



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Class of 2028

Application Manual  
University of Calgary's Doctor of Veterinary  
Medicine (DVM) program.

**\*\*Application Deadline: November 24, 2023\*\***

Please Note: Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome or Firefox are the preferred browsers to use that will best support the web application and allow applicants to upload supporting documents into the Student Centre.

**UCVM Admissions Office**  
**CWPH 2E09, 3280 Hospital Drive NW**  
**Calgary, AB**  
**T2N 4Z6**

**Telephone: 403.220.8699**  
**Email: [vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca](mailto:veter.admissions@ucalgary.ca)**

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## 1. About the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) is internationally recognized for its innovative curriculum and community-based clinical education model. Students graduate from the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program with the skills and knowledge to perform all procedures common to general veterinary practice – from the family cat and dog to livestock and horses.

The DVM program is accredited by the AVMA-CVMA (American and Canadian Veterinary Medical Associations) Council on Education and is based on an integrated core-elective model. The core program provides a comprehensive general veterinary education covering all the major domestic species, including food producing animals, equine and companion animals, and the major zoological species. The elective programs cover all areas of general veterinary practice and provide enhanced opportunities in four Areas of Emphasis:

- **Production Animal Health:** population and individual animal health of all food and other production animal species; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the livestock industry and rural Alberta.
- **Ecosystem and Public Health:** animal and public health at the interface of domestic animals, wildlife, humans and the environment; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of society through public and private practice in areas related to public health, food safety, environmental and agricultural interfaces, wildlife/conservation/zoo medicine and health.
- **Equine Health:** population and individual care of horses; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the horse industry, horse owners, and rural Alberta.
- **Investigative Medicine:** comparative medicine and biomedical research; encouraging students to pursue careers advancing animal and human health through research (basic, clinical, applied, or population health).

The DVM program is delivered over four calendar years and includes 9 semesters of instruction. The first three years are each two semesters in length and follow the University academic calendar. These semesters include both on-campus and off-campus learning experiences. A number of extracurricular learning activities are also available. The fourth year is the equivalent of three semesters – 40 weeks of practicum rotation experiences, plus two weeks for assessment, delivered over a full calendar year. Through our Distributed Veterinary Learning Community (DVLC) students will gain valuable hands-on clinical, diagnostic and professional experience in the fourth year of the program. The DVLC is comprised of private and public practices, non-government organizations, federal and provincial agencies and other animal industry partners who work with UCVM faculty to provide an exciting collaborative environment and outstanding learning opportunities for our DVM students.

## Overview – four years at UCVM

**Year One** – Students are introduced to veterinary medicine through a wide range of foundational courses. Hands-on skills are learned early in the program and practical experiences are gained during field trips involving various animal industries.

**Year Two** – Students build on the fundamentals learned in year one and begin to gain a more detailed understanding of the diagnosis of disease. Electives are offered in our four “Areas of Emphasis” and field courses provide practical experiences.

**Year Three** – Along with advanced course work, students expand their hands-on training with an emphasis on surgical skills and treatment techniques. Field course experiences round out the students’ training in the four “Areas of Emphasis”.

**Year Four** – Over the 40-week final year program, students gain practical hands-on experience in a variety of veterinary clinics and settings across Alberta, nationally, and around the world.

The first three years of the DVM program are delivered predominantly at the Foothills and Spy Hill Campuses, with students spending time at each site. Students are responsible for their own travel between sites, with classes scheduled to allow full day activities at each site. During the final year of the DVM program, students complete their practicum rotations on and off campus. Most practicum rotations occur in private veterinary practices and other institutional settings that together constitute the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine’s Distributed Veterinary Learning Community. Our distributed veterinary learning community (DVLC) includes sites such as Brooks, Oyen, Peace River, and Pincher Creek. Students should be prepared to participate in mandatory clinical experience outside the cities of Calgary and Edmonton. Having your own transportation is a must. As part of the DVM program, students must participate in learning opportunities at partner sites and may be required to live in close proximity to the site to facilitate on-call responsibilities. While travel support is provided, students are responsible for their travel arrangements to partner locations and for their own accommodation arrangements.

