



DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

COURSE OUTLINE – Spring/Fall 2026

AH348 ANIMAL NURSING AND SURGICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VT

4 (4.5-0-0) 72 Hours for 16 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Karlee Worobetz, RVT Fall TBA	PHONE:	(780) 835-6686
OFFICE:	AS 140	E-MAIL:	kworobetz@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	See posted schedule on office board		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Proper identification, use, care and maintenance of all equipment is continued. Administration of medications by different routes is taught. The student will learn techniques for venipuncture, catheterizations and urine and vaginal sample collection. Fluid therapy is covered in depth, instruction includes general nursing care of hospitalized patients, orphans, newborns, post-parturient dams, and principles of pain management. The student will be instructed on basic procedures such as vaginal exams, care of tracheotomy, pharyngostomy and chest tube sites, preparation of wounds and abscesses for treatment. The student will be able to discuss and/or perform all procedures covered and identify any common complications. Students will learn veterinary first aid procedures, triage of a patient and emergency protocols. Identification, use, care and maintenance of surgical



instruments, equipment and supplies is covered in detail. Students learn to prepare facilities, patients and equipment for surgical procedures with strict adherence to principles of sanitation and sterilization. Students will participate in surgical procedures as a surgical assistant and will learn to pass instruments, care for exposed tissue and provide suction or cautery. Students will participate in preparing the patient for surgery and post recovery monitoring of the patient till discharge or return to normal boarding protocol. Students become responsible for post-operative cleanup of the patient, equipment and facilities and follow up with patient monitoring and surgical records. These principles continue in CPI and CPIL.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

- Must be registered in the NWP Veterinary Technology Program
- AH141, AH143, AH173, AH240, AH244, AH246, AH249
- Have active status as an ABVMA Student Member in good standing

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Joanna M. Bassert, *McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians*, Elsevier, 2018, 10th or 11th Edition
- Joanna M. Bassert, *McCurnin's Clinical Textbook for Veterinary Technicians Workbook*, Elsevier, 2018, 10th or 11th Edition
- Kristin J. Holtgrew-Bohling, *Mosby's Veterinary PDQ*, Elsevier, 4th Edition.
- Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection.

DELIVERY MODE(S):

Hyflex. This course is delivered in-person and remotely. Final exams will occur in-person. The spring session of this course will be delivered in-person at the Fairview Campus. Fall session will be remote but may require some in-person learning. Technological support is available through helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Surgical Nursing: Describe and Explain surgical nursing concepts as related to the Veterinary Technologist/Technician. This includes surgical preparation, sterilization, cleaning and listing of common surgical instruments, identification of suture material and techniques and to describe and explain elective and common surgical procedures, preparation of and after care for both large and small animals.

- Surgical Instruments and Aseptic Technique
- Surgical Assistance and Suture Material
- Small Animal Surgical Nursing
- Large Animal Surgical Nursing

Emergency and Critical Care: Discussion and explain concepts of fluid therapy, common fluids, fluid calculations and plasma and/or transfusion medicine. Explain and describe concepts of emergency care and procedures for small and large animal patients. Describe and explain care of the critical patient.

- Fluid Therapy and Transfusion Medicine
- Emergency and Critical Care Nursing

Medical Nursing: Explain and describe common sampling preparation and therapeutic techniques relating to patient preparation and after care of surgical and medical component.

- Diagnostic Sampling and Therapeutic Techniques

The Technicians role in Pain Management: Explain and discuss options to assess and deliver patient pain management.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

EXAMINATIONS	Mark Distribution
A. Quizzes and Assignments	65%
B. Final Exam	35%
	100%

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. **Grades for this course will be assigned as a percentage.**

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

See posted timetable for details.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Enrolment at NWP assumes that the student will become a responsible citizen of the Polytechnic Institute. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, take pride in and assist in the maintenance and preservation of Institute property, and assume responsibility for his/her education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting instructor expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

Veterinary Technology Program Attendance & Conduct Summary

Zero Tolerance for Impairment: Attending labs, exams/quizzes, lectures, animal care duties, or guest speaker events under the influence of alcohol or impairing substances (including certain medications) is strictly prohibited. Violations result in unexcused absences and a mark of zero.

Lab Preparation: Students must arrive at labs properly dressed, equipped, and prepared (including assigned readings). Unprepared students may be dismissed and a 5% deduction will occur off the final grade.

Mandatory Attendance: Attendance is required for all labs, exams, guest speakers, and animal care duties. Arriving late to labs, lectures, quizzes/exams will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences (at the instructor's discretion) result in:

- 5% deduction from the final course grade (labs/guest speakers, animal care duties)
- 3 or more unexcused absences in animal care will lead to automatic failure of the course.

Absence Approval: Absences must be approved in advance or as soon as possible afterward with valid written documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Employment conflicts are not considered valid excuses.

Make-Up Policy: Labs, lectures, guest speakers, and animal care duties cannot be made up. Missed assessments due to unexcused absences receive a grade of zero. Excused absences do not exempt students from required work or deadlines.

Exam Conduct: No electronic devices (phones, smartwatches, headphones, tablets) are permitted during exams or evaluations. Having one present will result in immediate dismissal and a grade of 0%.

Further Guidelines:

- Spelling errors in exams/quizzes, assignments and medical records will result in a 0.5% deduction for each occurrence.
- All handwritten materials that are submitted to the instructor must be using blue or black pen, no white out and using appropriate medical corrections.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

NWP servers may be monitored. Student accounts are visible via ABTutor and student activity on NWP networks may be monitored during supervised exams and/or anytime students are on NWP networks. The collection of and access to the personal information listed above as permitted by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.