Applying to Veterinary School

A Presentation by Bethune College SOS

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

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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

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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 = 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](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 ≥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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal statement</th>
<th>Animal Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Why you want to become a vet” essay</td>
<td>Pet store, work with livestock, breeding program, etc. A vet does not have to be present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterinary Experience</th>
<th>Extracurricular experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer or paid; supervised by a vet.</td>
<td>Jobs &amp; volunteer activities that hone your communication, interpersonal and organizational skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
  • 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
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:

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

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 15.0-credit terms 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, 2014.

• English language proficiency must be demonstrated for all applicants for whom English is not their first language.
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 15-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

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

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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

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Questions?

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