



**WHITNEY BLAIR**

**NŌ NGĀTI MANIAPOTO ME NGĀTI RĀRUA**

# ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN **KAIHANGARAU HAUREHU**

An Anaesthetic Technician is an integral part of the operating theatre team who care for patients at a time when they are most vulnerable whilst undergoing surgical operations.



**Kia Ora Hauora**  
Supporting Māori into Health

## WHAT IS AN ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN?

When a patient needs an operation there are times when they are required to be unconscious. There are other times when a patient would like to be fully aware, just not in pain. These examples require anaesthetic care.

ATs work alongside the Anaesthetist in providing high standards of anaesthetic care, as well as a variety of roles within the operating theatre department using a wide range of clinical competencies.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIAN

- Supporting anaesthetists in providing high standards of anaesthetic care, including airway management.
- Working alongside the anaesthetist to place patients' breathing tubes and intravenous lines, including placement of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters.
- Working alongside the anaesthetist to administer anaesthetics, including local anaesthetics and nerve blocks.
- Monitoring patients' vital signs (such as heartbeat) while under anaesthesia.
- Checking and setting up life support and anaesthetic machines.
- Delivering high standards of patient care after surgical operations.

## WHERE DO ANAESTHETIC TECHNICIANS WORK?

ATs are a vital part of the hospital operating theatre team, providing high standards of care to patients of all ages, at every stage of their operation.

ATs may work:

- In operating theatres
- On resuscitation teams
- In Post-Anaesthetic Care Units (PACU), or Recovery departments
- Administering Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC) lines

## WHAT TRAINING IS INVOLVED?

To become an Anaesthetic Technician, you need to:

- Complete the Bachelor of Health Science Degree in Perioperative Practice at AUT.

After completing this programme you will be eligible to apply for registration with the Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand. Upon registration, you will have the protected title of registered Anaesthetic Technician. Auckland University of Technology (AUT) is the only tertiary education provider for this qualification. This qualification may be completed outside of Auckland.

## WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I TAKE NOW?

NCEA Level 3 is required for tertiary training; useful subjects include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Health
- English
- Te Reo Māori (optional)

