



# Applying to Veterinary School

A Presentation by Bethune College SOS



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# General Information

- There are 5 veterinary schools in Canada. Canadian 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 determining who is invited for interview, and who eventually will be accepted to the school
- The rules change yearly and you must keep up with the changes

# Schools in Canada

## Ontario Veterinary College

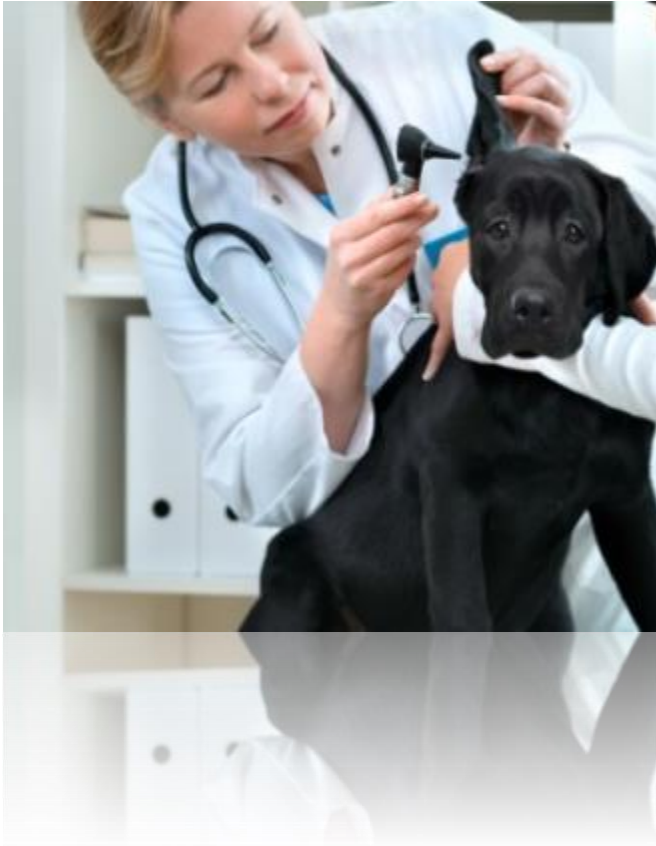
- University of Guelph
  - Serves Ontario

## 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

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# Ontario Veterinary College @ University of Guelph



- **Interview invite is based on:**
  - GPA (last four 15.0-credit semesters & prerequisites GPA)
  - MCAT score
  - 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

(more details at <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/recruitment/en/applyingtodvm/Academicrequirements.asp> )



# Admission Requirements:

- Academic (cont'd):
  - The GPA from your **last two full-time semesters**, as well as the average of your **8 prerequisite courses** must be  $\geq 7.0$  (B+) on York's 9-point scale.
  - **MCAT**
    - 2016 Cycle median: 9V/8P/10B/Q

# Admission Requirements:



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





# 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 JANUARY 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.
  - **Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores:** Released online each time you apply to the program.

# Application Process (cont'd)



- **DUE MARCH 1:**
  - **Background Information Form (BIF)**
  - **Referee Assessments**
  - **Transcripts**



# Selection Process

- **1. Calculation of Admission Average - March**
  - A 40:40:20 ratio determines admission average (40% GPA of last 2 acceptable semesters, 40% GPA of prerequisite courses, 20% MCAT).
  - 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 11-15**
  - 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.

# Atlantic Veterinary College @ University of Prince Edward Island



- **4 Year Program**
- **2 Applicant Pools:** Atlantic Canadians (must meet province residency requirements) & International Applicants

# Atlantic Veterinary College @ University of Prince Edward Island



- **Selection Criteria** (out of 100% overall admissions score):
  - **Academic:**
    - 50% weighed academic average in 20 prerequisite post-secondary undergraduate courses
    - 5% General Graduate Record Examination (Grad students)
  - **Non-academic:**
    - 30% interview
    - 15% veterinary, animal, employment, and community experiences.



# Admission Requirements:

- **Academic:**
  - **Twenty post-secondary undergraduate courses** must be completed prior to applying to the DVM program.
  - **Weighed Academic Average** (50% of overall admissions score)
    - 30% of weighted academic average = average of grades attained in Animal Biology 1, Animal Biology 2, Microbiology, and Genetics.
    - 70% of the weighted academic average = average of grades attained in the remaining 16 prerequisite courses.