- To find more information you can visit the University of Calgary Calendar: [Click Here](#)

## 2. Admissions

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine accepts approximately 50 students per year. Students **must** be Alberta residents<sup>1</sup>, as defined by the Province of Alberta. The Admissions Committee recommends students for admission to the program on the basis of academic and non-academic attributes. Students are assessed on academic performance in their last 4 full-time undergraduate terms, completion of the ten required courses, and their MCAT score (see admission requirements below). Selected applicants will be invited for an interview at which time non-academic factors are assessed. Selected applicants will also complete a CASPer test. During the interview, applicants are required to compose an on-site essay and participate in a series of interviews and other activities.

Understanding of the veterinary profession and animal industries relevant to the applicant's career interests is expected. Demonstrating attributes compatible with successful careers in veterinary

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous see below.

practice that support rural development and sustainability, and for careers related to our areas of emphasis, is considered an asset, as is animal or veterinary-related experience, though is not required. This can be obtained through practical experiences or through other means.

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine considers applicants from a variety of educational backgrounds. No preference is given to any particular program, college, or university. However, The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine does not normally accept applications from students who have withdrawn, who have been required to withdraw, or who have been expelled from any school or college of veterinary medicine.

In selecting students, UCVM is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive admissions process free from discrimination and bias. UCVM is committed to removing barriers to admission for Indigenous peoples or barriers based on: sex and gender (LGBTQ2S+), race/ethnicity/culture/religion (including but not limited to, visible/racialized minorities), persons with disabilities, socioeconomic status and age.

Physical and learning disabilities must not prevent the applicant, upon graduation, from demonstrating competency in the skills and procedures expected of an individual who has completed a DVM degree in an accredited institution.

## **Admission Requirements**

### **2.1 Alberta Residency Requirements**

To be eligible for admission, you must be an Alberta resident, as defined by the Province of Alberta at the time of application (November 24, 2023). As such, you must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or have protected person status under Canada’s Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Criteria are outlined in the Alberta Government Guidelines (within the *Student Financial Assistance Regulation*) and are used to determine residency status. The Alberta Government’s Guidelines for residency requirements are detailed in the bullet points below. Alternatively, they can be accessed directly on the Alberta Government website (<https://studentaid.alberta.ca/policy/student-aid-policy-manual/eligibility-for-student-loans-and-grants/residency/>).

To determine your residency, you first need to know if you are considered a “dependent” or an “independent” student.

#### **Independent student (one or more of the following applies to you):**

- 23 years of age or older,
- have been out of high school for at least 4 years,
- have been available for full time work for at least two years since leaving high school,
- are married or common law,
- are divorced, separated, or widowed,
- have at least one dependent child of your own.

**Definition of residency for “Independent students”**

- Alberta is the province in which you have most recently lived for TWELVE (12) consecutive months while not a full time post-secondary student, **or**
- You have never lived in any other Canadian province for TWELVE (12) consecutive months and are attending a post-secondary school in Alberta.

If you do not meet at least one of the criteria for being an independent student, you would be considered a “dependent” student.

**Definition of residency for “Dependent students”**

- At least ONE (1) of your parents must live in Alberta.

For admission to Veterinary Medicine, the Province of Alberta determines residency as follows:

- a) The Residence of an applicant remains that of his/her parent(s) unless a new Residence has been established in accordance with clause (b);
- b) The Residence of an applicant shall be considered to be Alberta, if the applicant has last resided in Alberta for a period of twelve consecutive months (excluding any period during which the applicant was attending a college or university);
- c) A Canadian citizen who is resident outside of Canada and intends to re-establish residence in Canada shall be considered a resident of the province or territory of Canada where he/she last resided for a period of twelve consecutive months before leaving Canada; and
- d) A person who is a permanent resident as defined in the Immigration Act (Canada) shall not be considered to be a resident of Alberta of Canada unless you fall under clause (b)

**Residency for Married or Common-Law Students:**

- A student is considered an Alberta resident if their spouse/partner meets the Alberta residency requirements.

**Residency for Students for Border Communities:**

- Students residing in border communities are considered to be residents of the province/territory to which their home postal code belongs.

Proof of Alberta residency (two currently valid government-issued documents) will be required with your application. If you have any questions regarding your residency status, please contact the UCVM Admissions Office at [vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca).

## **Indigenous Residency**

For Indigenous applicants (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit), Alberta residency requirements do not apply. UCVM will consider all Indigenous applicants from across Canada who meet our academic requirements. Proof of Indigenous status will need to be provided.

In recognition that academic barriers may have been encountered by Indigenous applicants, an opportunity is provided in the Program Specific Questions section of the application to expand on these circumstances.

