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 admissions cycle (2022 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.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. **RESIDENCY** .................................................................................................................................................................................. 1  
   A. Determining Applicants’ Residency ...................................................................................................................................................... 2  
   B. Indigenous Applicants – Education Equity Program ....................................................................................................................... 3  
  
II. **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS** .......................................................................................................................................................... 3  
   A. High School Requirements ................................................................................................................................................................. 3  
   B. University Requirements ...................................................................................................................................................................... 4  
   C. COVID-19 Pandemic – Pass/Fail Grades from Winter 2020 .......................................................................................................... 5  
   D. Academic Score .................................................................................................................................................................................. 6  
   E. English Language Proficiency ............................................................................................................................................................. 6  
  
III. **NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT** ...................................................................................................................................................... 7  
   A. Animal and Veterinary Experience ...................................................................................................................................................... 7  
   B. Interviews ......................................................................................................................................................................................... 8  
   C. References ....................................................................................................................................................................................... 8  
  
IV. **SELECTION CRITERIA** ........................................................................................................................................................................ 8  
  
V. **APPLYING** ...................................................................................................................................................................................... 9  
   A. Important Dates/Deadlines ................................................................................................................................................................. 9  
   B. Submitting Transcripts .................................................................................................................................................................. 10  
   C. Essential Skills and Abilities ........................................................................................................................................................... 10  
  
VI. **APPEALS PROCESS** ........................................................................................................................................................................ 11  
  
VII. **DEFERRALS** .................................................................................................................................................................................. 11  
  
VIII. **FURTHER INFORMATION** ........................................................................................................................................................... 12  
   A. WCVM Rabies Immunization Policy .................................................................................................................................................... 12  
   B. Tuition and Fees ................................................................................................................................................................................ 12  
   C. Miscellaneous .................................................................................................................................................................................. 12  
  
**APPENDIX A – SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE-FOCUSED SEATS** .............................................................................................................. 13
The four-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree is offered by the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

Established in 1963, the WCVM is the premier centre of veterinary education, research and clinical expertise. It serves as the regional veterinary college for Canada’s western provinces 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.

I. RESIDENCY

Interprovincial Agreement (IPA) seats: As a regional veterinary college, the WCVM accepts applicants into provincially-subsidized seats – referred to as IPA seats - who are residents of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the northern territories. The number of applicants admitted from each western province is determined by an allotment system:

- British Columbia: 20
- Saskatchewan: 20*
- Manitoba: 15
- Territories** (Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories): 1
- Education Equity Program: 2

* In spring 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that three of its 20 provincially-subsidized seats will prioritize admission of students who are more likely to work in a large animal and/or rural mixed animal practice once they complete the DVM program. For further information on eligibility criteria, application procedure and selection process, see Appendix A - SK Ag-Focused Seats (P. 13 of this manual).

** The Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories are not formal signatories of the college’s Interprovincial Agreement; therefore, residency is defined by their own rules. Applicants should contact the WCVM Admissions Office to determine eligibility.

Non-Interprovincial Agreement (non-IPA) seats: The WCVM will offer up to 25 non-IPA seats for fall 2022 entry. These seats are not provincially subsidized, and tuition will be comparable to international veterinary school tuition rates (approximately $69,000 per year). Non-IPA seats are available to individuals who are eligible to apply for IPA seats as well as individuals who meet the WCVM residency requirement in Alberta*.

* Please note: Preference for non-IPA seats will be given to residents of the WCVM’s partner provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba). In the event that non-IPA seats aren’t filled by residents of partner provinces, residents of the northern territories and Alberta will be considered for the available seats. For further details, please view the Non-IPA viewbook.

All applicants for IPA and non-IPA seats must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Residents of foreign countries may be considered for admission to the WCVM as outlined on the WCVM international admissions page.

Transfer/advanced standing: The WCVM does not accept transfer (advanced standing) students into the DVM program. All applicants must start in Year 1 of the program regardless of previous education or experience.
A. Determining Applicants’ Residency

An interprovincial agreement between the WCVM and its partner provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) outlines definite rules to determine an applicant’s province of residence as outlined below. **Proof of residency is required for all applicants.**

Section A  **In the case of an applicant who has not established a residence of his or her own** and lived in that residence for 12 continuous months, the applicant’s residence will be considered the province or territory of Canada (or in the case of a place other than Canada, the country) where his or her parent(s) have lived most recently for 12 continuous months prior to the WCVM’s December 1 application deadline.

**Documentation Required:** Applicant’s birth certificate, parent’s provincial driver’s license and health card

Section B  **In the case of an applicant who has established a residence of his or her own** in a province or territory in Canada, the applicant’s residence will be considered to be the Canadian province or territory where the following conditions have both been met prior to the WCVM’s December 1 application deadline:

i. The applicant has lived in the province or territory for twelve continuous months (excluding any time enrolled in Full-Time Post-Secondary Study*);

ii. The applicant has filed a tax-return as a resident of the province or territory for the most recent tax year.

