



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

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Schools in Canada



Ontario Veterinary College

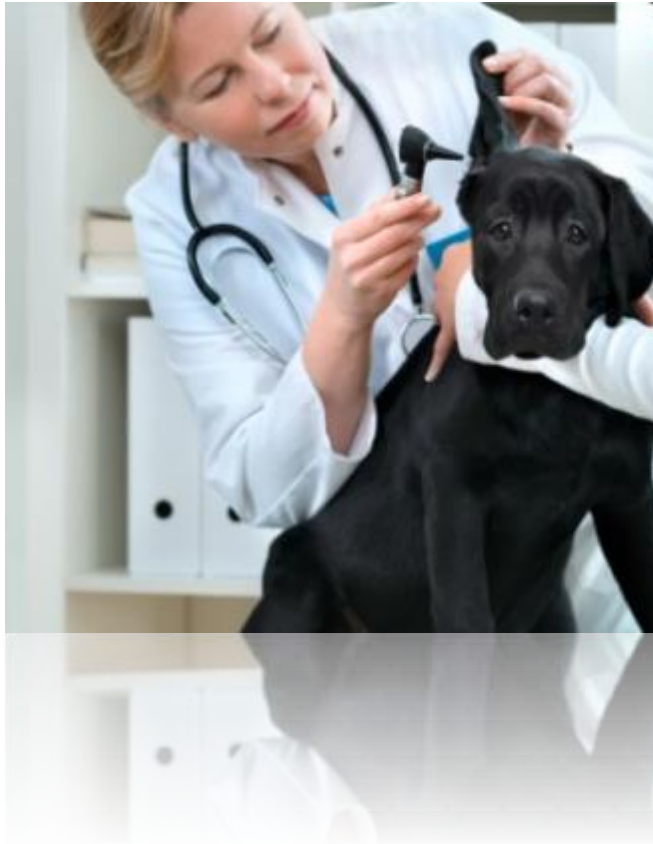
- **University of Guelph**
 - Serves Ontario

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>)

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):



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**
 - 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:



Prerequisite Science Courses	Prerequisite Non-Science Courses
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 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.



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 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?