



VETERINARY MEDICINE



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of
Veterinary Medicine

WCV.M.USASK.CA

INTERESTED IN VETERINARY MEDICINE?



Veterinary medicine focuses on animal health and the study of diseases that affect all animal species. Veterinarians receive comprehensive training in all basic and clinical sciences with relation to a variety of species, including food-producing animals, horses, companion animals, exotic pets and wildlife.

Veterinary medicine's growing range of career options is a huge plus for students who are interested in combining their interests in animals, science and health. Besides providing primary and specialized health care to a wide range of animal species in private veterinary clinics, veterinarians are involved in a variety of diverse challenges.

Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)

The WCVM is the premier centre of veterinary education, research and clinical expertise in Western Canada. Established in 1963, the WCVM serves as the regional veterinary college for Western Canada and the northern territories. As one of Canada's five veterinary colleges, the WCVM is a key member of Canada's veterinary, public health and food safety networks.

One Health

Veterinarians make ideal leaders of One Health, a global initiative for improving animal, human and environmental health through collaboration among all of the health sciences. With their broad-based education and their knowledge of public health and food safety issues, veterinarians

are well equipped to lead these initiatives and to forge new partnerships among all health professionals.

That is especially true at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) — the only Canadian university with a full complement of health sciences colleges and schools on one campus. The WCVM plays a unique role in the health science group since the college's students, faculty and staff have the necessary knowledge and skills to bridge the worlds of animal, human and environmental health.

Agriculture

Veterinarians also play a critical role in agriculture and production animal health, and the WCVM is well placed to educate new veterinarians in food animal medicine. Saskatchewan and Western Canada are home to vibrant animal agriculture industries. WCVM students gain experience in food animal health throughout the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre's (VMC) large, active field service practice.

The USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources serves as a strong partner to the WCVM. Faculty members across colleges collaborate on many food animal research projects and contribute to the specialized training of graduate students in animal science and veterinary programs. These partnerships are part of the WCVM's future as the college expands its involvement in infectious disease mitigation and food safety and security.



\$10 million+
ANNUAL RESEARCH FUNDING

320+

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

150+

GRADUATE STUDENTS

85+

FULL-TIME FACULTY

18,000+

ANNUAL PATIENT CASELOAD

4,000+

ANNUAL FIELD SERVICE CALLS

YOUR CAREER OPTIONS



PRIVATE PRACTICE

Mixed animal practitioners treat large and small animals while large animal practitioners focus on agricultural livestock. Small animal veterinarians provide health care for dogs, cats and exotic pets. Some private practitioners specialize in treating individual species such as dairy and beef cattle, swine, horses or companion animals.



SPECIALIZED DISCIPLINES

Clinicians with advanced training provide specialized services in many clinical disciplines including surgery, internal medicine, medical imaging, anesthesiology, ophthalmology, pathology, dentistry, wildlife medicine and oncology.



INDUSTRY

Veterinarians take part in the research and commercial development of new feed products, drugs and technologies with animal health companies.



PUBLIC SERVICE

Provincial and federal veterinarians help to develop public policy and legislation related to animal and animal-human health. They regulate the import and export of livestock and food products. They are responsible for the control of infectious diseases among livestock and wildlife from a local to global level. They provide diagnostic services and ensure the health and safety of commercial meat products.



ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH

Veterinarians are involved in teaching and studying animal health at veterinary colleges, universities and research institutions. Veterinarians also contribute to advances in human medicine and collaborate with researchers around the world.



Undergraduate Research Program

The WCVM's Undergraduate Summer Student Research Program is one of the finest introductory research initiatives in North America. First- and second-year students work alongside experienced researchers at the college to learn more about the world of research and to gain valuable, hands-on experience.

OUR PROGRAMS



Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

The college's DVM program provides future veterinarians with a contemporary, relevant education that enables them to meet the changing needs of society and be prepared for vital careers in private practice, public service, research, academia and industry.

What's refreshing is that the WCVM curriculum is always evolving as curriculum organizers annually assess its effectiveness through one-on-one meetings with students and faculty.



First two years

Students focus on basic and applied science core courses. In their first year, students are given an integrated, co-ordinated introduction to the core courses in the DVM program. This approach allows them to learn all aspects of one particular system or body region before moving on to the next area.