**Documentation Required:** Applicant’s provincial driver’s license, health card and CRA Notice of Assessment Form (block personal information, such as SIN and income when sending)

Section C  **In the case of an applicant who has established his or her own residence outside Canada** and intends to re-establish residence in the country, the applicant’s residence will be considered to be the Canadian province or territory where the following conditions were all met before leaving Canada:

i. The applicant lived in the province or territory for twelve continuous months (excluding any time enrolled in Full-Time Post-Secondary Study*) immediately before leaving Canada;

ii. The applicant filed a tax-return as a resident of the province or territory for the most recent tax year immediately before leaving Canada.

**Documentation Required:** Applicant’s most recent provincial driver’s license, health card and CRA Notice of Assessment Form prior to leaving Canada (block personal information, such as SIN and income when sending)

Section D  **In the case of an applicant who is a Permanent Resident of Canada** as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) and has established a residence of his or her own in a province or territory of Canada, and Section B does not apply and the applicant’s parent(s) do not reside in Canada, the residence of the applicant shall be considered to be the province or territory where he or she has resided for the majority of time since arriving in Canada. **Note:** This section is not applicable for applicants born in Canada.

**Documentation Required:** Applicant’s provincial driver’s license and health card

Section E  **In the case of an applicant who is from the Northern territories,** please contact the WCVM Admissions Office to confirm eligibility and determine documentation required.

**Documentation Required:** To be determined in consultation with WCVM Admissions Office
*Full-time post-secondary study* for the purpose of residency determination only means enrolment in at least sixty percent of a full course load (30 credits or 5 courses in both the Sept-Dec and Jan-Apr terms). For example, at the University of Saskatchewan undergraduate enrolment in 18 credits or more (6 one-term courses) in the regular September to April academic term is deemed full-time post-secondary study. **Note:** All graduate programs - MSc or PhD - are considered full-time post-secondary study for the determination of residency regardless of number of credits.

**Note:** Applicants may be required to provide additional supporting documentation for their claim of residency. Applicants are encouraged to contact wcvm.admissions@usask.ca prior to application if they have questions concerning their meeting the residency requirements. Any applicant who misrepresents their residency status will be subject to a file review for areas of concern during the current and all subsequent application cycles.

**B. Indigenous Applicants – Education Equity Program**

Each year, two seats are available for Indigenous students through the Education Equity Program. These seats are included in the IPA seats described in Section I (Page 1). Applicants must meet residency requirements of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba or the northern territories. Applicants indicating and submitting proof of Indigenous ancestry will be considered for admission in both their provincial pool as well as the equity pool.

The WCVM requires proof of Indigenous ancestry that must be provided at the time of application.

**Acceptable proofs of ancestry include a certified copy of one of the following cards:**

- Indian Status or Treaty Card
- Métis Membership Card *
- Nunavut Trust Service Card
- Inuit roll number

* Metis Membership cards must be from provincial counterparts of the Metis National Council. Please see website: [www.metisnation.ca](http://www.metisnation.ca)

**II. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

**A. High School Requirements**

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

- Grade 12 level mathematics
- Grade 12 level biology
- Grade 12 level chemistry
- Grade 12 level physics

Students should consult with the institution they plan to attend for further information about high school prerequisites for pre-veterinary courses.
B. University Requirements

The pre-veterinary course requirements consist of 60 credit units (20, one-term courses) from an accredited university/college. One credit represents one lecture hour equivalent per week for one term (or approximately one semester hour of credits). Prerequisite courses are to be complete by April 30 of the year for which admission is sought; however, it is allowable to have 6 credits (2, one-term courses) extend to the spring term (completion date no later than June 30).

- 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**

In addition to completing the required pre-veterinary courses, applicants should be working toward an undergraduate degree, since the majority of students have completed three to four years of university before gaining admission to the DVM program.

- **Minimum, cumulative average of 75 per cent** is needed to be considered for admission. All grades are converted to a common scale for comparative purposes and this converted average will be used.

- **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.

- **Pre-veterinary courses completed at the U of S** are usually met in the College of Arts and Sciences or the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

- **Pre-veterinary courses not completed at the U of S** may be taken at any accredited post-secondary institution (as recognized by the U of S). Non-residents of Saskatchewan will not improve their chances of admission by attending the U of S for pre-veterinary coursework.

- **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.

