This document outlines the admissions requirements and policies as recommended by the WCVM Admissions Committee and approved by the WCVM Faculty Council, under the purview of the WCVM Interprovincial Agreement and regarded as the definitive statement of admissions policies for the current international admissions cycle (2021 entry). Individuals considering applying for entry into the DVM Program in subsequent years must not assume the same policies and practices will be in effect for future application cycles.
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I. **Eligibility for U.S. and International Applicant Pool, Fall 2021 Entry**

As a regional veterinary college, the WCVM accepts 58 applicants from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the northern territories for a pre-determined number of provincially-funded seats. **The WCVM will also offer between 5 and 25 seats to non-Canadian applicants for Fall 2021 entry.**

Citizens or permanent residents of any country other than Canada can apply to the US/International pool. Canadians with dual citizenship are eligible to apply to the international applicant pool but, if accepted, will be required to pay international student tuition and fees for the duration of their program.

Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who do not meet the western Canadian residency requirements and are not dual citizens are not eligible to apply to the WCVM. Please contact the Canadian veterinary college that serves your region.

II. **Academic Requirements**

A. University Requirements

Applicants require 60 credit units (20, one-term courses) of pre-veterinary courses from an accredited university. One credit represents one lecture hour equivalent per week for one term (or approximately one semester hour of credits). Prerequisite courses must be completed by April 30 of the year for which admission is sought.

- 6 credits of Biology (lab required)
- 6 credits of Chemistry (lab required)
- 6 credits of English (at least one course must include literature component)
- 6 credits of Mathematics or Statistics
- 3 credits of Organic Chemistry
- 3 credits of Physics (lab required)
- 3 credits of Biochemistry
- 3 credits of Genetics
- 3 credits of Introductory Microbiology
- 21 credits of elective courses

= **60 TOTAL CREDITS**

At least two full years of university courses are required. Neither the number of years of pre-professional study nor the degree(s) held are factors in selecting students.

- **Minimum, overall average of 75% (3.2 GPA)** is required to be eligible to apply, and this average must be maintained for any course work completed during the year of application.

- **Electives:** There are no "preferred" electives: the choice of electives should be based upon the requirements of the program in which the student is enrolled or the student's general interests. Students are encouraged to select electives that will liberalize or broaden their perspective.

- **Pre-veterinary courses must** be taken at an accredited post-secondary institution (as recognized by the U of S).
• **Applicants from outside of North America** will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine acceptability of both the institution and the individual courses. A foreign transcript evaluation report is required with your VMCAS application.

• **Courses taken as part of vocational programs**, such as animal health or veterinary technology programs, are not usually accepted to meet the college’s pre-veterinary course requirements. However, a few courses in some programs may be used if the applicant has completed the vocational program. Each case is considered on its individual merit.

• **Distance education (online) courses** are accepted; however, at least half (30 credits or 10 one-term courses) of prerequisites must be completed in person.

**B. Academic Score**

Applicants are selected for interviews on the basis of an academic score:

- 2/3 overall average (all university courses completed) - minimum 75% (3.2 GPA) required
- 1/3 best full year average

The definition of a full year for this purpose is a minimum of 24 credits (≥ 8 one term courses, excluding labs) completed within the regular Sept-Apr academic year. Applicants studying at universities with an irregular academic year (not September - April), enrolled in co-op programs, or unsure of whether they meet this requirement may contact the WCVM Admissions Office for clarification.

**Note**: The maximum number of pass/fail graded courses permitted within an applicant’s best full year of university is 2 one-term courses (6 credits).

The Admissions Committee will consider removing one or two earlier years of university grades from an applicant’s overall average calculation at the point of completing 5 or 6 full years of university, respectively. The number of credits required to be considered a 5-year student is 150 credits (50 one-term courses) - 180 credits (60 one-term courses) to be considered a 6-year student. Removal of an earlier year (or two) is **not** automatic, as the Committee requires specific criteria to be met – generally speaking, this includes completing three higher, more current years of university with sustained improved academic performance. More current/higher years should be full (30 credits within the Sept-Apr year) and consist predominantly of upper-level courses. Applicants hoping to have earlier year(s) removed should contact the Admissions Office for approval of courses prior to enrollment.

