

HOW TO GET INTO VETERINARY SCHOOL



GENERAL INFORMATION

- There are 5 veterinary schools in Canada. Students must apply to the Veterinary College in their region of residency. The OVC at Guelph serves Ontario.
- Each school has its own relatively unique methods of selection.
- The rules change yearly.

SCHOOLS IN CANADA

Ontario Veterinary College

- **University of Guelph**
 - Serves Ontario

Atlantic Veterinary College

- **University of Prince Edward Island**
 - Serves the 4 Atlantic provinces & territories; some OOP

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

- **University of Calgary**
 - Serves Alberta; no OOP

SCHOOLS IN CANADA (CONT'D)

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

- **University of Saskatchewan**
 - Serves 4 western provinces & territories; no OOP

Faculté de médecine vétérinaire

- **Université de Montréal (Francophone)**
 - Serves Québec

ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE @ UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

- Interview invite is based on:
 - GPA (last four 15.0-credit semesters & prerequisites
- GPA)
 - Practical experience and extracurricular involvement
- Final Acceptance is based on:
 - Cumulative GPA
 - Interview Score on the MMI

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- **Academic:**

- At least 2 years of 100% course load (15.0 credits/semester) **undergraduate** education in a university science program

- **Prerequisite Courses:**

- 2 Biological Sciences (recommended emphasis on animal biology) = 1 credit
- Cell biology = 0.5 credit
- Genetics = 0.5 credit
- Biochemistry = 0.5 credit
- Statistics = 0.5 credit
- 2 Humanities/social sciences = 1.0 credit

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- The GPA from your **last two full-time semesters**, as well as the average of your **8 prerequisite courses** must be ≥ 7.0 (B+) on York's 9-point scale.
- **MCAT**
 - **Note:** The MCAT is no longer required for applicants to the DVM program, beginning with applications for Fall 2016 entry.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- **Non-academic:**
 - **Undergraduate Student**
 - **3 Referee Assessments** (reference letters)
 - Two of the three referees selected must be veterinarians with whom you have obtained veterinary and/or animal experience.
 - **Graduate Student**
 - Two of the four referees selected must be veterinarians

Admission Requirements:

- Non-academic (cont'd):
 - **Background Information Form (BIF):**

Personal statement

“Why you want to become a vet” essay

Animal Experience

Pet store, work with livestock, breeding program, etc. A vet does not have to be present.

Veterinary Experience

Volunteer or paid; supervised by a vet.

Extracurricular experience

Jobs & volunteer activities that hone your communication, interpersonal and organizational skills.

Application Process

- **DUE DECEMBER 1:**
 - **Canadians with Ontario residency:** If you attend a post-secondary institution other than the University of Guelph OR are living abroad, apply to the DVM program using the OUAC 105D form online at the Compass website.

Application Process

- DUE FEBRUARY 1:
 - Background Information Form (BIF)

- DUE MARCH 1:
 - Referee Assessments
 - Transcripts

SELECTION PROCESS

- **1. Calculation of Admission Average - March**
 - A 50:50 ratio determines admission average (50% GPA of last 2 acceptable semesters, 50% GPA of prerequisite courses).
 - Top candidates move on in the selection process.
- **2. Review of Applications - March-April**
 - The OVC admissions committee reviews the applications of the top applicants to verify that they are suitable for interviews.

SELECTION PROCESS (CONT'D)

- **3. Interview (MMI format) – May**
- Candidates rotate through a series of 8 stations. At each station, there is a scenario that the candidate must interpret for assessors who evaluate the student based on a scoring rubric.
- **4. Final review of interviewed applicants - early June**
 - The top 100 students chosen after admission committee reviews.
- **5. Communication of decision**
 - An official letter will be mailed to each applicant.

