

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS



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PREPROFESSIONAL VETERINARY MEDICINE

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (WCVM)

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to read the university and RDC calendars, and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising.

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

- Some professional programs have a limited number of seats available according to province of origin;
- Some professional programs do not accept international students;
- Neither completing preprofessional program requirements nor the GPA received on that coursework guarantees acceptance into a professional program;
- Entrance requirements for professional programs vary as per university. It is a student's responsibility to ensure they are taking correct preprofessional coursework for a university other than specified in the title of an Academic Planning Guide;
- The information in this guide is a summary only and students are strongly advised to consult the calendar for the university they wish to attend. This guide is for UofS only.

The minimum requirement for admission to the 4-year Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) program at University of Saskatchewan is the satisfactory completion of 60 credits (*60) taken in specific prerequisite courses. This collection of courses is called a preprofessional program. A preprofessional program is not a degree program and therefore students must choose an undergraduate degree to work towards while preparing for admission to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). Pursue a degree that is of interest to you and suitable for your possible future employment. Program and admission requirements for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the degree program will differ; both sets of requirements must be met.

Since the majority of students admitted complete a 4-year degree (often Bachelor of Science) prior to admission you should consider that licensure as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine will take at least two and possibly four years of undergraduate study plus four years of veterinary studies. Neither the number of years of preprofessional study nor the degree(s) held are factors in selecting students. *You are encouraged to spread the pre-veterinary course requirements over at least three years of study instead of two because the prerequisite course load is very heavy and competition for admission is very keen.* A three- or four-year schedule of study could result in a higher GPA than taking the courses in just two years.

Seventy-eight students are admitted to the first year DVM class with *20 of those seats reserved for students from Alberta.* Residents of foreign countries having veterinary colleges are not considered for admission. There are usually between 300 - 325 qualified applications to the Veterinary program each year. About twice as many applicants as will be interviewed than are accepted; for Alberta applicants this means that approximately 40 are interviewed for 20 seats. Admission is *highly competitive* and meeting admission criteria does not guarantee admission.

REQUIRED COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO D.V.M. AT UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

REQUIRED COURSES	NUMBER OF CREDITS	COURSES TAKEN AT RED DEER COLLEGE
Mathematics and/or Statistics	6	MATH 202 (or 203), 204, 221; STAT 251
Biochemistry (with lab)	3	BIOC 393
General Chemistry	6	CHEM 211/212
Organic Chemistry	3	CHEM 351
Biology	6	BIOL 217/218
Physics	3	PHYS 205
Genetics	3	GENE 370
Introductory Microbiology	3	MICR 365
English	6	ENGL 219/220
7 Electives	$\frac{21}{60}$	

SUGGESTED PATTERN OF COURSES YEAR 1

FALL	WINTER
BIOL 217 (3)	BIOL 218 (3)
CHEM 211(3)	CHEM 212 (3)
ELECTIVE (3) ¹	CHEM 351 (3)
1 of: MATH 202 (or 203), 221; STAT 251 (3) ²	1 of: MATH 202 (or 203), 204, 221;STAT 251 (3) ²
ENGL 219 (3)	ENGL 220 (3)

SUGGESTED PATTERN OF COURSES YEAR 2

FALL	WINTER
BIOL 317 (ELECTIVE) (3) ³	GENE 370 (3) ³
PHYS 205 (3) ⁴	BIOC 393 (3) ⁵
MICR 365 (3)	ELECTIVE (3) ¹
ELECTIVE (3) ¹	ELECTIVE (3) ¹
ELECTIVE (3) ¹	ELECTIVE (3) ¹

NOTES:

1. There are no preferred electives. Students will choose electives based on the requirements of their preparation degree or their general interests. Students are encouraged to select electives that will liberalize or broaden their perspective. Your preparation degree may require 6 credits in organic chemistry; if so, take CHEM 352 as an elective. Use the UofS Course Equivalent [Chart](#) to determine course transfer or contact an academic advisor.
2. Students with a grade of 70% or higher in Math 31 who wish to take calculus are advised to take MATH 203 instead of MATH 202.
3. BIOL 317 is not a required course for this program but it is prerequisite for GENE 370, a required course. Biology courses are considered beneficial when preparing for coursework in the veterinary medicine program; BIOL 317 fulfills one elective.
4. Calculus-based PHYS 241 may be taken instead of PHYS 205; check course prerequisites and corequisites.
5. Do *not* take BIOC 301.

