

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Academic Year:	2026-2027
Credential:	College Certificate
Program Delivery:	Full-Time
Duration:	1 Year
Length:	2 Semesters
Program Code(s):	H133 - Haileybury Campus (HL)

DESCRIPTION

Students dive into a world of creativity, experiencing the art of pet grooming through hands-on activities and immersive learning experiences in our one-year Animal Grooming certificate program. The program's courses cover topics such as client relations, animal behavior, handling techniques, skin and coat care, grooming styles for different breeds, effective tool utilization, and small business management.

Students apply their skills in real-world settings through supervised practicum experiences that prepare them for a broad range of career opportunities in the industry, including self-employment. Strive to excel as a Master Stylist!

The Animal Grooming program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge for the Canadian Professional Pet Stylists Certification Exam, Canada's only Pet Grooming Certification. Grow your expertise, confidence, reputation, and business!

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates may pursue careers in a variety of settings, including veterinary clinics and hospitals, pet grooming salons, and retail pet stores. They can also choose to start their own successful animal grooming business, applying their skills and passion to build a rewarding career in the animal care industry.

VOCATIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Provide for animals' basic needs to ensure compliance with health and safety standards.
2. Perform safe animal handling to ensure no harm to the animal or the groomer.
3. Provide clients with standard information about routine care of dog and cat hair coats and nails to recommend ongoing care at home.
4. Evaluate pets overall health, behaviour, and relevant medical history to determine the desired grooming needs with the client.
5. Identify classes of dogs and common breeds of dogs and cats to select grooming techniques and style.
6. Identify common zoonotic diseases of dogs and cats to promote biosecurity, health, and safety.
7. Collect animal identification details to maintain accurate records.
8. Bath, clip, and groom cats and dogs according to acceptable grooming standards.
9. Recognize and describe behavioural signs of animals to determine the animal's emotional state.
10. Perform routine office procedures including bookkeeping records to meet organizational requirements and legislative guidelines.

PROGRAM COURSES

The following reflects the planned course sequence for full-time offerings of the program. Programs at Northern College are delivered using a variety of instruction modes. Courses may be offered in the classroom or lab, entirely online, or in a hybrid mode which combines classroom sessions with virtual learning activities.

Semester 1		Hours
AG1013	Grooming the Companion Animal	42
AG1026	Professional Grooming I	84
GN1083	Managing for Success	42
VA1042	Animal Behaviour Study	28
VA1043	Client Relations	42
VA2042	Animal Handling	28
VT1011	Kennel Duty I	14
Semester 2		
AG2000	Master Stylist I	28
AG2005	Professional Groom II	70
BU2213	Small Business Management	42
GN1443	Indigenous Culture and Awareness	42
VA2032	Feeds and Feeding of Companion Animals	28
VA2052	Basic Animal Procedures	28
VA2053	Coat and Skin Care	42
VT2011	Kennel Duty II	14
VT2042	Management Technology	28

PROGRAM PROGRESSION

The following reflects the planned progression for full-time offerings of the program.

Fall Intake

Sem 1: Fall 2026

Sem 2: Winter 2027

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent
- Grade 12 English (C, U, or E) or equivalent
- Proficiency in word processing recommended

Graduates from a Veterinary Assistant or Animal Grooming program, in addition to the usual requirements for direct entry from high school – require a minimum GPA of 3.0 upon graduation.

Academic prerequisites for this program may be obtained free of charge through [Academic Upgrading](#). Applicants who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent and will have reached the age of 19 years on or before the start of the program must undergo academic testing and may be required to complete [Prior](#)

[Learning Assessment & Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) process to demonstrate equivalency of admission requirements prior to admission into a program.

For more details, please contact the Admissions Office at 705-235-7222 or admissions@northern.on.ca.

Additional Requirements for International Students

In addition to the admission requirements, international students must have proof of [English Proficiency](#) and meet the requirements below.