# Prerequisite Courses:

<b>Prerequisite Science Courses</b>	<b>Prerequisite Non-Science Courses</b>
Animal Biology 1	English 1
Animal Biology 2	English 2 (Composition)
Genetics	Humanities/Social Sciences 1
Microbiology	Humanities/Social Sciences 2
Mathematics 1	Humanities/Social Sciences 3
Mathematics 2 (Statistics)	Elective 1
Chemistry 1	Elective 2
Chemistry 2	Elective 3
Chemistry 3 (Organic Chemistry)	Elective 4
Physics	Elective 5

More about prerequisite courses criteria at

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



# Admission Requirements:

- Non-academic:
  - **Interview (30% of overall admissions score)**
    - Only those applicants who rank highly based on their academic achievement (weighted academic average and GRE score) will be invited to interview.
    - The interview is structured to assess non-cognitive competencies including innovative thinking, self-confidence, integrity, relationship-building, verbal communication, sound judgment, adaptability and resilience.
    - No questions relating specifically to the practice of veterinary medicine will be asked.



# Admission Requirements (cont'd):

- Non-academic:
  - **Veterinary and Animal Experience (10%)**
    - Applicants are asked to submit structured and detailed descriptions of their animal and veterinary experience.
  - **Employment Experience, Honours and Awards, and Community Activities (5%)**
    - Applicants are asked to submit structured and detailed descriptions of their employment, honours and awards, and extracurricular and community activities.



# Application Process:

- ***International Applicants (includes non-Atlantic Canadians)***
  - **September 1:** deadline for transcript submission through VMCAS
  - **October 2:** deadline for completion of VMCAS application
  - **November 1:** deadline for receipt of the [Supplementary Application](#) and fee (\$100) to UPEI
  - **December 15:** deadline for receipt of GRE scores
  - **February 1:** deadline for receipt of fall semester transcripts for courses in progress, if applicable
  - **June 1:** deadline for receipt of winter semester transcripts for courses in progress, if applicable.

# Western College of Veterinary Medicine @ University of Saskatchewan



- **4 Year Program**
- **WCVM serves the four western provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as the territories of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.**

# Faculty of Veterinary Medicine @ University of Calgary



- **4 Year Program**
- Applicants must meet **Alberta residency requirements**
- **Component weighting for admission:**
  - **Academic:**
    - 15% ten pre-requisite courses
    - 15% most recent two full UG years (60 credits)
  - **Non-academic:**
    - 45% MMI performance
    - 20% Essay
    - 5% References



# General Admission Requirements

- You must be an **Alberta 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.
- In-progress courses for consideration must be completed by April 30, 2015.
- **English language proficiency** must be demonstrated for all applicants for whom English is not their first language.



# 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:**

Two Introductory Biology Courses

Two Introductory Chemistry Courses

One Introductory English Course

(must contain a writing component)

One Introductory Organic Chemistry Course

One Introductory Statistics Course

One Introductory Biochemistry Course

(lab not required)

One Introductory Genetics Course

One Introductory Ecology Course





# Academic Admission Requirements

- Normally, minimum academic requirements from undergraduate studies to receive consideration for admission are as follows:
  - A minimum average of 3.0 out of 4.0 (6.0 on York's 9-point scale) in the last four 12-credit terms
  - A minimum overall average of 2.70 out of 4.0 (5.0 on York's 9-point scale) with a passing grade in each of the required courses

# More about your Veterinary School Application



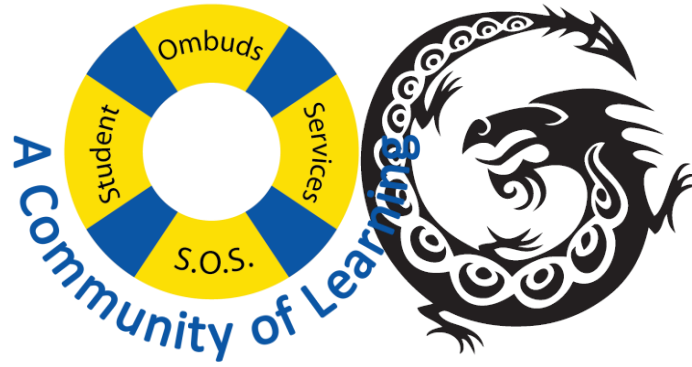
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# Extracurricular Activities

- All applicants are academically strong. You need **strong extracurriculars** in order to stand out from the crowd.
- **Aim for:**
  - **Relevant** volunteering/research/work experience
  - Involvement with a diverse range of animals
  - Work under a licensed veterinarian
  - Leadership positions
  - Long span of involvement (commitment)
  - Strong referees

# 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?

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