The following link provides examples of documents that will be accepted as proof of Indigenous status:

[https://www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents/undergraduate/indigenous/admissions\\_process\\_documents](https://www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents/undergraduate/indigenous/admissions_process_documents)

## **Indigenous Applicant Support**

[Indigenous students | University of Calgary \(ucalgary.ca\)](https://www.ucalgary.ca/futurestudents/undergraduate/indigenous/admissions_process_documents)

The page linked above details University of Calgary supports for Indigenous undergraduate students, including for admissions, awards, and the resource that is Writing Symbols Lodge (which provide “academic, personal, and cultural support services...to prospective and current” Indigenous students). There is also a link to connect with an Indigenous Student Recruitment Team member, which can support Indigenous students who have questions about admissions, programs, and other supports on campus. Finally, there is a link to a [“Viewbook for Prospective Indigenous Students”](#) which highlights admission pathways and programs for Indigenous students, awards and supports.

## **2.2 Minimum Academic Requirements**

Normally, minimum academic requirements from undergraduate studies to receive consideration for admission are as follows:

**2.2.1 – Four (4) most recent full-time semesters:** A minimum combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (“B” or its equivalent) over the last four full-time terms of undergraduate academic years, as defined below.

- You must have completed or be in the process of completing four or more terms (semesters) of full time post-secondary undergraduate education at a recognized university or at a college providing university-equivalency in coursework. UCVM defines a “full time” term as a minimum of **FOUR** (4) ‘first-attempt’ courses per term (semester), taken between the months of September – December (Fall term) and January – April (Winter term) for a total of 16 half-course equivalents. The third and/or fourth term(s) may be in progress at the time of application, but at least four terms of undergraduate education must be completed by the end of the Winter term preceding admission (i.e. April 30, 2024).
- A full-time semester could be made up of five courses, with **FOUR** ‘first-attempt’ courses and **ONE** repeat of one of the ten required courses. In this situation, the grades for the four ‘new’ courses would be used for calculation of the 4-term GPA and the repeat attempt on the required course would be used towards of the 10-course eligibility.

- For applicants currently enrolled in full time studies, the combined GPA of the most recent **THREE (3)** full time undergraduate terms as of December 31, 2023 will be used to calculate GPA for interview eligibility and selection.
- For applicants currently enrolled in full time studies, the combined GPA of the most recent **FOUR (4)** full time undergraduate terms as of April 30, 2024 will be used to calculate GPA for admission purposes.
- For applicants who have already completed all of their studies (i.e. an undergraduate degree has been completed and the applicant is no longer a full-time student), the most recent **FOUR (4)** full time undergraduate terms will be used to calculate GPA for both interview and admission purposes.
- Applicants may use the average GPA of all courses from the most recent graduate program to count towards their most recent full-time term, provided that the graduate degree will be completed in the year of application prior to registration in the DVM program.

**Treatment of transcripts with Credit Received (CR) grades:**

- A percentage or letter grade must be showing for each full-semester/full-credit course on your official transcript. In the event that one or all courses are showing as, 'credit received' (CR); the admissions office will still recognize the semester; however, a grade will not be used in your GPA calculation, and you will receive credit towards the semester as one of your most recent full-time semesters, providing all of the other criteria are met.

**2.2.2 – Ten (10) Required Courses:** A passing grade is required in each of the following suggested courses. Each of the ten (10) courses below must be showing on your official transcript.

<b>Required Undergraduate Course</b>	<b>**University of Calgary Equivalent Course</b>
TWO (2) introductory <b>Biology</b> courses (a lab component is required for each course)	BIOL 241 and BIOL 243
TWO (2) introductory <b>Chemistry</b> courses (a lab component is required for each course)	CHEM 201 and CHEM 203
ONE (1) introductory <b>English</b> course (must contain a writing component)	ENGL 251
ONE (1) introductory <b>Organic Chemistry</b> course (a lab component is required)	CHEM 351
ONE (1) introductory <b>Statistics</b> course	STAT 205
ONE (1) introductory <b>Biochemistry</b> course (a lab component is optional)	BCEM 341 or BCEM 393
ONE (1) introductory <b>Genetics</b> course (a lab component is optional)	BIOL 311
ONE (1) introductory <b>Ecology</b> course (a lab component is optional)	BIOL 313



\*\*The University of Calgary courses shown in the table (above) serve as examples of the required courses. Please refer to the Alberta Transfer Guide website (<http://acat.gov.ab.ca>) or our UCVM Admissions website ([www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram)) to determine if your courses are acceptable. The UCVM Admissions committee recommends that you contact the academic program counsellor at your post-secondary institution to ensure that you have all of the required acceptable courses.