1. Proof of Senior High School Diploma/Certificate
2. English Proficiency (we will require one of the following):
 - IELTS Academic International English Language Testing System: minimum overall score of 6.0 must be achieved with no individual band score under 5.5
 - TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): Computer-based overall minimum score of 79
 - PTE (Pearson Test of English) Academic – Graduate Diploma: 58+
 - Duolingo: 105+

If your country of citizenship has English as its official language, we may accept alternate proof of English Proficiency. All educational documents must be submitted in English and will be dependent on the country of citizenship. For more information, please contact admissions@northern.on.ca.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the program page for [Animal Grooming Program Requirements](#) documentation.

- Rabies vaccine series or titre prior to start of program (at student's expense). The rabies vaccinations/titre should be started in May or June, and proof is due by August 1.
- Students must purchase a basic grooming kit detailed in the program requirements.

Work Integrated Learning Opportunities

In semester two, each week students complete the entire grooming appointment, from intake to discharge. Under the supervision of a grooming professional, students learn how to interact confidently and professionally with clients and how to assess client needs. Students receive valuable feedback from clients to identify areas of strength and areas needing improvement.

Articulation / Transfer Agreements

A number of articulation agreements have been negotiated with universities and other institutions across Canada, North America and internationally. These agreements are assessed, revised and updated on a regular basis. Please contact the program coordinator for specific details if you are interested in pursuing such an option. Additional information can be found at [Articulation Agreements](#).

Accreditation

The Veterinary Science Centre and our [Veterinary Technician](#) program are accredited by:



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES



ONTARIO
ASSOCIATION OF
VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS



GAP – Good Animal Practice®
Bonnes pratiques animales – BPA®

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

14 Program Courses
2 General Education Courses

Graduation Eligibility

To graduate from this program, a student must attain a minimum of 60% or a letter grade of CR (Credit) in each course in each semester unless otherwise stated on the course outline. Students should consult departmental policies and manuals for additional details and exceptions.

Graduation Window

Students unable to adhere to the program duration of one year (as stated above) may take a maximum of two years to complete their credential. After this time, students must be re-admitted into the program and follow the curriculum in place at the time of re-admission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about being admitted into the program, please contact Northern College Admissions at admissions@northern.on.ca or by phone at 705-235-3211 ext. 7222. For questions about the content of the program, contact the Program Coordinator.

Kellie Broderick, Program Assistant
Tel: 705-672-3376 ext. 8854
Email: vetsciences@northern.on.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Semester 1

AG1013 Grooming the Companion Animal

This course will educate students on how to handle and care for various companion animals, both large and small. This course will also prepare the student to work proficiently in a grooming facility. The student will learn and practice proper bathing procedures. The student will also be able to recognize and care for skin and coat conditions and will learn proper ear and nail care. They will also learn how to communicate effectively with their clients.

AG1026 Professional Grooming I

This course will deal with how to groom various companion animals, both large and small. The course will go into detail on how to handle a cat during the grooming process as well as why cats are groomed. Styles such as the lion cut will be taught, including nail trimming, ear cleaning and bathing procedures. This course will also prepare the student to function properly in a grooming facility. All areas of care will be discussed and practiced; these will include bathing, nail trimming, scissor cuts and conditioning of the coat.

GN1083 Managing for Success

The course is designed to help students gain insights and skills to promote personal and professional development. Students will develop an understanding of how they manage their lives and incorporate skills to maximize their strengths and reduce the impact of less effective techniques. Students will learn about resources that are available to them and the intelligence of accessing additional support when needed. The content of this course provides students with the opportunity to lay a foundation for lifelong learning; learn to communicate effectively, build and value productive and satisfying diverse relationships and prepare for the challenges and rewards that make life meaningful.

VA1042 Animal Behaviour Study

Animal care providers often handle animals with behaviour problems. They must know what advice to give and when to refer the problem to the veterinarian. The animal care provider must also know the procedure involved in referral to a behavioural specialist and/or obedience trainer.

VA1043 Client Relations

This one semester course is designed for the Animal Grooming, Veterinary Assistant, Veterinary Technician and the Veterinary Technology programs. The course is designed to look at their role in the daily operation of veterinary practice. The course will include sections on customer service, telephone skills, and welcoming skills, confrontation and conflict resolution. The course will assist students in becoming more comfortable assisting clients through the grief cycle. There will be a component on Client Communication utilizing both oral and written communication in the veterinary practice. This course will have a self-directed online grammar component. This course will enable the students to practice the skills required for effective work in client relations.