**C. English Language Proficiency**

The language of instruction and examination at the University of Saskatchewan is English. A high-level understanding and functionality in English is essential for successful completion of the DVM Program and for safe client care in the veterinary profession. **Applicants who have not completed a minimum of two years of full-time study in a degree program from an accredited post-secondary institution (as recognized by the U of S) where English is the official language of instruction and examination** must present evidence of meeting the minimum scores in one of the English Proficiency Examinations listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IELTS</th>
<th>TOEFL - IBT</th>
<th>CanTest</th>
<th>CAEL</th>
<th>ESL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall: 7.0</td>
<td>Overall: 94</td>
<td>Overall: n/a</td>
<td>Overall: 70</td>
<td>Overall: 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading: 6.5</td>
<td>Reading: 22</td>
<td>Reading: 4.5</td>
<td>Reading: 60</td>
<td>Speaking: 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening: 6.5</td>
<td>Listening: 22</td>
<td>Listening: 4.5</td>
<td>Listening: 60</td>
<td>Writing: 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking: 7.0</td>
<td>Speaking: 25</td>
<td>Speaking: 5.0</td>
<td>Speaking: 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing: 7.0</td>
<td>Writing: 25</td>
<td>Writing: 5.0</td>
<td>Writing: 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please note:
- Test scores must be available at the time of application.
- All scores must be from one exam date.
- Tests are valid for 24 months after the testing date and must be valid at the beginning of the student’s first term of registration in the DVM Program.
- If a student defers admission to a future term, the test score must be valid at the time of the new start date, or a new test must be completed successfully.

III. NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Applicants are required to have both experience and good knowledge of animals and the veterinary profession to be successful in gaining admission. The diversity, quality, depth and breadth of animal and veterinary experiences are assessed in the interview.

A. Animal and Veterinary Experience

The importance of animal and veterinary experience is to ensure applicants “know what they are getting into” and are making an informed career choice.

**Veterinary experience** - Experiences should be obtained under the supervision of a veterinarian in placements such as clinical practice, research laboratories, animal shelters, animal rehabilitation facilities, public health settings or another related industry where a veterinarian is employed. Veterinary experience provides applicants insight into the day-to-day life as a veterinarian and an understanding of the veterinary profession. For many, obtaining veterinary experience means spending quality time with a veterinarian — either as a volunteer or as a paid employee.

**Animal experience** - Significant animal experience is required because it’s assumed that most veterinarians will be working with animals during their career. Experience working with animals allows applicants to determine how well they enjoy working with animals. These experiences also help to give an indication of their aptitude and compassion. "Significant animal experience" goes beyond pet ownership. For example, it could include responsibility for the care and husbandry of livestock or a food animal unit, breeding/showing animals, experience at rehabilitation facilities or humane societies/shelters, working in a pet store, participating in equestrian activities, or any other animal-related hobby or experience where a veterinarian is not always present.

**Types of animal and veterinary experience**

Applicants' experiences are often consistent with their career goals. However, it's important to understand the diversity of the veterinary profession since both the DVM curriculum and the veterinary licensing examination require proficiency in a broad range of areas for successful completion. For this reason, it is strongly advised that applicants gain good quality experience working with a variety of species such as cows, horses, pigs, chickens, fish, exotics, wildlife, research animals, dogs and cats.

The WCVM admissions committee recognizes that applicants' career goals in the veterinary profession may change over the course of their education. During the admissions process, there are no "preferred" career choices. Applicants with an interest in one type of practice are not given preferential treatment over those with interests in other areas.

**Recommended amount of experience**

The amount of animal and veterinary experience will vary from one applicant to another because some individuals are more perceptive than others and some experiences might be more useful than others.

Some applicants will be able to obtain these insights after minimal exposure while other applicants may need more time and exposure.
B. Interviews

The structured interview is designed to assess the applicant's understanding of the profession and to evaluate non-academic qualities. Referees' evaluations and overall documentation are also used to assess these non-academic qualities.