Class of 2016 Stat Sheet

<http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/recruitment/en/applyingtodvm/resources/DVMAAdmissionStats2016forweb.pdf>

ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE @ UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- **4 Year Program, 63 students**
- **Distinct Applicant Pools:**
 - **Approx. 2/3 of seats reserved for Atlantic students from PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick & Newfoundland and Labrador**
- **The last pool is allocated to international applicants including those from the US**

ATLANTIC VETERINARY COLLEGE @ UNIVERSITY OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- **Selection Criteria** (out of 100% overall admissions score):
 - **60% Academic:**
 - 50% weighed academic average
 - 10% General Graduate Record Examination
 - **40% Non-academic:**
 - 20% work and school approach and behaviour test score
 - 20% veterinary, animal, employment, and community experiences & Interview



Prerequisite Courses (Fall 2017):

Science

Animal Biology 1

Animal Biology 2

Animal Biology 3

Genetics

Mathematics 1

Mathematics 2 (Statistics)

Chemistry 1

Chemistry 2

Chemistry 3 (Organic

Chemistry)

Non Science:

English (Composition)

Academic Average = 50% (Average of 10 prescribed courses) + 50% (Average of most recent two full time semesters, Sept – April)

More about prerequisite courses criteria at

<http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/professional-programs/doctor-veterinary-medicine/dvm-academic-requirements>

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D):

- **Non-academic:**
 - **Work and School Approach and Behaviour Test**
 - A personality inventory
 - Evaluate critical approaches and behaviours found in daily and professional situations
 - Not possible to study for this
 - **Employment Experience, Honours and Awards, and Community Activities**
 - Applicants are asked to submit structured and detailed descriptions of their employment, honours and awards, and extracurricular and community activities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Non-academic:

Interview

- Only those applicants who rank highly based on their academic achievement (weighted academic average and GRE score) invited to interview.
 - Interview will draw on applicant's experiences to discuss how they have contributed to their understanding of the veterinary profession

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Non-academic:

Looking for specific skills:

1. Observation
2. Communication
3. Motor Skills
4. Intellectual Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities
5. Behavioural and Social Attributes

University of Calgary- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

- Students must be **Alberta residents**, as defined by the Province of Alberta. To be eligible for admission to UCVM, you must be an Alberta resident.
- The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine **accepts 30-32 DVM students per year**. The Admissions Committee recommends students for admission to the program on the basis of academic and non-academic factors.

University of Calgary- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Academic Requirements

- A minimum overall average of 3.00 ("B" or its equivalent) with a passing grade in each of the required courses
- Once this requirement has been met, the average GPA from the required courses will not be used further in the admissions process.
- You must have completed or be in the process of completing the TEN (10) required courses with at least SEVEN (7) of the TEN (10) required courses being completed before December 31, 2016.

University of Calgary- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Academic Requirements

- UCVM defines a “full time” term as a minimum of FOUR (4) ‘first-attempt’ courses per term (semester)
- A minimum combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 ("B" or its equivalent) over EACH of the last four full-time terms of undergraduate academic years.

University of Calgary- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Required Courses

- Two Introductory Biology Courses (a lab component is required for each course)
- Two Introductory Chemistry Courses (a lab component is required for each course)
- One Introductory English Course (must contain a writing component)
- One Introductory Organic Chemistry Course (a lab component is required)
- One Introductory Statistics Course
- One Introductory Biochemistry Course (a lab component is optional)
- One Introductory Genetics Course (a lab component is optional)
- One Introductory Ecology Course (a lab component is optional)

University of Calgary- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

A complete application consists of:

- The completed application form
- The application fee
- Post-secondary transcripts submitted by the appropriate academic institutions
- Proof of Alberta residency
- Signed Declaration of the applicant

- Interview style is MMI

Western College of Veterinary Medicine @ University of Saskatchewan

- **WCVM serves the four western provinces** of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, **as well as the territories** of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Must be a Resident.
 - BC: 20 seats
 - Alberta: 20 seats
 - Saskatchewan: 20 seats
 - Manitoba: 15 seats
 - Territories: 1

Western College of Veterinary Medicine @ University of Saskatchewan

- **4 Year Program, 78 Students**
- Applicants must meet **residency requirements**
- **Non-Academic:**
 - Structured Interview – assess applicant’s ability to cope with the veterinary program & evaluate non-academic qualities
 - Referees evaluation are also used to assess these non-academic qualities

GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a **Western Province/Territory resident** with Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status
- GPA from the **last four full-time terms (min. 12.0 credits)** as of January will be calculated.
- You must have completed or be in the process of completing the **10 required courses**. Required courses may not be repeated more than once for consideration.

