



Applying to Veterinary School

A Presentation by Bethune College SOS

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



- 1. Canadian Veterinary School Overview
- 2. Vet Student Presentation
 - a. The Application Process
 - b. Interview Tips
 - c. Supplementary Application
- 3. Vet Student Q and A session

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

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

- University of Calgary
 - Serves Alberta

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Schools in Canada (cont'd)





Western College of Veterinary Medicine

- University of Saskatchewan
 - Serves 4 western provinces & territories
- 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)
 - Practical experience and extracurricular involvement
- Final Acceptance is based on:
 - Combined GPA
 - Interview Score on the Interview

• Academic:

- ORUS CTURS
- 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) = 6 credits
 - Cell biology = 3 credits
 - Genetics = 3 credits
 - Biochemistry = 3 credits
 - Statistics = 3 credits
 - 2 Humanities/social sciences = 6 credits

• 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
 - Note: The MCAT is no longer required for applicants to the DVM program, beginning with applications for Fall 2016 entry.



- Non-academic:
 - <u>Undergraduate Student</u>
 - **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

Series of questions exploring your understanding and motivation

Veterinary Experience

Volunteer or paid; supervised by a vet.

Animal Experience

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

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 (cont'd)



• 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.
 - Our vet student will talk more about this
- 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, 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*
 - Not required for 2020/2021 cycle
 - 40% Non-academic:
 - 20% work and school approach and behaviour test score
 - 20% veterinary, animal, employment, and community experiences & Interview

Prerequisite Courses (Fall 2019):



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 (40%) :
 - Work and School Approach and Behaviour Test (20%)
 - 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 (20%)
 - Applicants are asked to submit structured and detailed descriptions of their employment, honours and awards, and extracurricular and community activities.



• 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 (cont'd):

- 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

http://www.upei.ca/programsandcourses/professional-programs/doctor-veterinary-medicine/dvm-non-ac ademic-requirements

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.

http://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmadmissions#quickset-field_collection_quicktabs_2

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, 2020.

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, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, as well as the territories of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Must be a Resident.
 - BC: 20 seats
 - Saskatchewan: 20 seats
 - Manitoba: 15 seats
 - Territories: 1
 - Education Equity Program*: 2

Western College of Veterinary Medicine (University of Saskatchewan



- 4 Year Program, 58 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. A minimum, cumulative average of 75 per cent is needed to be considered for admission.



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 your Veterinary School





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



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http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos

Brittany Solomon, BSc OVC Phase 2 Student Class of 2023







1. Grades - 65%

2. Supplementary Application

3. Interview - 35%



SELECTION PROCESS SUMMARY


GRADES

Grade Conversion Chart

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

How to Get Courses Approved

Email admdvm@uoguelph.ca to submit your course evaluation



...they will respond with a letter like this

How to Get Courses Approved

For more information on the course approval process, as well as academic and other requirements for admission, visit the following website:

http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/recruitment/en/applyingtodvm/Academicrequire ments.asp





Warning: Always have your courses verified by OVC

admissions administration - DO

NOT just use what worked for

US

Approved Courses - Brittany

OVC Requirement	Course Code	Course Name
Biological Sciences I/II	ISCI 1101/1102	Integrated Science 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 Humanities: PSYC 3140 Abnormal Psychology Not Approved for Cell Biology: BIOL 3110 Molecular Biology I

Approved Courses - Mahsa

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**

Approved Courses - Drago

OVC Requirement	Course Code	Course Name
Biological Sciences I/II	BIOL 3150/KINE 2011	Microbiology / Human Physiology I
Cell Biology**	BIOL 4061	Cell & Molecular Biology of Development
Genetics	BIOL 4285	Human Molecular Genetics
Statistics	PSYC 2022	Statistical Methods II
Biochemistry	BIOL 3051	Macromolecules of Biological Interest
Humanities and Social Sciences I/II	ECON 1000/PSYC 3170	Introduction to Microeconomics/Health Psychology

** BIOL 4270 - Reproduction ⇒ Not acceptable cell biology ** BIOL4220 - Histology ⇒ Acceptable cell biology

Pro Tip...

Phase 1 OVC's curriculum places heavy focus on...

- 1. Anatomy**
- 2. Physiology
- 3. Histology

Try to take these courses in your undergraduate studies

Course Semester Criteria

- For students in programs with more than 10 credits, 60% of credits in each full-time semester must be taken at a 3000 level (third year level) or above. However, 40% of the credits in a full-time semester may be taken at the level of the applicant's choice.
- Courses will not be acceptable if they are repeats of previously passed courses, or if they are taken at the same level or a lower level in a subject area than previously passed courses in the same subject area

THE INTERVIEW

Interview Tips

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



Interview Tips

- Start preparing as soon as possible!
- PRACTISE PRACTISE PRACTISE WITH
 OTHERS

 Join <u>"YorkU goes to OVC"</u> on Facebook!

YorkU Goes to OVC

https://www.facebook.com/groups/337415350353915/



Books to Buy/Read





FutureMeMD

https://futurememd.com/dds-interview-questions-1



MMI Practice Tip

Try recording yourself answering questions so you can watch and critique yourself after!



As uncomfortable as it may feel, it's the best way to notice your own habits.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION

Categories

- 1. Veterinary Experience
- 2. Animal Experience
- 3. Other Employment Experience
- 4. Extracurricular Activities
- 5. Honours and Awards
- 6. Essay

6 lines for each

Supplementary Application Tips

• Variety

- In terms of types of animal experience but also non-animal experience → Show you're a well-rounded person
- Large Animal/Equine experience are helpful in school
- Quality over Quantity
- Keep track of your hours
 - Spreadsheet, notebook
- Start working on your application over Christmas break (or earlier!)

Getting References & Validators

- "Are you willing to write me a POSITIVE reference?"
- Ask your referees *FAR* in advance of the Feb. 1st BIF deadline
- You will need a contact name & phone number for every
 - veterinary/animal/extracurricular/employment experience you write on your BIF
 - Reach out to these people in advance to make sure they can validate that you've done what you say you have



Prep for your BIF & References

https://admission.uoguelph.ca/dvmbif



documents list on WebAdvicer and as each accessment is received you will

Look through the Sample Reference Questions BEFORE you ask for references!!

Volunteer Opportunities

• Toronto Wildlife Centre

- Wildlife experience
 - https://www.torontowildlifecentre.com/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/

• Wishing Well Farm Sanctuary

- Large/Food animal experience
- <u>https://wishingwellsanctuary.org/</u>

• Happily Ever Esther Farm Sanctuary

- Large/Food animal experience
 - https://www.happilyeveresther.ca/volunteer



Final Tip...

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



OVC Admissions Debrief 2020

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liYMxIYn7DM



COVID-19 and the OVC Application



"The interview scores becomes 35% of the final ranking and is combined with the admissions average calculated in step 1 above (which is now 65%). The top applicants are re-ranked with the combined score.

Individuals applying as part of the graduate student cohort will be interviewed



CASPer

- <u>https://prepmatch.com/</u>
- <u>https://futurememd.com/casper-prep</u>
- <u>https://takecasper.com/test-prep/</u>
- <u>https://caspertestprep.com/</u>
- Any resources you would have used to prep for MMI



Take-Home Message:

- OVC has not yet stated what their interview process will be this year
- Stay informed by checking their website throughout the year:
 - http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/recruitment/en/applyingtodvm/selectionprocess.asp
- Be prepared for anything!



Questions?