- **Course Guidelines** - courses included in the overall and best full year average calculations must be appropriate or aligned with an applicant’s year of university and program. For example, upper-year students should be taking predominantly third- and fourth-year courses as opposed to introductory-level courses.
The WCVM Admissions Committee may determine that specific courses be excluded from both of these averages (overall and best full year), if they aren’t deemed to be appropriate. The exclusion of “inappropriate” courses in a given year may result in that year no longer being considered “full” (24 credits), potentially disqualifying it from being used as the best full year in the academic score calculation.

Note: Applicants will have space to comment on course selection on the WCVM application form and may be required to submit further information upon request from the Admissions Office.

• NEW Full Course Requirement - Effective Fall 2022 entry

All applicants must have completed at least two full years of university courses. 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 September to April academic year.

Applicants who are studying at universities with an irregular academic year (other than September to April), enrolled in co-op programs, or unsure of whether they meet the two full-year requirement should contact the WCVM Admissions Office to confirm their eligibility to apply.

Note: See Section D. below for further information on a “true full-course load”.

C. COVID-19 Pandemic – Pass/Fail Grades issued in Winter (Jan-Apr) 2020 term

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the Winter (Jan-Apr) 2020 term, pass/fail grades obtained in this term will be accepted. However, in order to ensure fairness within the WCVM applicant pool, a combination of both numeric/letter and pass grades will not be permitted. For example, applicants who chose to change one or more course grade(s) to a “pass” grade in the Winter 2020 term will have all courses for the term considered as “pass”. As a result, the winter 2020 term will not impact an applicant’s overall average (even if grades are displayed for remaining courses). Note: If applicants attended institutions where the pass/fail grade option extended into spring, summer or fall 2020 terms; the same guidelines will be applied.

The September 2019-April 2020 academic year may be considered an applicant’s best full year, if it meets the full year definition outlined in Section II. D. (below) and works out to be an applicant’s highest full year.

Additional information may be submitted under the following circumstances:

• Applicants who were not given a choice in receiving pass/fail grades for a particular course/courses (for example, decision made by professor or institution) will be permitted to use numeric/letter grades from their other courses, if applicable. However, it is the applicant’s responsibility to inform the WCVM Admissions Office of these courses at the time of application, as verification will be required from the professor/institution.

• Applicants who completed courses which were classified as pass/fail prior to the Winter 2020 term (i.e., not changed to pass/fail as a result of COVID-19 grading provisions) must inform the WCVM Admissions Office at the time of application, to ensure the term is recognized appropriately.

• Applicants who received a “fail” or grade below 50 per cent in the Winter 2020 term may provide the WCVM Admissions Office with a written explanation of circumstances at the time of application. The
WCVM Admissions Office will consider these circumstances on an individual basis to determine whether the failed grade is included in the calculation of averages.

D. Academic Score
The academic score, as outlined below, is the basis for interview offers:

- 2/3 overall average (all university courses completed) – minimum 75% 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 September-April academic year. However, a “true full-course load” is considered 30 credits (10, one-term courses completed in the Sept-Apr academic year). Taking a true full-course load is strongly recommended to ensure applicant’s preparedness and future success in the DVM program where each academic year is comprised of 42-45 credits.

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) with the exception of the Winter 2020 term impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic (see Section C. above).

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), and 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. If an applicant’s change in rank from a year being removed doesn’t result in a change in outcome of the application, the earlier year(s) will not be removed.

E. English Language Proficiency

The language of instruction and examination at the University of Saskatchewan is English. An advanced level of English proficiency 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>

*The University of Saskatchewan’s institution code for the TOEFL test is 0980.
Please note:
- Test scores must be available at the time of application.
- All scores must be from one exam date, not to be combined with other exam dates.
- 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; otherwise, the student must take a new test and achieve the minimum scores.

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. Applicants attending out-of-province interviews will be charged a $150 fee.

Note: Two applicants are interviewed for each first-year seat available (for example, 40 applicants will be interviewed for the 20 allotted B.C. seats).

Effective Fall 2021 entry, applicants who apply for entry to the DVM program will be permitted to have a maximum of three interviews. After an applicant has had three interviews, the WCVM will not consider any further applications. Note: Applicants who previously had three or more interviews before applying for fall 2021 admission will be allowed one additional interview.

C. References

Applicants are required to nominate two referees to support their WCVM application. One referee must be a veterinarian while the other must be an individual who has an animal-related or agricultural background. Space is provided on the application form to list referees name and email address.

Referees will be contacted directly and asked to complete the reference form online. A sample of the reference form can be found online.

IV. SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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

- mental aptitude
- academic performance
- motivation
- maturity
- experience with animals
- leadership qualities
- social awareness
- communication skills
- an understanding and knowledge of the veterinary profession.

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

The weighting of selection factors is 60 per cent academic and 40 per cent non-academic. This weighting is used to establish the rank order of applicants who will be offered admission with the exception of the Saskatchewan Agriculture-Focused seats (see Appendix A on P. 13 of this manual).

