



Program Planning Enclosure

Calendar Year: 2011/2012

Faculty: Arts & Science (U of L)

Current and past Program Planning Guides are available on the UofL website at www.uleth.ca/ross/ppgs/ppg.html

Veterinary Medicine (University of Saskatchewan)

Students with an academic objective of Veterinary Medicine at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine are admitted to the B.Sc. program with a major in Agricultural Biotechnology, Biochemistry, or Biological Sciences. Please refer to the appropriate Program Planning Guide for a sample sequence of courses.

Admission to the University of Saskatchewan

To be in a position to apply to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan after the completion of 20 courses, students must include the following:

Biochemistry 2000 - Introductory Biochemistry
Biology 1010 - Cellular Basis of Life
Biology 1020 - Diversity of Life
Biology 2000 - Principles of Genetics
Biology 3400 - Principles of Microbiology
Chemistry 1000 - General Chemistry I
Chemistry 2000 - General Chemistry II
Chemistry 2500 - Organic Chemistry I
English 1900 - Introduction to Language and Literature
English (2000 level)
Mathematics 1560 - Calculus I
Mathematics 2560 - Calculus II
Physics 1000 - Introduction to Physics I
A university-level Statistics course (e.g., Statistics 1770) is recommended

The pre-Veterinary Medicine courses may be completed in two years. Completion of the requirements does not guarantee admission to the competitive Veterinary Medicine program, so UofL degree requirements must also be considered when registering each term.

Considerations when choosing courses:

Most of the courses required for Veterinary Medicine (University of Saskatchewan) are among requirements for the Agricultural Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Biological Sciences majors. Students should follow the sequencing plan for the chosen UofL major, adjusting course selection as appropriate to include requirements for Veterinary Medicine. Courses not included in the major must be taken as electives (courses outside the major). Students should take note of the following:

1. Physics 1000 is specifically required for admission to WCVM. Although Physics 1050 satisfies degree requirements for Agricultural Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Biological Sciences, it will not fulfill pre-Veterinary Medicine requirements for the University of Saskatchewan.
2. Mathematics 1560 and 2560 are specifically required for Biochemistry. Agricultural Biotechnology and Biological Sciences majors will choose Mathematics 1560 as the required Mathematics course and will choose Mathematics 2560 as an elective.
3. Agricultural Biotechnology and Biochemistry majors will choose English 1900 and another English course as electives. Biological Sciences majors will choose English 1900 as a required cognate in the major and an English elective. These courses will fulfill two List I (Fine Arts and Humanities) courses for the General Liberal Education Requirement (GLER).
4. Biological Sciences majors should choose Biology 3400 (Principles of Microbiology) for List 2 - Organismal Biology.
5. Biochemistry 2300 (Elements of Human Nutrition) is not acceptable for the Biochemistry requirement.

Choice of Major:

Students with an academic objective of Veterinary Medicine are admitted to a B.Sc. degree program with a major in Agricultural Biotechnology, Biochemistry or Biological Sciences. The choice of major does not affect a student's eligibility for admission but does affect registration priority for courses at the UofL. After completion of a year or two, students may elect to change majors and complete another degree program such as a B.Sc. with a major in Chemistry or Neuroscience. Students considering a change of major should consult an Academic Advisor.

Veterinary Medicine (WCVM):

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine is regional in nature and designed to serve the educational needs of students from the four western provinces and the territories. Competition for admission to the program is extremely keen; 20 students from Alberta are accepted each year. Although students may apply to the WCVM after completion of 20 courses, the majority of successful applicants have at least three years of undergraduate studies and many have applied to the College more than once. The likelihood of acceptance increases with the level of education achieved.

Admission is based on the following criteria:

1. Cumulative average of grades achieved for all courses taken in the pre-Veterinary program: A formula is used to calculate a weighted average, taking into consideration all academic years of a student's program. These weighted averages are then arithmetically ranked. This academic ranking is the primary criterion used to determine which applicants will be interviewed. A minimum cumulative average of 75%, calculated based on all university courses completed, must be presented. Students are not encouraged to repeat courses. The first passed grade will be used in calculations.
WCVM advises students to carry a full-time course load (30.0 credit hours in a consecutive Fall/Spring sequence) to meet admission requirements.
2. Interview: The top ranking candidates are invited to an interview. Interviews take place in April and late May or early June. Interviews are offered at an Alberta location such as Calgary or Edmonton, at a cost to the student.
3. References: Two names and addresses of persons who are willing to act as referees must be provided. Students are advised to request references from individuals who can comment on academic potential, personal interests, reliability, maturity and previous experience with animals. One reference must be a veterinarian and the second reference must be someone with an animal/agriculture background. The referees will be contacted directly by the WCVM.

Application Procedure:

1. Applications to the WCVM must be submitted by December 1 prior to the year of admission. The application form must be complete in every detail and must be accompanied by the application fee. Check the University of Saskatchewan website for current fee information. Space is provided on the application form to nominate referees to support the application.
2. All applicants must forward two official transcripts to the WCVM Admissions Office. One set of official transcripts should be sent at the time of application, and the second should be sent as soon as final marks are available in the spring. However, those currently enrolled in university should delay submission of their first transcript until final marks from the first semester are available.

Decisions are made in June, following the period of candidate interviews. The WCVM is most likely to offer admission to an academically-qualified student who has also:

- Demonstrated a practical interest in Veterinary Medicine through previous experience in the handling of animals;
- Developed good interpersonal skills;
- Shown a genuine interest in animals and their care; and,
- Investigated the nature of the profession and its career choices before application.

The Admissions Committee stresses that they are looking for students who have potential to become competent veterinarians.

Contact Information:

UofL students with an academic objective of Veterinary Medicine are urged to consult with Student Program Services (SU060; tel. 403-329-5106; email: artsci.advising@uleth.ca) for program selection and advice. Direct consultation with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine is also recommended.

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 University of Saskatchewan
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