ALL STUDENTS IN THIS PRE-VETERINARY PROGRAM ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:

- Consult [Course Descriptions](#) for any course prerequisites,
- Check [Alberta Transfer Guide](#) concerning course credit transfer to Alberta universities to which they may apply,
- Consult the University of Saskatchewan [Calendar](#) and appropriate websites, and
- Consult the academic planning guide and university calendar for the degree program they are following re: important program and transfer admission information.

ADMISSION INFORMATION FOR WCVM, UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

1. The preprofessional veterinary program consist of *60 (60 credits) of prerequisite courses which must be successfully completed to apply to WCVM.
2. All university work undertaken is considered when evaluating academic performance. If a course is repeated, each attempt is included in the GPA calculation for the Fall/Winter the course was taken. The year with the highest GPA that contains *30 will receive extra weight in the GPA calculation.
3. The course load of the applicant is a consideration. Applicants who have not taken a full course load (*30 per Fall/Winter) could be at a disadvantage when their academic performance is evaluated. You are advised to take *15 in each fall and winter term (*30 per academic year).
4. All applicants to WCVM must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 75% in order to apply. Possession of the minimum GPA does not guarantee admission. In the past, the GPA for successful applicants has ranged between 78 - 86% (approximately 2.70 - 3.30).
5. In addition to Provincial Seats there are two seats available to students of Aboriginal descent. There are generally six to eight applications per year for these seats and they fill every year.
6. Applicants applying after only two years of preprofessional study, must finish all required coursework by April of the year admission is sought. Students with more than two years may be able to make up deficiencies in the prerequisites during a spring term; please contact WCVM for guidance.
7. About 50% of all applicants admitted to Fall 2011 had earned a Bachelor's degree, about 10% had only two years of study, and the remaining seats were split evenly between those who had three years of study and those who had five or more.
8. All applicants must have experience in a veterinary practice; one type of veterinary practice (i.e. companion animals, zoo, large animal, etc.) is not preferred over another. One of two referees *must* be a practicing veterinarian. See WCVM admission information for further information.
9. An interprovincial agreement between the four western provinces and the WCVM outlines definite rules to determine an applicant's [province of residence](#). Non-residents of Saskatchewan will not improve their chances of admission by attending the University of Saskatchewan for pre-veterinary coursework.
10. The admission selection criteria are: Academic Record (60%) and Interview (40%). About twice as many candidates are interviewed as seats per province (about 40 candidates for Alberta) and 4 or 5 for Aboriginal seats. See academic advisor for further information concerning the interview. A high level of comfort in oral presentations is strongly recommended.
11. **Application deadline:** Applications must be submitted electronically before December 1st. See WCVM Admission Brochure for other deadlines.
12. Students wishing to qualify for admission to the DVM programs at UofC and UofS must meet admission requirements for both. To the above program add BIOL 318 and take STAT 251 as one of the mathematics course choices. It is imperative such students consult the academic planning guides for both preprofessional Veterinary Medicine programs and admission information for both universities.
13. **Students pursuing a degree while preparing for admission** must meet transfer admission requirements for that degree as well.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

[Science Department](#)

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warren.elgersma@rdc.ab.ca
http://www.rdc.ab.ca/about_rdc/academic_departments/sciences

[Academic Advising](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102
advisors@rdc.ab.ca 403-342-3400
http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising

[RDC Website](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>

[RDC Timetable](#)

<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>

[Alberta Transfer Guide](#)

<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>

[WCVM](#)

wcvm.admissions@usask.ca 306-966-7459
<http://www.usask.ca/wcvm>

[University of Saskatchewan](#)

<http://www.usask.ca/>

RDC/UofS Course Equivalents

<http://explore.usask.ca/admission/transfer/equivalents/reddeer/>

PLEASE NOTE:

Be aware you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit, admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from a Red Deer College program. Please consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide, and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.