- Online or distance-learning courses may be used.
- A required course may not be repeated more than once for consideration. No more than four (4) of the required courses may be repeated.
- Applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing the required courses, with at least seven (7) of the ten (10) required courses being completed before December 31 in the year preceding admission. In-progress courses must be completed by April 30 of the year of admission. Repeat courses may not be used towards meeting the definition of a full-time term. A grade that is achieved from a repeat attempt on a required course cannot be used towards the four-term GPA.
- Applicants are advised to monitor the UCVM website for any exceptions or changes to these requirements. Students requesting an exception to any aspect of not meeting the minimum academic requirements must do so at the time of application by completing the necessary section of the application form (Q2 of the Program Specific Question Section). Such requests will normally only be considered on submission of a complete application.

### **University of Calgary Calendar Descriptions of the required suggested courses:**

#### **Introductory Biology – BIOL 241 H(3-3) - Energy Flow in Biological Systems**

An introduction to the energetics of life from molecules through ecosystems. Topics include: energy in biological systems; how different organisms obtain, store and use energy; energy budgets of organisms; and energy flow through cells and ecosystems.

#### **Introductory Biology – BIOL 243 H(3-3) - DNA, Inheritance and Evolution**

An introduction to central concepts in evolution and DNA as a vehicle for inheritance of genetic information. Topics include: the nature of genetic information and inheritance including transcription, translation and replication; natural selection and speciation; origin and history of biodiversity.

#### **Introductory Chemistry – CHEM 201 H(3-.75T-3/2) - General Chemistry: Structure and Bonding**

An introduction to university chemistry from theoretical and practical perspectives, that focuses on an exploration of fundamental links between electronic structure, chemical bonding, molecular structure and the interactions of molecules using inorganic and organic examples.

#### **Introductory Chemistry – CHEM 203 H(3-.75-3/2) - General Chemistry: Change and Equilibrium**

An introduction to university chemistry from theoretical and practical perspectives that focuses on an exploration of fundamental links between kinetics, equilibria and thermodynamics and explores acidity/basicity and redox behaviour using inorganic and organic examples.

#### **English – ENGL 251 H(3.0) – Literature and Society**

An examination of the relationship of literature to the world around us, with instruction in close reading and critical writing. Considers how literature as a cultural practice responds to and reflects its social context. Includes the study of at least one text by an Indigenous author.

### **Organic Chemistry – CHEM 351 H(3-1T-3) - Organic Chemistry I**

An introduction to Organic Chemistry from a mechanistic perspective. Structure, bonding, and function, e.g. physical properties and reactivity. Stereochemistry, kinetics and thermodynamics, spectroscopy (nuclear magnetic resonance, infrared, ultra-violet/visible, and mass spectrometric techniques). Substitution and elimination reactions of saturated functional groups – the chemistry of alkanes, alkyl halides, alcohols and their derivatives. Laboratory: Practical techniques.

### **Statistics – STAT 205 H(3-1T) - Introduction to Statistical Inquiry**

The systematic progression of statistical principles needed to conduct a statistical investigation culminating in parameter estimation, hypothesis testing, statistical modelling, and design of experiments.

### **Biochemistry – BCEM 393 H(3-3/2) - Intro to Biochemistry**

The structure and function of carbohydrates, amino acids, proteins, lipids, coenzymes and enzymes will be presented, along with an introduction to metabolism and energy transduction. Laboratory: Overview of current biochemical techniques for studying proteins, enzymes and metabolic pathways.

### **Introductory Genetics – BIOL 311 H(3-3) - Principle of Genetics**

Topics will include Mendelian inheritance, allelic relationships, genetic linkage, sex linkage, changes in chromosome structure, segregation and recombination, epistasis, molecular genetics, genetics of bacteria and viruses, gene fine structure, gene function, complementation, bioinformatics and regulation of gene expression. Several selected organisms will be used in the laboratories to illustrate pertinent genetic principles.

