Veterinary Profession

Students will become familiar with selected animal health organizations and will adhere to the regulations of veterinary medicine in Alberta. Students are introduced to strategies and techniques for managing self and interacting with others. Students will apply critical thinking skills to animal welfare situations. This course provides students with foundational veterinary medical terminology they will use throughout their career.

ANH1010 - Small Animal Behaviour and Handling

This course will provide students with knowledge of breeds and behaviours of domestic cats and dogs. Students will learn and apply small animal handling and restraint techniques.

ANH1020 - Small Animal Clinical Foundations

This introductory course provides veterinary assistants with foundational knowledge and skills in small animal clinical procedures, encompassing disease recognition, preventive medicine practices, common surgical procedures, and basic anesthesia and emergency protocols.

ANH1030 - Veterinary Instruments and Equipment

This course equips veterinary assistants with essential skills in surgical instrument handling and sterilization, including aseptic techniques, proper care and maintenance of instruments, and the assembly and sterilization of surgical packs. Additionally, students will gain an introduction to common veterinary equipment and radiology techniques.

ANH1040 - Essential Client Communication and Animal Care

This course focuses on essential client communication and animal care. Students will learn how to interact with clients, maintain medical records, and discuss sensitive topics like finances and euthanasia. They will also gain knowledge in animal nutrition, husbandry, and veterinary pharmacy procedures. Hands-on experience in animal care protocols will be provided at Olds College and/or other community service learning environments.