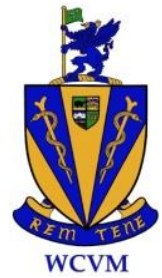




UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Western College of
Veterinary Medicine



DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM) PROGRAM

APPLICANT MANUAL

Application Deadline: December 1 yearly
(for following fall entry)



WCVM Admissions Office

52 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4
(306) 966-7459

wcvm.admissions@usask.ca ♦ wcvm.usask.ca

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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 four 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 the four western provinces and the northern territories. The number of applicants admitted from each western province is determined by an allotment system:

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

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

* The Government of Alberta is not renewing its participation in the WCVM interprovincial agreement after 2020. The WCVM will continue to admit 20 students from Alberta through to the Fall 2019 entry. Please visit the WCVM website (admissions.usask.ca/documents/vetmed-alberta-students.pdf) for more information.

** Applicants with service to the Government of Canada (a member of the Canadian Forces, an RCMP officer or another similar role) who do not meet the criteria for residency under the rules described below may be considered through the Other/Territories designated seat. Service considered may pertain to the applicant, their parent or spouse. Applicants should contact the WCVM Admissions Office to determine eligibility.

A. Determining Applicants' Residency

An interprovincial agreement between the four western provinces and the WCVM outlines definite rules to determine an applicant's province of residence:

- **In the case of an applicant who has not established his or her own residence** and lived in that residence for 12 continuous months (excluding any time enrolled as a post-secondary student in or outside of that province), the WCVM will consider the applicant's residence to be the province or territory of Canada where his or her parent(s) have lived most recently for 12 continuous months before the WCVM's December 1 application deadline.
- **In the case of an applicant who has established his or her own residence** in a province or territory in Canada, the WCVM will consider the individual's residence to be the Canadian province or territory where the applicant lived most recently for 12 continuous months before the WCVM's December 1

application deadline. This 12-month period excludes any time enrolled as a post-secondary student in or outside of that province.

- **In the case of an applicant who has established his or her own residence outside Canada** and intends to re-establish residence in this country, the WCVM will consider the applicant's residence to be the Canadian province or territory where he or she lived most recently for 12 continuous months before leaving Canada. This 12-month period excludes any time enrolled as a post-secondary student in or outside of that province.
- **In the case of an applicant who is a Permanent Resident of Canada** (as defined in Canada's [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#)), the WCVM will consider the applicant's residence to be the province or territory where he or she first resided in Canada under two conditions: the applicant has established his or her own residence in a Canadian province or territory but has not yet accumulated 12 continuous months without post-secondary study, and the applicant's parent(s) do not reside in Canada.
- **In the case of an applicant who is from the Northern territories**, residency is defined by their own rules because the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories are not formal signatories of the college's Interprovincial funding contract.

B. Indigenous Applicants – Education Equity Program

Each year, two seats are available for Indigenous students through the Education Equity Program. Applicants must be residents of the four western Canadian provinces or the northern territories and 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

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 credits of required and elective courses. One credit represents one lecture hour equivalent per week for one term (or approximately one semester hour of credits):

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

60 TOTAL CREDITS

At least two full years of university courses are required to complete the requirements. Most applicants have more than two years of university. However, neither the number of years of pre-professional study nor the degree(s) held are factors in selecting students.

- **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. Students are encouraged to select electives that will liberalize or broaden their perspective.
- **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 college or university. 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.
- **Distance education (online) courses** are accepted; however, at least half (30 credits or 10 one-term courses) of prerequisites must be completed in person.

C. Academic Score

The academic score is the basis for interview offers:

- 2/3 overall average (all university courses completed)
- 1/3 best full year average (full year, for this purpose, is defined as a minimum 24 credits, or ≥ 8 one-term courses – excluding lab courses, taken within the regular September-April academic year)

All university work undertaken is considered when evaluating academic performance. The course load of the applicant is a consideration. Applicants who have not taken a “true full course load” (i.e. 30 credits, or 10 one-term courses, in the Sept-Apr academic year) could be at a disadvantage when evaluating academic performance.

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

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

D. English Language Proficiency

The language of instruction and examination at the University of Saskatchewan is English. In order for students to understand, communicate and be successful in programs at the university, an acceptable level of academic English is required. Applicants whose primary language is not English are required to demonstrate proficiency in English as outlined on the University of Saskatchewan website:

<http://explore.usask.ca/admissions/elp.php>

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 (for example, 40 applicants will be interviewed for the 20 allotted B.C. seats).

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. ADMISSION PROCESS

Each year, the Western College of Veterinary Medicine admits up to 78 students to its first year class. Since there are usually about 400 applications every year, completion of the pre-veterinary requirements does not guarantee admission to the WCVM.

A. Selection Criteria

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

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

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

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

The Admissions Committee may refuse admission based on any area(s) of concern identified by the Admissions Office or members of the Admissions Committee deemed inconsistent with the goals and standards of a veterinary student at the WCVM. Possible reasons for the Admissions Committee refusing an application include academic/non-academic misconduct, misrepresentation on the application, prior criminal record, input from referees/interviewers, and/or unprofessional comments/behaviour prior to or during the application process. If one or more areas of concern is identified, the Admissions Committee retains the right to actively seek further relevant information about you, including, but not limited to, contacting individuals with knowledge of you, whom you may or may not have listed as referees. This will be done through the Admissions Office. In 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**.

The WCVM Admissions policy is reviewed annually and requirements from previous years may not apply.

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

Mid September	Application opens online yearly
December 1	Application deadline (Late applications are not accepted under any circumstances) - When applicable, Canadian Citizenship/Permanent Residency (for applicants not born in Canada) and Indigenous ancestry documentation must be submitted at the time of application. - Provincial residency documentation may be requested of applicants.
January 31	Transcripts for fall (Sept-Dec) term due
February 15	Reference Forms due
May 15	Unofficial Transcripts for spring (Jan-Apr) term due - email to wcvm.admissions@usask.ca
May 31	Official Transcripts for spring (Jan-Apr) term due
Late April – Early June	Interviews take place – Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver
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:

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 registrar).

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, can not compromise animal well-being or the safety of the people involved. Therefore, it may not be possible to accommodate all disabilities and allow for successful completion of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree program.

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

VI. APPEALS PROCESS

Applicants who have not been successful in gaining admission may appeal the decision to the Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, within 10 business days from the date a negative application decision is released. Grounds for an admission appeal shall be limited to (1) unit procedural errors, (2) evidence that the information used in the assessment of the decision was wrong or incomplete, or (3) evidence that the assessment was not made according to the published admission qualifications and selection criteria. A failure by the applicant to provide accurate and complete information in accordance with the established admission qualifications and selection criteria shall not be grounds for an appeal. The decision of the appeals committee is final and no further appeal procedure will be entertained.

VII. DEFERRALS

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

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

VIII. FURTHER INFORMATION

A. WCVM Rabies Immunization Policy

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

B. Tuition and Fees

Pre-veterinary students at the U of S

- Please [visit U of S 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:
(<https://admissions.usask.ca/veterinary-medicine.php#Tuitionestimates>)

- 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