C. References

Applicants must submit their reference letters through the VMCAS application system. As required by the WCVM, at least one referee must be a veterinarian while another must be an individual with an animal-related or agricultural background.

IV. ADMISSION PROCESS

Admission to the WCVM is highly competitive. Completion of the pre-veterinary requirements with the minimum admission average does not guarantee acceptance to the WCVM’s DVM program.

A. Selection Criteria

Selection is based upon assessment of a number of factors including:

▪ mental aptitude
▪ academic performance
▪ motivation
▪ maturity
▪ experience with animals
▪ leadership qualities
▪ social awareness
▪ deportment, verbal facility and ability to communicate
▪ an understanding and knowledge of the veterinary profession.

Degrees or diplomas held are not factors in the selection process.

The weighting of selection factors to determine the rank order of acceptance is 60 per cent academic and 40 per cent non-academic.

The Admissions Committee may refuse admission based on any area(s) of concern identified by the Admissions Office or members of the Admissions Committee deemed inconsistent with the goals and standards of a veterinary student at the WCVM. Possible reasons for the Admissions Committee refusing an application include academic/non-academic misconduct, misrepresentation on the application, prior criminal record, input from referees/interviewers, and/or unprofessional comments/behaviour prior to or during the application process.

If one or more areas of concern is identified, the Admissions Committee retains the right to actively seek further relevant information about you, including, but not limited to, contacting individuals with knowledge of you, whom you may or may not have listed as referees. This will be done through the Admissions Office.

By submitting an application, applicants are consenting to the collection of any such supplemental information.
V. APPLYING

The deadline to apply online through VMCAS for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program is September 15, 2020.

A. Supplemental Application Fee

The WCVM requires a $100CAD supplemental application fee. The WCVM Admissions Office will contact applicants to arrange payment.

B. Submitting Transcripts

Applicants enrolled in university courses at the time of application will be required to submit additional transcripts to the WCVM.

C. Essential Skills and Abilities

Before submitting your VMCAS application, please review the essential skills and abilities required for the study of veterinary medicine.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan is responsible to society to provide a program of study that produces graduates with the knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to practice veterinary medicine.

- Graduates are expected to diagnose and manage health conditions in a wide variety of animal species.
- Graduates must provide compassionate care to animals and be able to communicate clearly with owners, regulatory agencies and others.
- Graduates must also meet licensing requirements and pass licensing examinations.

While a disability should not preclude a student from consideration for admission, disabilities must not prevent the student from:

- communicating with owners of animals and colleagues
- observing patients
- collecting and analyzing clinical data
- performing medical and surgical treatments
- maintaining animal and human safety
- demonstrating appropriate judgment during the veterinary training process

Essential Skills and Abilities Required for the Study of Veterinary Medicine

Candidates for the DVM degree must demonstrate a number of essential skills and abilities.

1. Observation: The student must be able to participate in learning situations that require observational skills. In particular, students must be able to observe animals and acquire visual, auditory and tactile information from their examinations.

2. Communication: Students must be able to acquire an adequate history from an owner. Students must
be able to hear and observe their animal patients in order to effectively collect information and describe the findings.

3. **Motor skills**: The student must demonstrate sufficient motor function to be able to perform a physical examination on an animal that may include palpation, auscultation, percussion and diagnostic procedures including examination with an ophthalmoscope, otoscope or stethoscope on large and small animals. Students must be reasonably able to execute motor movements to achieve general proficiency with surgical therapy and other related therapies.

4. **Intellectual conceptual, integrative and quantitative abilities**: The student must demonstrate the cognitive skills and memory necessary to measure, calculate, analyze, integrate and synthesize information. In addition, the student must be able to comprehend dimensional and spatial relationships. There are diagnostic, problem-solving activities commonly encountered during the DVM program that will need to be executed in a timely fashion.

5. **Non-technical attributes**: Veterinary students must consistently demonstrate non-technical skills, knowledge and aptitudes that allow them to interact with clients, collect histories, apply sound judgment and complete responsibilities in the diagnosis and treatment of animals. Students must be able to develop effective relationships with owners, staff and colleagues.