VA2042 Animal Handling

This course will outline the fundamentals of animal restraint and the factors that influence behaviour. Handling, restraining, feeding, and analyzing cats, dogs and lab animals will be emphasized. Proper forms of animal approach, handling, restraint, and release will be demonstrated and practiced by the student. All classes will start with a lecture and/or demonstration on how to perform the procedure, followed by a lab for applying that knowledge.

VT1011 Kennel Duty I

This course will prepare the student to function in a veterinary environment. Students will provide care for the animals owned by Northern College. The use of Standard Operating Procedures will assist the student. The Veterinary Science facility simulates the professional environment and enables the students to learn the skills necessary to function as a productive team member.

Semester 2

AG2000 Master Stylist I

This course will help the students to prepare for their testing towards their Master Stylist Certification. Three groups of dogs will be covered, including the Sporting, Non-Sporting and the Terrier group. They will learn how to identify each dog from the assigned group as well as learn the characteristics of each and their grooming requirements. A total of 89 breeds will be covered.

AG2005 Professional Groom II

This course will deal with how to groom various companion animals, both large and small. The course will go into detail on how to handle a cat during the grooming process as well as why cats are groomed. Styles such as the lion cut will be taught, nail trimming, ear cleaning and bathing procedures. This course will also prepare the student to function properly in a grooming facility, and how to interact with customers. All areas of care will be discussed and practiced; these will include bathing, nail trimming, scissor cuts and conditioning of the coat. The care of the equipment will also be discussed as well as products on the market.

BU2213 Small Business Management

This course will introduce students to the fundamental approach to starting and managing a small business in Canada. An examination of what is necessary to start a small business will encompass strategic areas such as goal setting, organizational set-up, financial planning, accounting, marketing, human resources and legal issues.

GN1443 Indigenous Culture and Awareness

This general education course will provide students with an introduction to Canadian Indigenous Nations' history, sovereignty, land titles, cultural history and current critical issues. Topics addressed include the content of Indigenous rights, economic and social development, community and political processes, and business law and policies, justice & social services. Canadian Indigenous History and Relations is a general education course that has been incorporated into all programs at Northern College.

VA2032 Feeds and Feeding of Companion Animals

This course covers the basic concepts of nutrition and provides students with sufficient understanding to advise clients on the nutritional needs of large and small animals at various life stages. While the major focus of the course is on feeding the healthy animal, the dietary needs of dogs and cats with specific organ diseases are also covered. Students are introduced to common dietary toxicities and deficiencies encountered in small animal companion medicine.

VA2052 Basic Animal Procedures

This course will outline the fundamentals of basic animal procedures that may occur in a small animal clinic setting. Handling and restraining will be emphasized during basic procedures such as; bandaging, emergency

triage, proper sample collection and handling, equipment uses during emergency situations. All classes will start with a lecture and/or demonstration on how to perform the procedure, followed by a lab for applying that knowledge.

VA2053 Coat and Skin Care

This course will encompass all aspects of grooming procedures for the companion animal. It will prepare the student to recognize and care for various skin disorders. All areas of concern will be discussed and practiced in providing a safe environment for the groomer, workplace and the companion animal.

VT2011 Kennel Duty II

This course will prepare the student to function in a veterinary environment. Students will provide care for the animals owned by Northern College. The use of Standard Operating Procedures will assist the student. The Veterinary Science facility simulates the professional environment and enables the students to learn the skills necessary to function as a productive team member.

VT2042 Management Technology

This course will give the student practical skills on specialized veterinary software packages such as Pulse (a "cloud-based" software-as-a-service solution you can access from anywhere via a web browser), and AVImark (a popular software used in veterinary office clinics which is installed on our on-campus computer lab workstations). Students will learn to set up files for new clients and/or new patients, bill clients for services and products, print appropriate certificates and prescription labels, as well as practice accepting payments.