Third year

Students gain more in-depth information in particular interest areas through a range of core/elective courses. These courses, which have small class sizes, allow students to gain more hands-on time, more in-depth knowledge and more focused learning toward their interests.



Fourth year

Students gain clinical experience during their final year, completing a series of two- or four-week clinical rotations. Students can also arrange for externships at specialty practices, zoos and aquariums in other provinces or countries.



Post-graduate options

The WCVM has master's and PhD degree programs in various medical and scientific disciplines. The college offers combined clinical residency-Master of Science (MS) degree programs in a range of areas. Internship programs are also available in the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre.

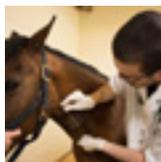


Building brilliance

The WCVM holds full accreditation with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education and is an accredited member of the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). More than 470 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled at our internationally-recognized veterinary college, which is home to:

- a veterinary medical centre
- a veterinary diagnostic laboratory for all of Saskatchewan
- large-scale research facilities

YOUR USASK EXPERIENCE



Practical training

The college's students gain hands-on experience with animals through formal laboratory exercises, elective courses and fourth-year rotations. Student club activities, research mentorships and volunteer positions offer additional experiences.

Progressive curriculum

Our curriculum includes refined core courses and a wide range of third-year elective courses that allow students to focus on particular interest areas. It also provides instruction in leadership, communication and practice management to prepare graduates for their future professional careers.

Diverse caseload

The Veterinary Medical Centre's diverse caseload ensures that veterinary students are exposed to a range of animal species and health issues during their senior years.

Connected college

Students, faculty and alumni maintain a strong connection to the WCVM through numerous events, as well as through social media. For news updates, visit wcvmtoday.usask.ca or follow [@WCVMToday](https://www.facebook.com/WCVMToday) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Modern facilities and advanced technologies

The college includes a full-service veterinary medical centre, a research wing, a veterinary diagnostic complex, a clinical simulation centre and many student spaces — lecture theatres, classrooms, learning commons and gathering areas. All of these facilities allow the college to meet international accreditation standards.

- The **WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre** is Western Canada's centre for primary and specialized clinical services, as well as for veterinary teaching and animal health research. Facilities include a pet radiation therapy centre, an equine performance centre, a fully-equipped medical imaging department and areas for specialized disciplines such as ophthalmology and dentistry.
- The **WCVM Research Wing** has two multi-functional laboratories with state-of-the-art technology in molecular research techniques, cell biology and cryobiology.
- The **Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE)** includes a 1,500-head beef cattle feedlot, a forage cow-calf facility, a livestock research unit, and a production cow herd with over 400 breeding animals.



Beyond the classroom

Veterinary students take part in clubs that focus on a variety of topics, including health care for individual animal species and global veterinary medicine. Volunteer organizations for WCVM students include:

- **Global Vets**
- **Veterinarians Without Borders/Vétérinaires Sans Frontières**
- **SCI-FI VetMed Camps**
- **Saskatoon's Pets in the Park**
- **Canadian Veterinary Reserve**
- **Vetavision**

READY TO APPLY?



High school subjects

There are no specific high school requirements for the college's DVM program. However, the following high school courses are often required for university-level, pre-veterinary courses:

- Grade 12 level mathematics (pre-calculus recommended)
- Grade 12 level biology
- Grade 12 level chemistry
- Grade 12 level physics

Pre-veterinary medicine requirements

Applicants require 60 credit units (20 one-term courses) of pre-veterinary courses (at least two years) from an accredited university. The following courses are usually taken through agriculture or science faculties:

Six credit units (two terms) of:

- English
- chemistry (lab required)
- mathematics or statistics
- biology (lab required)

Three credit units of:

- organic chemistry
- biochemistry
- physics (lab required)
- genetics
- introductory microbiology

21 credit units (seven one-term courses) of electives

Admissions overview

As a regional veterinary college, the WCVM admits applicants who are residents of its western Canadian partner provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and the Canadian territories into provincially-subsidized seats. Non-subsidized seats may be available for residents of the western Canadian provinces and territories.

- Academic performance (minimum cumulative average of 75 per cent in all university courses)
- A structured interview designed to assess the applicant's abilities and strengths, insight into the profession, animal-related experience and knowledge, and communication skills

Education Equity Program

This program encourages students of Indigenous ancestry to apply. First-year seats are available for Indigenous students who meet the Canadian residency requirements for provincially-funded seats.

WCVM Contact Information

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