



Fall 2025 Entry

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program

Application Deadline: Dec 1/24



wcvm.admissions@usask.ca | wcvm.usask.ca

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 (2025 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	1
B. Indigenous Applicants – Designated Seats	3
II. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	3
A. High School Requirements	3
B. University Requirements	3
C. COVID-19 Pandemic – Pass/Fail Grades from Winter 2020	4
D. Academic Score	5
E. English Language Proficiency	6
III. NON-ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT	6
A. Situational Judgment Test (SJT)	6
B. Animal and Veterinary Experience	7
C. Interviews	8
D. References	8
IV. SELECTION CRITERIA	8
V. APPLYING	9
A. Important Dates/Deadlines	9
B. Submitting Transcripts	9
C. Essential Skills/Technical Standards	10
VI. APPEALS PROCESS	12
VII. DEFERRALS	12
VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION	12
A. WCVI Rabies Immunization Policy	12
B. Tuition, Fees and Financial Information	12
C. Miscellaneous	13
APPENDIX A – SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE-FOCUSED SEATS	14
APPENDIX B – MANITOBA AGRICULTURE-FOCUSED SEATS	16
APPENDIX C – BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURE-FOCUSED SEATS	18

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

As a regional veterinary college, the WCVM accepts applicants who are residents of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the northern territories. The number of applicants admitted from each western province, northern territory and through the Indigenous designated seats are determined by an allotment system:

- British Columbia: 40*
- Saskatchewan: 25*
- Manitoba: 20*
- Territories** (Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories): 1
- Indigenous designated seats: 2

* The WCVM's partner provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) each designate one seat for applicants of Indigenous membership/citizenship (more details in Section B, P. 3), as well as agriculture seats, within the allotted seat numbers outlined above. Further details on eligibility criteria, application procedure and selection process for agriculture seats are included in Appendices A, B and C at the back 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.

All applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. Residents of foreign countries are not eligible to apply for admission to the WCVM.

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) specifies definite rules to determine an applicant's province of residence as outlined below.

Proof of residency is required for all applicants.

***Note:** Residency guidelines for 2026 entrants are expected to change as the WCVM is currently negotiating a new Interprovincial Agreement with its partner provinces. Sections B and C (below) is likely to change to exclude any time enrolled in any Post-Secondary Study, not specifically full time.*

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 – Designated Seats

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, and are proud to support academic opportunities for Indigenous students. We continue to grow our partnerships with Indigenous communities across the province and nationally and value the unique perspective that Indigenous students provide to strengthen these relationships.

The WCVM has 5 first-year seats designated for Indigenous applicants – one in each provincial pool (BC, SK and MB) as well as 2 seats in an open pool (BC, SK, MB and northern territories). Indigenous applicants who choose to apply and be considered for admission through the WCVM's designated Indigenous seats must be First Nations, Inuit or Métis persons of Canada. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship at USask is led and determined by the [deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapewin: Indigenous Truth policy](#) and Standing Committee in accordance with the processes developed to enact the policy (USask Network Services ID required for online submission). Information will be provided for non USask applicants how to submit documents for verification after submitting the WCVM application form.

Applicants with verified Indigenous Membership/Citizenship will be considered for admission in their provincial pool as well as the designated Indigenous seats.

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 requirements consist of 60 credits (20, one-term/3-credit courses) of university-level courses from an accredited university/college. One credit represents one lecture hour equivalent per week for one term (or 13 weeks), excluding labs. 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 courses) extend to the spring term (completion date no later than June 30).

Effective Fall 2025 entry	
6 credits of Biology (lab required)	6 credits of Chemistry (lab required)
3 credits of English/Communications	3 credits Indigenous Studies*
3 credits of Physics (lab required)	3 credits of Organic Chemistry
3 credits of Statistics	3 credits of Biochemistry
3 credits of Genetics	3 credits of Introductory Microbiology
24 credits (8 one-term, 3-credit courses) of electives	
60 TOTAL CREDITS	

* Indigenous Studies prerequisite must be on historical context and effects of colonialism on Indigenous people. Click here for list of acceptable [Indigenous Studies courses](#).

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 completed through 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.
- **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.

- **Full Course Requirement** - 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/3-credit 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 E. below for further information on a "**true full-course load**".

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

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 WCVI 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 WCVI 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 WCVI Admissions Office with a written explanation of circumstances at the time of application. The WCVI 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/3-credit 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).

Removal Policy – effective Fall 2025 entry

Applicants who have completed or will be completing a 4-year bachelor's degree in the year of application (spring/June 2025 convocation) may have an earlier/lower year of university grades removed/excluded from the overall average calculation.