### **Introductory Ecology – BIOL 313 H(3-3) - An Introduction to Ecology and Evolution**

The ecological principles, theories and interactions of organisms at individual, population, community and ecosystem levels will be explored. Ecological principles will be applied to examine current issues involving conservation of species, habitats, biodiversity and ecosystem function.

## **2.3 English Language Proficiency**

English is the official language of instruction at the University of Calgary. All applicants must demonstrate English language proficiency to be considered for admission. For all applicants for whom English is not their first language, English language proficiency can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

**2.3.1** - Completion of at least TWO (2) full years within a degree program offered by an accredited university in a country which the University of Calgary recognizes as English language proficiency exempt.

**2.3.2** - A score of 100 with a minimum score of 27 in each sub-score on the [TOEFL iBT](#) (Test of English as a Foreign Language); OR

**2.3.3** - A minimum score of 8.0 with no bands below a 7.0 on the [IELTS Academic](#) (International English Language Testing System).

Normally, students will only be admissible if the English Language Proficiency requirement has been satisfied. The Registrar has the authority to use discretion in exceptional circumstances. Students must meet English Language proficiency requirements in addition to meeting the English subject admission requirement for the DVM program.

## **2.4 Medical College Admissions Test – MCAT**

All applicants must write the Medical College Admission Test in sufficient time to ensure that their MCAT scores will be available to the Admissions Committee by the application deadline (November 24, 2023). This usually means that writing the test by end of August of the year of application. To find specific MCAT testing dates and times, please visit the AAMC website here: [Canadian MCAT Calendar](#). It is the applicant's responsibility to take the MCAT and have their score released in time before the UCVM DVM application deadline. It is imperative that applicants contact the MCAT Program Office ([www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat)) for details about the test and must instruct the AAMC to release their MCAT results to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Applicants to the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine DVM program should also be aware that all applicants must complete the MCAT within the three (3) years prior to the submission date of their application. A minimum MCAT score of  $\geq 495$  is required.

MCAT Fee Assistance Program for Canadian Examinees: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/fee-assistance-program/fee-assistance-program-canadian-examinees>

## **2.5 Minimum MCAT Score**

A qualified applicant to the UCVM DVM program will have a minimum MCAT score of  $\geq 495$  on any attempt within three (3) years of the current application cycle year.

## **2.6 Entering Your MCAT Score**

There is no need for applicants to enter MCAT scores into UCAN: MCAT scores are automatically downloaded from the AAMC by our office if: ***you have released your MCAT scores specifically to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and specifically during the current application cycle.***

\*\*It is imperative that applicants contact AAMC to arrange for the release of your MCAT scores to UCVM. This is not an automatic process and failure to release scores has resulted in the disqualification of several applications each year. You can do this through the MCAT Testing History (THx) System at:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>

## **3. How to apply**

The UCVM Admissions policy is reviewed annually and requirements from previous years may not apply. **Please note that, deadlines are strictly enforced. All relevant documentation must be provided by the specified deadlines. Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Please follow the instructions carefully.

A complete application consists of:

- The completed application form,
- The application fee,
- Post-secondary transcripts submitted by all academic institutions attended,
- MCAT Score released to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
- Proof of Alberta residency documents. Either in the form of a current Alberta Driver's License, or Alberta Identification Card, **and** a valid Alberta Health Care card, both are required,
- Signed Declaration,
- Identification and contact information of the three (3) references, including two professional references, and one personal reference.
  - Referees must include an instructor at a post-secondary institution, a supervisor from a work/volunteer setting, and a personal reference who is a non-relative or close friend.
  - Referees will be contacted directly and provided with a pre-set list of questions that will be used to determine the applicant's suitability for Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary.

The application form can be found on the UCVM website (<http://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmapplication>). The application form has interactive fields that you must complete. The application form does not need to be completed in one sitting, but there is a 30-minute time limit once you are logged into the system. Should your session time-out, you will need to sign back-in to continue so remember to **save the application form frequently while you are completing it**. Information that has been entered but not saved will be lost upon exiting or timing out of the system.

Once the form has been completed to your satisfaction, save your application and click "submit". You will be unable to edit your application once you have submitted it. If changes are required thereafter, please email [vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca).

**\*\*Applications and supporting documents are used only for the current application cycle.** A new, complete application will be required for any future applications. As the applicant, it is your responsibility to ensure that the UCVM Admissions Office receives all of the required documents by the stated deadlines.

Your Alberta Student Number (ASN) is required to permit access for the electronic transfer of your post-secondary transcripts from participating institutions.

