



The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), Western Canada's regional veterinary college, was founded in 1963 by Canada's four western provinces. While this model of interprovincial co-operation and shared ownership is rare, the arrangement has worked extremely well in providing the region with high-quality veterinary education, clinical services and research for nearly 60 years.

Background

Aspects of this unique partnership between the provinces and the University of Saskatchewan (USask) are outlined in the [WCVM's Interprovincial Agreement \(IPA\)](#). This document, which is updated and renewed every five years, sets out the college's responsibilities in veterinary education, clinical and diagnostic services, and research. It also spells out the terms about residency status of applicants to the college, the cost-sharing formula for funding the college at USask, and provincial enrolment quotas.

As outlined in the IPA, each province is allotted a certain number of student seats in the college's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. In the past five years, there have been several changes to the WCVM's seat allotments.

- **In 2017**, the Province of Alberta announced its decision to withdraw from the IPA and redirect its provincial funding to the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). In fall 2019, the last group of Alberta students in IPA seats (funded by the Government of Alberta) began their veterinary studies at the WCVM.
- **In 2020**, USask and the three remaining provincial partners — British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — renewed the college's IPA for five years (2020-2025). The renewed agreement helps to ensure that Western Canada has a steady supply of veterinarians with in-depth knowledge of animal health and public health, as well as an awareness of the standards and issues facing livestock, fowl and fisheries producers and pet owners.
- **In 2020**, the college increased its DVM class size from 78 to 83 seats. In addition to the 58 IPA seats, the college offered 25 non-Interprovincial (non-IPA or open) seats to western Canadian applicants. Non-IPA

students pay the WCVM's regular tuition plus a \$55,000 fee, which is comparable to tuition rates at international veterinary schools.

- **In 2021**, the WCVM's class size increased by another five seats for a total of 88 seats. Besides the 58 IPA seats, the college offered 25 non-IPA or open seats to western Canadian applicants. It also offered five non-IPA seats to U.S. and international applicants for the first time.

WCVM admissions: 2022-23 academic year

On April 5, 2022, the Province of B.C. announced an investment of nearly \$10.7 million to increase its provincial seat quota from 20 to 40 seats in the WCVM's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program for the 2022-23 academic year. [Click here](#) to view story.

Based on this new development, the WCVM plans to offer 88 seats in its DVM program for fall 2022 entry. Here is the breakdown of seats available:

- 78 Interprovincial Agreement (IPA) seats directly funded by its three partner provinces (B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba)
- Five non-Interprovincial Agreement (non-IPA or open) seats for western Canadian applicants
- Five non-IPA or open seats to U.S./international applicants

The increase from 20 to 40 IPA seats for B.C. applicants is only for the 2022-23 academic year. While the Province of B.C. has indicated its intent to support 40 IPA seats for the 2023-24 academic year, no formal confirmation is expected until March 2023.

Non-IPA seats. As a result of the Province of B.C.'s decision to double its provincial seat quota, the number of non-IPA

WCVM Admissions



or open seats for western Canadian applicants has decreased from 25 to five seats for the 2022-23 academic year.

The WCVM will give preference to residents of its partner provinces — British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — to fill the non-IPA seats. If all non-IPA seats aren't filled with residents of the partner provinces, residents of the northern territories and Alberta will be considered for available seats.

- **Alberta applicants:** due to the reduced number of open seats and the order of preference, it is unlikely that the WCVM will consider Alberta residents for the reduced number of non-IPA seats.

WCVM admissions: 2023-24 academic year

There has been significant interest from Canadian jurisdictions for DVM seats at the WCVM. In response, the college's three funding provinces have requested that the WCVM accept Canadian students — not international students — into the veterinary program for the 2023-24 academic year.

For 2023, WCVM will offer up to 30 non-IPA seats for Canadian applicants. The veterinary college will give preference to residents of its partner provinces — British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — to fill the non-IPA seats. If all non-IPA seats aren't filled with residents of the partner provinces, residents of the northern territories and Alberta will be considered for available seats.

B.C. applicants. The WCVM appreciates that not having a firm commitment about B.C.'s provincial seat quota in the DVM program creates uncertainty for B.C. residents who are considering applying to the veterinary college. Since there is a critical need for all types of veterinarians in B.C. and throughout Western Canada, we strongly advise anyone who is interested in the profession to apply for the DVM program at the WCVM.

Non-IPA seats — scenario 1. If the Province of B.C. commits to funding 40 IPA seats for the 2023-24 academic year, the WCVM will offer 10 non-IPA seats to western Canadian applicants.

The WCVM will give preference to residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba for the 10 non-IPA seats available for western Canadian applicants. If residents from these two provinces do not fill all non-IPA seats, applicants from B.C., northern territories and Alberta will be considered for available seats.

- **Alberta applicants:** due to the expected reduction in the number of open seats and the order of preference, it is unlikely that the WCVM will consider Alberta residents for the reduced number of non-IPA seats.

Non-IPA seats — scenario 2. If B.C.'s provincial seat quota remains at 20 for the 2023-24 academic year, the WCVM will use the same process to fill the 30 non-IPA seats that was applied in the 2022-23 academic year. The college will give preference to residents of the three partner provinces before residents of the northern territories and Alberta.

For more information, please visit the [WCVM admissions site](#) or email wcvm.admissions@usask.ca.