Removal of an earlier year is not automatic, as specific criteria must be met. Generally speaking, this includes having completed two higher, more current, full-time years of university studies (≥ 24 credits which is 8 one-term/3-credit courses, excluding labs within the Sept-Apr terms) with sustained improved academic performance.

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.

IELTS	TOEFL – iBT*	CAEL	ESL
Overall: 7.0 Reading: 6.5 Listening: 6.5 Speaking: 7.0 Writing: 7.0	Overall: 94 Reading: 22 Listening: 22 Speaking: 25 Writing: 25	Overall: 70 Reading: 60 Listening: 60 Speaking: 70 Writing: 70	Overall: 80% Speaking: 80% Writing: 80%

*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. Situational Judgment Test (SJT)

All applicants are required to complete an online Situational Judgment Test (i.e., [Casper](#)).

What is Casper? [Casper](#) is an online situational judgement test that measures aspects of your social intelligence and professionalism like ethics, empathy, problem-solving and collaboration. Note: The Duet assessment offered through Acuity Insights is **not** required.

How long does Casper take to complete? Casper is an open-response situational judgment test that takes around 90-110 minutes to complete online.

When are the accepted Casper test times? The last [Casper](#) test date that will be considered for this application cycle is January 21, 2025. Applicants must select the **University of Saskatchewan, Western College of Veterinary Medicine** for distribution before the February 15, 2025 deadline.

You will need to create an account and sign up for **Casper 2 (CSP-10211)**. To account for identity verification and payment processing timelines, ensure that you **register for your test at least 3 days before your preferred test date and time**. Last-minute bookings are not recommended. Applicants requiring [testing accommodations](#) must submit a request at least four (4) weeks prior to their scheduled Casper test date.

Where do I direct Casper questions? Please direct any inquiries on Acuity Insights Assessments to support@acuityinsights.app. Alternatively, you may use the chat bubble in the bottom right corner of your screen on the [acuityinsights.app](https://www.acuityinsights.app) website.

Can I reapply using my Casper results from a previous admissions cycle? Casper test results are only valid for the admissions cycle in which the test is taken. Applicants who have already taken Casper in previous years are required to retake it to be eligible for subsequent admission cycle(s).

A minimum SJT score to be eligible for admission consideration will be determined annually by the WCVM Admission's Committee. The SJT is weighted component for applicants being considered through the WCVM's agriculture-focused seats – rank will be based 80% non-academic, 20% SJT.

B. 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.

C. 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.

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

Applicants 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.

D. 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 to establish rank order of applicants who will be offered admission is 60% academic, 40% non-academic for all seats except the Agriculture-Focused seats which will be 80% non-academic, 20% SJT (see Appendices A, B and C at the back of this manual).

Note: A minimum SJT score is required (as determined by the WCVM Admission's Committee annually) to be eligible for admission consideration.

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, consistent/sustained or improved grades (GPA) not maintained throughout academic years, 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. Unsuccessful applicants will not be given detailed feedback.

A. Important Dates/Deadlines

Mid-late September	Application opens online yearly
December 1	Application deadline (Late applications are not accepted under any circumstances) Documentation required with application: - Canadian Citizenship/Permanent Residency (for applicants not born in Canada) - Proof of provincial residency (as specified in the residency section)
December 15	Indigenous membership/citizenship documentation (where applicable) due Further information in Section I.B
January 21	Situational Judgment Test to be complete - Further information in Section III.A
January 31	Transcripts for fall term (Sept-Dec course grades) due
February 15	Reference Forms and Situational Judgment Test Scores due
May 15	Unofficial Transcripts for spring term (Jan-Apr course grades) due Email to wcvm.admissions@usask.ca
May 31	Official Transcripts for spring term (Jan-Apr course grades) due
Late April – Early June	Interviews take place
Mid June	Admission decisions released to all applicants Electronic letters released - WCVM Application website

B. Submitting Transcripts

All applicants must have official transcripts sent **directly** from all institutions attended to the WCVM Admissions Office by email to wcvm.admissions@usask.ca or mail:

Admissions Office — Room 4104
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/Technical Standards

Before submitting your application, please review the essential skills/technical standards (below) 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 admitted to the DVM program will be required to attest that they are able to meet essential skills/technical standards with or without reasonable accommodation.

WCVM Essential Skills/Technical Standards

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan is committed to collaborating with students to ensure accessibility and to ensure a respectful culture of accommodation. We encourage students to proactively seek accommodations.

After review of the Essential Skills for veterinary medical education, applicants and students who require reasonable accommodation to fully engage in the program should contact [Access and Equity Services](#) to privately discuss their accommodation needs. Timely requests are essential and encouraged, as, given the clinical nature of the program, time may be needed to create and implement the accommodation. Accommodations are never retroactive.