If you do not know your ASN, please check the Alberta Government Learner Registry: <https://extranetapp.learning.gov.ab.ca/learnerRegistry/forms>

Throughout the process, you can check on the status of your application by logging into your Student Centre. You can access your Student Centre through the "My U of C" portal on the UCVM webpage ([www.vet.ucalgary.ca](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca)). Once you log in, scroll to the bottom of the page to see the information that pertains to your application. Help is available at [www.vet.ucalgary.ca/applicationhelp](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca/applicationhelp). Check your Student Centre for updates regarding your application and any outstanding documents.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

<b>Monday, October 2, 2023</b>	Application cycle for the UCVM Class of 2028 will open.
<b>Friday, November 24, 2023</b>	Application deadline. <b>No extensions will be granted FOR ANY REASON.</b> MCAT Scores to be released to the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by or on November 24, 2023.
<b>Friday January 12, 2024</b>	Deadline to receive transcripts from Fall 2023 semester.
<b>January – February 2024</b>	Evaluation of applications & File Review.
<b>Friday March 1, 2024</b>	Interview (MMI) invitations sent out on or before via email.
<b>March 22, 2024</b>	Invited applicants to write the Essay portion of the Interview process.
<b>Saturday, March 23rd, 2024</b>	Interview Day – Multiple Mini-Interview.
<b>April 2024</b>	Applicants invited for interview will write the online Casper test. Casper test date: April 9, 2024
<b>March – May 2024</b>	Evaluation of data by Admissions Committee.
<b>Friday, May 17, 2024</b>	Deadline to receive transcripts from Winter 2024 semester.

<b>First week of June 2024</b>	Approval of invitation list for Class of 2028.
<b>Second week of June 2024 (approximate)</b>	Initial offers of admission made to successful applicants.
<b>Third week of June 2024 (approximate)</b>	Deadline for responding to initial offers of admission. First waitlist offers sent out.
<b>Fall 2024</b>	Application and Applicant Manual will be available for the 2024/2025 application cycle Class of 2029.

**November 24, 2023: Application Deadline**

It is your responsibility to complete the required application package and submit it to UCVM Admissions Office with all necessary documentation by the application deadline. Please be aware that some versions of Internet Explorer do not fully support the web application or allow the user to upload documents into the Student Centre. Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome or Firefox are the preferred browsers to use.

**January 12, 2024: Transcript Deadline**

It is your responsibility to ensure that the official transcripts arrive at the UCVM Admissions Office (address below) postmarked on or before January 12, 2024. The transcripts must include all courses taken up to and including the Fall 2023 term. If you have entered your Alberta Student Number (ASN), transcripts from **participating institutions** will be sent automatically to the UCVM Admissions Office and no other action is required on your part.

If you do not have an ASN, if you attended institutions that are not included in the ASN program, or if the institutions are located outside of Alberta, **you will need to arrange to have Official Transcripts sent directly to the UCVM Admissions Office.** Official transcripts are required for each post-secondary institution (college, university, or technical school) attended.

UCVM will accept equivalent IB or AP courses; the credit received must be showing on your university transcript.

For transcripts to be considered official they must be sent directly from the Registrar’s Office of the post-secondary institution to the UCVM Admissions Office and they must be imprinted with the school’s seal and/or bear the appropriate signature. Transcripts may be submitted before submission of your application. Please contact the UCVM Admissions Office if alternative arrangements need to be made.

Arrange to have official transcripts sent to:

**“Transcripts”  
UCVM Admissions Office  
CWPB 2E09, 3280 Hospital Dr NW  
Calgary, AB  
T2N 4Z6**

### **Date – April 9, 2024: CASPer Test – Only for applicants invited for an interview**

**All applicants invited for an interview will be required to write the CASPer test.**

**CASPer - Computer Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics (CASPer™)**

#### About CASPer

CASPer is an online situational judgement test used to assess non-academic competencies of applicants applying to professional academic programs. Non-academic competencies include personal characteristics such as ethical thinking, resiliency, empathy, communication, and collaboration ability may be assessed.

