

Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM)

Admissions Update | April 2018

Background information for high school/university students and counsellors

Alberta Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt announced on Oct. 12, 2017, that Alberta will not renew its participation in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's (WCVM) interprovincial agreement after 2020.

Visit wcvmtoday.usask.ca to read the WCVM's statement | Visit keepvetmedstrong.ca to learn more

How does this decision affect Alberta students who are interested in veterinary medicine?

Unfortunately, the most immediate impact of Alberta's decision will be on the province's students. Here are more details:

- The Government of Alberta has committed to providing funding for veterinary students in the WCVM's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) until 2023. That means the WCVM will continue to admit 20 students from Alberta for the next two academic years: 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.
- After the 2019-2020 academic year, the Province of Alberta will only provide funding for new veterinary student seats at the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM). Without funding from their home province, Alberta students will no longer be eligible to attend the WCVM.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT (Grade 12 and under):

- As a current high school student in Alberta, you are at least two years away from being eligible to apply to the WCVM's veterinary program (after completing at least two years of pre-veterinary university studies). By the time you are eligible to apply, your only option for a veterinary education in Canada will be the University of Calgary's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

IF YOU ARE A CURRENT UNIVERSITY STUDENT (who will complete two full years of university classes or 60 credits of required courses before the date of April 30, 2019):

- As a current university student from Alberta, you have enough time to potentially complete the WCVM's requirement of two years of pre-veterinary studies before the final group of Alberta students is accepted to the WCVM in 2019-20 (application deadline of Dec. 1, 2018).

Will the WCVM continue to accept students who are currently enrolled in pre-veterinary programs at Alberta institutions?

Absolutely. Despite the Alberta government's decision, the WCVM is committed to working with all of its longtime academic partners in Alberta.

Is there a possibility that the WCVM will ever accept Alberta students in the future?

We are reviewing various funding models for the veterinary college, and during the coming months, we will be discussing future options with our partners and stakeholders. At this point, it is too soon to provide any details about those potential options.

Why was there no notice about this decision before the beginning of the academic year?

Unfortunately, the WCVM and Western Canada's veterinary community were not consulted before the Alberta government made the decision to end its partnership with Western Canada's regional veterinary college.

We sincerely regret the anxiety and stress that this decision is causing our current and prospective students. We are doing our best to respond to questions and concerns from prospective applicants and counsellors. If you have specific concerns or questions, please contact Heather Mandeville, manager of admissions and recruitment (see below).

If you are a prospective student who is dissatisfied with the loss of an opportunity to study at the WCVM, you're welcome to contact your local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Alberta. It is your right to voice your concerns about this decision that restricts your options for accessing a veterinary education in Western Canada. [Visit keepvetmedstrong.ca](http://keepvetmedstrong.ca) to learn more.

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