Essential Skills for Veterinary Medical Education

Applicants and students must demonstrate a number of essential skills and abilities. These are also called

“technical standards” and refer to all non-academic criteria that are essential to participation in the program.

Observation:

Students should be able to directly obtain information from demonstrations and procedures in pre-clinical and clinical coursework. Students should be able to assess a patient and evaluate findings accurately, detect changes in patient behavior, physical and mental status to provide appropriate veterinary care. These skills require the use of vision, hearing, and touch, or the functional equivalent.

Communication:

Students should be able to communicate with clients and all members of the health care team, to establish effective professional relationships in order to elicit and provide information. Students should be able to communicate effectively and sensitively, both in person and in writing.

Motor:

Students should, after a reasonable period of time, possess the capacity to directly perform physical examinations and preventative, diagnostic, medical, surgical, and emergency procedures. Such actions require some coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, balance, and equilibrium.

Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative abilities:

Students should be able to comprehend, retain, and apply detailed and complex information and engage in problem solving in both the pre-clinical and clinical coursework.

Students are expected to possess the ability to accurately measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and communicate information. In addition, after a reasonable amount of instruction, students should be able to comprehend spatial and three-dimensional relationships of structures, for example, the anatomical structure of an animal. And students should also be able to adapt to different learning environments and modalities.

Behavioural and Social Abilities:

Students should possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with clients, fellow students, faculty, staff, and the entire health care team. They should be able to fully attend the curriculum, which requires active engagement in educational and clinical activities. They should display flexibility and adaptability and function in a fast-paced, changing environment with the uncertainties and stressors inherent in the clinical problems of many of their patients.

Students must also be able to receive, comprehend, and act on informal and formal constructive feedback. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, professionalism, interest, motivation, punctuality, and consistent attendance are all personal qualities expected during the education process.

Ethics and Professionalism:

Students should maintain and display ethical and professional behaviors commensurate with the role of a veterinarian in all their interactions with clients, patients, faculty, staff, fellow students, the entire health care team, and the public. After a reasonable period of time, students should also be able to demonstrate realistic self-assessment of knowledge and skills and engage in personal reflective practice to achieve the competencies of the program and of the profession. The student is expected to understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine and function within the law and ethical standards of the profession.

The essential skills delineated above must be met with or without reasonable accommodation. 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.

After reviewing the essential skills, students who determine that they require reasonable accommodation to fully engage in the program should contact [Access and Equity Services](#) to discuss their accommodation needs privately.

Accommodation information, not diagnoses, is shared with appropriate administrative and teaching staff and faculty on a need-to-know basis related to the timely implementation of accommodation. Given the clinical nature of the program, time may be needed to create and implement the accommodation. Accommodations are never retroactive; therefore, timely requests are essential and encouraged.

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 business 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, Fees and Financial Information

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.

Finance options for veterinary students

- **Student loans** offered through their provincial governments. For further information, see [U of S student Loans](#) or [Government of Canada Grants and Loans](#).
- **Lines of credit and bank loans.** Lines of credit and bank loans are two ways students can borrow money from financial institutions. A student line of credit gives you access to an agreed-upon amount of money that you can withdraw when needed. A bank loan allows you to borrow an agreed-upon amount of money up-front.

Before taking out a line of credit or bank loan:

- Shop around to find a bank/financial institution that offers the best package for you
- Negotiate with your preferred financial institution to match the best offer from a competitor
- Ask for a detailed explanation of the loan terms to ensure you understand all the details, especially repayment terms
- Talk about the interest rate and options for lowering it

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



Appendix A

Saskatchewan Agriculture-Focused Seats



In spring 2021, the [Government of Saskatchewan announced](#) that three of their 20 provincially-subsidized seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) 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. The number of SK agriculture-focused seats was **increased to 5** with the [Fall 2022 announcement](#) increasing the total Saskatchewan seats to 25.

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 WCVN 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, 2025** - 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 of the following 3-credit animal production courses at the U of S:
 - 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 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, 2024** (application deadline) – completion of at least 1,000 hours documented work (paid or unpaid) on one or more *commercial food-animal production operation(s)**. Rural mixed-animal veterinary practice/clinic, equine and/or research experience not applicable.

* *Commercial food-animal production operation* is defined as a farm, ranch or other business with a species of agricultural importance to the province (i.e., dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, goat, poultry, fish) as a significant or primary source of income.

