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# EQUINE TECHNICIAN

**COURSE:** EQUINE OPERATIONS AND CARE 33 (OTH 9924)

**Prerequisite:** AGR3000: Agriculture Safety (**Note:** Students are required to complete the prerequisite course prior to enrollment in the first course of the Equine Technician specialization.)

**Description:** Students demonstrate knowledge of horse identification and characteristics; demonstrate knowledge of equine management and behavioural responses; demonstrate knowledge of facility and equipment inventory, operation, maintenance and repair; demonstrate basic equine health knowledge; demonstrate a positive attitude toward safety; and demonstrate effective and appropriate interpersonal, communication and employability skills.

**Parameters:** Each of the three courses that constitute the Equine Technician specialization is designed to be delivered off-campus. The annual inspection and approval of the work station and the monitoring, supervision and assessment of each student's progress and performance must be done in accordance with the procedures specified in the *Off-campus Education Handbook*.

**Prescribed**

**General Outcomes:** *The student will:*

- demonstrate knowledge of horse identification and characteristics, including:
  - describe the horse's life cycle
  - identify horse classifications
  - identify horse breeds and their purpose
  - identify common colouring and markings
- demonstrate knowledge of equine management and behavioural responses, including:
  - understand horse senses, natural instinctive and typical equine behaviours
  - manage equine behaviour responses and defence mechanisms
  - handle horses in stressful and emergency situations
  - interpret and communicate using horse body language
  - perform safe haltering, leading and tying procedures
  - understand expectations of ground manners

- understand response versus reaction
- understand acceptance versus tolerance
- demonstrate a knowledge of facility and equipment inventory, operation, maintenance and repair, including:
  - identify and use common stable equipment and products
  - operate, maintain and repair common facility equipment safely
  - operate, maintain and repair equine exercise equipment
  - maintain trucks and trailers on premises
- demonstrate basic equine health knowledge, including:
  - assess body condition score
  - analyze normal and abnormal appearance and behaviours
- demonstrate a positive attitude toward safety, including:
  - identify safe workplace practices for agricultural operations
  - recognize hazards in agricultural operations
  - minimize hazards in agricultural operations
  - participate in ongoing inspections and training
  - perform basic emergency response procedures
- demonstrate effective and appropriate interpersonal, communication and employability skills, including:
  - manage training and continuing education in the Green Certificate program
  - communicate and interact effectively in the workplace
  - manage time effectively to complete workplace jobs
  - understand continuous improvement in agricultural operation
  - understand accounts payable and receivable in agricultural operations
  - understand business risks in agricultural operations
  - understand insurance and liability in agricultural operations
  - identify legislation pertaining to agricultural operations
  - identify governing bodies pertaining to agricultural operations
  - promote the agricultural industry
  - understand equine traceability requirements

**COURSE:** EQUINE PROCESS AND PRACTICES 33 (OTH 9925)

**Prerequisite:** AGR3000: Agriculture Safety (**Note:** Students are required to complete the prerequisite course prior to enrollment in the first course of the Equine Technician specialization.)

**Description:** Students demonstrate the ability to maintain an equine environment; evaluate horse health; assist in animal and stable management; and groom and put tack on horses.

**Parameters:** Each of the three courses that constitute the Equine Technician specialization is designed to be delivered off-campus. The annual inspection and approval of the work station and the monitoring, supervision and assessment of each student's progress and performance must be done in accordance with the procedures specified in the *Off-campus Education Handbook*.

**Prescribed****General Outcomes:***The student will:*

- maintain an equine environment, including:
  - apply biosecurity and facility protocol
  - use and store bedding materials
  - maintain and clean the facility and apply manure management best practices
  - practise environmental stewardship
  - control pests
  - recognize unsafe conditions in equine facilities
  - identify and utilize appropriate equine housing principles
  - maintain facility, specialty areas, arena and paddock
- evaluate horse health, including:
  - identify conformation faults and blemishes
  - evaluate vital signs
  - provide regular dental care
- assist in animal and stable management, including:
  - identify animal welfare and care concerns
  - follow stable management routines
  - keep health and feeding records
  - complete a livestock manifest
  - complete required documentation
  - keep breeding and training records
  - assist with sales and purchasing
  - use technology for record and document management
- groom and put tack on horses, including:
  - perform grooming routines
  - use tack
  - use basic tack-fitting techniques
  - use safe tacking procedures
  - store and care for tack
  - perform safe blanketing procedures
  - identify warm-up and cool-down requirements

**COURSE:****EQUINE HUSBANDRY AND SYSTEMS 33 (OTH 9926)****Prerequisite:**

AGR3000: Agriculture Safety (**Note:** Students are required to complete the prerequisite course prior to enrollment in the first course of the Equine Technician specialization.)

**Description:**

Students demonstrate the ability to increase their knowledge and apply safe horse-handling techniques; understand basic equine reproduction and life cycles; maintain horse health; and manage equine water and feed regime.

**Parameters:**

Each of the three courses that constitute the Equine Technician specialization is designed to be delivered off-campus. The annual inspection and approval of the work station and the monitoring, supervision and assessment of each student's progress and performance must be done in accordance with the procedures specified in the *Off-campus Education Handbook*.

**Prescribed****General Outcomes:**

*The student will:*

- increase knowledge and apply safe horse-handling techniques, including:
  - load and unload horses
  - use equine restraints
  - differentiate between livestock and pets
  - understand and apply working expectations of equine professionals and handlers
  - transport horses
  - recognize acceptable versus unacceptable handling practices
- understand basic equine reproduction and life cycle, including:
  - distinguish between features of a horse's reproductive cycle
  - compare breeding methods
  - recognize basics in stallion management
  - demonstrate euthanasia and disposal best practices
- maintain horse health, including:
  - identify common equine diseases in Alberta
  - assist with a vaccination program
  - identify internal pests and controls
  - identify external pests and controls
  - perform regular hoof maintenance
  - monitor for lameness
  - identify and evaluate injuries
  - apply basic equine first aid
  - perform safe bandaging procedures
  - demonstrate injectable drug use best practices
- manage equine water and feed regime, including:
  - provide water requirements
  - identify common feeds
  - compare nutritional requirements of horses
  - assess commercially prepared feed
  - follow daily feeding routines
  - change feed appropriately
  - manage pasture and rotations
  - determine nutrition-related conditions
  - demonstrate toxic plant and food mitigation
  - implement feeding-program requirements