This policy exists to ensure students entering the DVM program are aware of the requirements necessary for the study of veterinary medicine, and that they have a reasonable opportunity to complete the program and earn a DVM degree.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to facilitating the integration of students with disabilities into this college community. Each student with a disability is entitled to reasonable accommodation that will assist him or her to meet the requirements for graduation from the college.

Reasonable accommodation will be made to facilitate each student's progress. Such accommodation, however, cannot compromise animal well-being or the safety of the people involved. Therefore, it may not be possible to accommodate all disabilities and allow for successful completion of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program.

Contact the U of S’ [Access & Equity Services Office](#) for additional information regarding support.

**VI. Appeals Process**

Applicants who have not been successful in gaining admission may appeal the decision to the Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, within 10 business days from the date a negative application decision is released.

Grounds for an admission appeal shall be limited to (1) unit procedural errors, (2) evidence that the information used in the assessment of the decision was wrong or incomplete, or (3) evidence that the assessment was not made according to the published admission qualifications and selection criteria.

A failure by the applicant to provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the established admission qualifications and selection criteria shall not be grounds for an appeal. The decision of the appeals committee is final and no further appeal procedure will be entertained.
VII. DEFERRALS

Deferrals may be considered for academic and/or non-academic reasons and will normally only be for one year. It is at the sole discretion of the Associate Dean Academic to grant or deny a deferral request.

Applicants offered admission to the WCVM DVM program wishing to apply for a deferral must submit a written request to the Associate Dean Academic within 10 days of their offer of admission being made. The request should clearly explain reasons for the deferral request.

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

A. Tuition and Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Canadian $</th>
<th>*Approximate U.S. $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$67,347</td>
<td>$51,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td>$930</td>
<td>$705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$68,277</strong></td>
<td><strong>$51,725</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tuition estimates reflect a typical amount you could expect to pay per year (2020-2021 rates). Fees are used to fund specific student benefits, including health, vision and dental coverage, a bus pass, recreational programs and fitness centre access. * Converted from Canadian to American dollars using an exchange rate of 1.32.

B. Estimated Additional Fees and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WCVSA Fees</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board exams (NAVLE)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TLD dosimeters</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop computer</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and paper</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instruments and special clothing</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabies immunizations</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$230</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel expenses (optional)</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>$1,800</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian $</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,075</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,155</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,655</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Approximate American $</td>
<td><strong>$3,850</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,350</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,150</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,300</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Converted from Canadian to American dollars using an exchange rate of 1.32. Prices subject to change and will vary from student to student.
C. Special Expenditures

- Each student who is registered for the first year of veterinary medicine must purchase a laptop computer.

- The purchase of a microscope is not necessary. The WCVM has recently incorporated virtual microscopy into its DVM program. Laptop computers will be used instead of microscopes.

- Instruments will be required for anatomy dissection and clinical work. Departments that are involved in instructing these courses will advise students on preferred types or models.

D. Study Permits/Visas for U.S. and International Students

Non-Canadian students who are accepted into the DVM program at the WCVM will need to apply for a study permit upon receipt of their Letter of Offer. A Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) may also be required depending on citizenship. (TRVs are not required for citizens of visa-exempt countries, such as the United States.) For more information, please visit the International Student and Study Abroad Centre website.

E. WCVM Rabies Immunization Policy

The WCVM Rabies Immunization Policy is designed to ensure that all WCVM faculty, students and staff who work with animals and animal tissues are protected from infection with the rabies virus. Rabies vaccination is required for all undergraduate veterinary students who are enrolled in the DVM program. First-year students admitted to the program will be considered a student as of the first day of classes.

F. Miscellaneous

Please visit the WCVM Admissions website for the following information:

- About the WCVM/Why Study Here
- Curriculum/Course and Program Catalogue
- Career Options
- Accreditation
- Pre-Vet Contacts – advisors, clubs, volunteering
- Entry Statistics
- Disclosure & Privacy Statement