Note: Alternative criteria, or special circumstances for Sections 1 or 2 not being met, may be considered. 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 WCVI 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 Saskatchewan seats or designated Indigenous seats (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 Indigenous seats, if applicable, which in essence creates additional spaces for other agriculturally minded students to compete for the agriculture-focused seats.

Remaining applicants who have met the eligibility criteria outlined above will subsequently be considered for one of the agriculture-focused seats as follows:

- Two applicants will be interviewed for each agriculture-focused seat available based on academic score as outlined in Section II.E. Note: These interview offers are in addition to the applicants meeting the agriculture-focused criteria offered interviews for the SK and Indigenous seats.
- Admission decisions (rank order for offer of admission) for the agriculture-focused seats will be based 80% non-academic, 20% Situational Judgment Test assuming all academic requirements have been met.



Appendix B

Manitoba Agriculture-Focused Seats



In spring 2022, the Government of Manitoba requested that three of their 15 provincially-subsidized seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) 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. The number of MB agriculture-focused seats was **increased to 5** with the [Fall 2022 announcement](#) increasing the total Manitoba seats to 20.

Eligibility Criteria:

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

1. Graduated from a high school in Manitoba (secondary school transcript will be required).
2. **As of April 30, 2025** - completion of at least 84 credits (28 one-term/3-credit courses) towards an Animal Systems degree/program at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences or comparable program at another institution, including completion of at least one of the following 3-credit animal production courses at the U of MB:
 - ANSC 4520 Ruminant Production Systems – Meat
 - ANSC 4530 Ruminant Production Systems – Milk
 - ANSC 4550 Avian Production Systems
 - ANSC 4640 Swine Production Systems)

Courses at other institutions may be submitted to determine equivalency to U of MB production courses listed above.

3. **As of December 1, 2024** (application deadline) – completion of at least 1,000 hours documented work (paid or unpaid) on one or more *commercial food-animal production operation(s)**. Rural mixed-animal veterinary practice/clinic, equine and/or research experience not applicable.

* *Commercial food-animal production operation* is defined as a farm, ranch or other business with a species of agricultural importance to the province (i.e., dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, goat, poultry, fish) as a significant or primary source of income.

Note: Alternative criteria, or special circumstances for Sections 1 or 2 not being met, may be considered. 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 WCVI 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 Manitoba 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 Manitoba applicants will initially be considered for admission through the Manitoba seats or designated Indigenous seats (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 Manitoba pool or Indigenous seats, if applicable, which in essence creates additional spaces for other agriculturally minded students to compete for the agricultural-focused seats.

Remaining applicants who have met the eligibility criteria outlined above will subsequently be considered for one of the agriculture-focused seats as follows:

- Two applicants will be interviewed for each agriculture-focused seat available based on academic score as outlined in Section II.E. Note: These interview offers are in addition to the applicants meeting the agriculture-focused criteria offered interviews for the MB and Indigenous seats.
- Admission decisions (rank order for offer of admission) for the agriculture-focused seats will be based 80% non-academic, 20% Situational Judgment Test assuming all academic requirements have been met.



Appendix C

British Columbia Agriculture-Focused Seats



In spring 2022, the Government of British Columbia requested that 15% (currently 6 of 40) of their provincially-subsidized seats at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) 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 BC agriculture-focused seat, applicants must meet the British Columbia residency requirement outlined in Section I of this document (the WCVN Applicant Manual) as well as **both** of the following:

1. Graduated from a high school in British Columbia (secondary school transcript will be required).
2. **As of December 1, 2024** (application deadline) – completion of at least 1,000 hours documented work (paid or unpaid) on one or more *commercial food-animal production operation(s)**. Rural mixed-animal veterinary practice/clinic, equine and/or research experience not applicable.

* *Commercial food-animal production operation* is defined as a farm, ranch or other business with a species of agricultural importance to the province (i.e., dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, goat, poultry, fish) as a significant or primary source of income.

Note: Alternative criteria, or special circumstances for Section 1 not being met, may be considered. 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 WCVN 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 BC 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 BC applicants will initially be considered for admission through the BC seats or designated Indigenous seats (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 BC pool or Indigenous seats, if applicable, which in essence creates additional spaces for other agriculturally minded students to compete for the agricultural-focused seats.

Remaining applicants who have met the eligibility criteria outlined above will subsequently be considered for one of the agriculture-focused seats as follows:

- Two applicants will be interviewed for each agriculture-focused seat available based on academic score as outlined in Section II.E. Note: These interview offers are in addition to the applicants meeting the agriculture-focused criteria offered interviews for the BC and Indigenous seats.
- Admission decisions (rank order for offer of admission) for the agriculture-focused seats will be based 80% non-academic, 20% Situational Judgment Test assuming all academic requirements have been met.