Academic Admission Requirements

- The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine considers applicants from a variety of educational backgrounds. No preference is given to any particular program, college or university.

Required Undergraduate Courses:
6 Credits of Biology
6 Credits of Chemistry
6 Credits of English
6 Credits of Mathematics/Statistics
3 Credits of Organic Chemistry
3 Credits of Physics
3 Credits of Biochemistry
3 Credits of Genetics
3 Credits of Microbiology
21 Elective Courses

FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE VÉTÉRINAIRE- UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

- To attend this school you must be proficient in **French**, due to all the classes being taught in this language
- For more information:
<http://www.medvet.umontreal.ca/>

MORE ABOUT VET SCHOOL APPLICATION



<http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos/>

PREPARE YOURSELF

- You must take an **active interest in learning** and keeping up with the admissions policies at your targeted schools
- You have to **plan in advance** your approach
- Don't count on any one particular school's policies to help you – remember luck plays a role and **policies change**.
- Of all things, **GPA is usually the primary barrier** for most applicants and is the hardest to improve

QUESTIONS

Pankaj Puar - Pankajp@my.yorku.ca

Brittany Solomon - britt725@my.yorku.ca

<http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos/>

Mahsa Nasser, B.Sc.
OVC Phase I Student
Class of 2021

York University Alumni



HOW TO GET INTO OVC

- Grades - 65%
- Supplementary Application
- Interview - 35%

York University Letter Grade	OVC Percentage
A+	95
A	85
B+	77
B	72
C+	67
C	62
D+	57
D	52

APPROVED COURSES I TOOK

OVC Requirement	Course Code	Course Name
Biological Sciences I/II	BIOL 1000/1001	Biology I/II
Cell Biology**	BIOL 2021	Cell Biology
Genetics	BIOL 2040	Genetics
Statistics	BIOL 2060	Statistics for Biologists
Biochemistry	BIOL 2020	Biochemistry
Humanities and Social Sciences I/II	PSYC 1010	Introduction to Psychology

**Also Approved for: Histology

**Not Approved: Biology of Cancer, Physiology

PRO TIP...

- Phase I OVC's curriculum places heavy focus on...
- Anatomy**
- Physiology
- Histology

- Try to take these courses in your undergraduate studies



THE INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW TIPS

- University of Guelph Future Vet's Club
 - Mock MMI - 4 stations
 - Join the Facebook Group!
 - Registration opens ~End of January/Early February



INTERVIEW TIPS

- Start preparing as soon as possible!
- Toastmasters
- PRACTISE PRACTISE PRACTISE WITH OTHERS
- Make your own Facebook group!



SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION

CATEGORIES

- Veterinary Experience
 - Animal Experience
 - Other Employment Experience
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Honours and Awards
 - Essay
-
- 6 lines for each

SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION TIPS

- Variety (?)
- Large Animal and Equine experience are helpful in school
- Quality over Quantity
- Keep track of your hours
 - Spreadsheet, notebook
- Ask your Vets “Are you willing to write me a positive reference?”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Close to York University
- Toronto Wildlife Centre
 - Wildlife experience
 - <https://www.torontowildlifecentre.com/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/>
- Wishing Well Farm Sanctuary
 - Large/Food animal experience
 - <http://www.wishingwellsanctuary.org/volunteer.php>

FINAL TIP...

- Be confident! Make sure your supervisors/peers know you want to be a Veterinarian!

TALKS BY ELIZABETH LOWENGER...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ns7BtPe-GrE>