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 for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program is December 1.

Because of the competitive nature of admissions, deadlines are strictly enforced. All relevant documentation must be provided by the specified deadlines. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

A. Important Dates/Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-late September</th>
<th>Application opens online yearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Application deadline (Late applications are not accepted under any circumstances)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation required with application:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Canadian Citizenship/Permanent Residency (for applicants not born in Canada)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Indigenous ancestry documentation (where applicable)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Proof of provincial residency (as specified in the residency section)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Transcripts for fall term (Sept-Dec course grades) due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Reference Forms due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Unofficial Transcripts for spring term (Jan-Apr course grades) due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- email to <a href="mailto:wcvm.admissions@usask.ca">wcvm.admissions@usask.ca</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 31</td>
<td>Official Transcripts for spring term (Jan-Apr course grades) due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late April – Early June</td>
<td>Interviews take place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Online or in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Maple Ridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid June</td>
<td>Admission decisions released to all applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- electronic letters released - WCVM Application website</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Submitting Transcripts

All applicants must have official transcripts sent directly from all institutions attended to the WCVM Admissions Office:

Admissions Office — Room 3101
Western College of Veterinary Medicine, U of S
52 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4

Official transcripts should be sent at the time of application unless applicants are currently enrolled in university courses. In such cases, current year transcripts are required immediately upon grades being reporting in both January and May for the September-December and January-April terms, respectively.

University of Saskatchewan transcripts will be accessed directly (not required from Transcript Office).

C. Essential Skills and Abilities

Before submitting your 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

Applicants to the degree program in veterinary medicine should be familiar with the essential skills and abilities required for the study of veterinary medicine.

**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 DVM program who wish 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. 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 students who are enrolled in the DVM program. Vaccination and titer clinics will be organized by the WCVM for students in the first year of their program.

B. Tuition and Fees

Pre-veterinary students at the U of S

- Please visit U of S Undergraduate Tuition and Fees for more information about tuition, fees, payment of fees, cancellations and refunds, and course changes.

Veterinary students at the WCVM

- Please visit the WCVM Tuition estimates page for a detailed breakdown of tuition, fees and estimated expenses associated with the DVM program.

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.

C. 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
In spring 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan announced that three of its 20 provincially-subsidized seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) will prioritize admission of students who are more likely to work in a large animal and/or rural mixed animal practice once they complete the DVM program.

Eligibility Criteria:

In order to be eligible for a SK agriculture-focused seat applicants must meet the Saskatchewan residency requirement outlined in Section I of this document (the WCVM Applicant Manual) as well as meet all three of the following:

1. Graduated from a high school in Saskatchewan (secondary school transcript will be required).

2. As of April 30, 2022 - completion of at least 84 credits (28 one-term/3-credit courses) towards an Animal Science or Animal Bioscience degree/program at the University of Saskatchewan or comparable program at another institution, including completion of at least one 3-credit animal production course (U of S courses - ANSC 410 Cow Calf Management, ANSC 430 Intensive Management of Beef Cattle, ANSC 440 Poultry Production, ANSC 460 Intensive Management of Dairy Cattle, ANSC 485.3 Swine Production and Management). Courses at other institutions may be submitted to determine equivalency to U of S production courses listed above.

3. As of December 1, 2021 (application deadline) – completion of at least 1,000 hours documented work (paid or unpaid) on one or more commercial food-animal production operation(s).

Note: Alternative criteria may be considered in special circumstances. Please contact the Admissions Office to discuss.

Additional information and/or interview to determine or verify eligibility may be required at the discretion of the Admissions Committee.

Process:

Applicants must submit application to the WCVM as per the current online application form and meet all posted admission requirements (application due December 1st). Space will be provided on the application form for Saskatchewan residents to indicate interest and eligibility in an agriculture-focused seat and to upload supplemental documentation. Applications will be reviewed to determine eligibility based on the criteria above.

All Saskatchewan applicants will initially be considered for admission through the 17 Saskatchewan seats or Education Equity pool (if applicable) following the established admissions requirements and selection process assuming academic rank is competitive within respective pools. Thus, a highly qualified student with a strong agricultural background could be admitted in the general Saskatchewan pool or Education Equity pool if applicable, which in essence creates additional spaces for other agriculturally-minded students to compete in the last 3 positions.
All remaining applicants who have met the eligibility criteria outlined above will subsequently be considered for one of the three agriculture-focused seats. Admission decisions (rank order for offer of admission) for the agriculture-focused seats will be based entirely on interview performance assuming all academic requirements have been met.

**Note:** Applicants not offered admission to an IPA seat (SK, EE or agriculture-themed) may be considered in the non-IPA pool, if they respond “yes” for non-IPA consideration on the WCVM application form.