**For those required to write the CASPer test, you will be responsible for:**

- a) Registration at <https://takecasper.com/>
- b) Payment for the test - **\$66.00** (\$50 base fee + \$16 for the distribution) + G.S.T
- c) Signing up for the listed test date: **Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

### **March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024: Interview Day**

Invitations for interviews will be sent by email on or before March 1, 2024. It is your responsibility to keep your contact information up to date in your Student Centre so we are able to contact you. You will have until the given deadline in your invitation to accept, which you can do by email. **Interviews will take place on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, online.**

**\*\*Applicants will be notified if the Interview Day is cancelled or changed to in-person for any reason.**

**\*\*\*If the interviews are being held in-person, they will be held in Calgary. Applicants will be financially responsible for attending the interviews.**

### **May 17, 2024: Final Transcript Deadline**

If necessary, you must ensure that the official transcripts from the Winter 2024 term arrive at the UCVM Admissions Office postmarked on or **before May 17, 2024**. If you were not taking any courses in the Winter 2024 term, you do not need to resubmit new transcripts. Offers of admission will be conditional on receipt of final transcripts by May 17, 2024. If you have entered your Alberta Student

Number (ASN), transcripts from **participating institutions** will be sent automatically to the UCVM Admissions Office. If verification is not possible, you must notify the UCVM Admissions Office to request a deferred submission. If transcripts are not received, or the UCVM Admissions committee has not approved a deferred submission, your application will not be considered further.

Offers of Admission will be sent by email in the second week of June. You will have 5 business days from the date on the letter to respond to the offer.

Letters to wait-listed applicants and applicants who are not offered admission are expected to be sent in the second or third week of June. If, and when, additional spaces become available, waitlisted students will be notified immediately. Please note that placements may become available throughout the summer. Make sure that your current contact information is kept up to date in your Student Centre in the event that we need to contact you.

#### **4. UCVM Admissions Office Contact Information**

**Email:** [vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca)

**Phone:** 403.220.8699

**Mailing Address:**

UCVM Admissions Office

CWPH 2E09, 3280 Hospital Dr NW

Calgary, AB

T2N 4Z6

**Website:** [www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram)

#### **5. Application Fees**

An application fee of \$125.00 CDN is required. Payment is accepted by credit card (Visa/ MasterCard/ American Express). All application fees are non-refundable.

#### **6. Program Costs**

Tuition for the 2023/24 year was \$14,041.14 (reviewed annually).

General Fees for the 2023/24 year were approx. \$1,300.00 (reviewed annually).

In addition to tuition and general fees, DVM students are charged a fee for student safety equipment in their first year of study (2023 fee approx. \$400.00).

For information regarding Student Awards and Financial Aid, please see the following website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/awards>.



## **7. How to fill out the application form**

**\*\*Note:** not all of the “help functions” that are found in the online application form are applicable to our DVM Application. Many of the functions pertain to other University of Calgary faculties that share a similar application template. If you have questions about your application, please contact us directly using the information provided in this manual.

### **Step 1: Create an electronic ID (eID) and open the application form**

You need to have an eID before starting the application. If you do not have an eID, you will need to create one. Once you have created your eID, proceed to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine application. The eID and DVM application can be found at: [www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmapplication](http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmapplication).

Navigation of the application will be done through the tabs on the left-hand side of the web page.

### **Step 2: Create a new application**

Click on the “create a new application” button. When asked to create a “new admission”, select “Fall 2024” in the dropdown menu.

### **Step 3: Complete the “Read This First” page**

This page provides a summary of important information that is relevant to applying to UCVM’s DVM program. You need to click “I have read this page” in order to proceed.

### **Step 4: Personal Information, Contact Information, Citizenship**

Please provide us with the required contact and demographic information. This includes your Alberta Student Number (ASN) and your University of Calgary ID number (UCID) if applicable. If you do not know your ASN but have attended a participating institution, you can retrieve this information from the Alberta Learners Registry:

<https://extranetapp.learning.gov.ab.ca/learnerRegistry/forms/>

**\*\*Note:** you may receive correspondence from the UCVM Admissions Office up until the first day of classes. Please keep you Student Centre updated with any changes to your contact information after you submit your application.

### **Step 5: Post-Secondary Education**

***Information from this section will be used to select applicants for an interview.***

Please list all of the post-secondary institutions you have attended, starting with the most recent. One official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended, including the University of Calgary, must be sent directly to the UCVM Admissions Office. Transcripts for courses completed before December 31, 2023 must arrive at the UCVM Admissions Office postmarked on or before January 12, 2024. If you did not provide an ASN, or if you attended a post-secondary institution outside Alberta, please contact each institution that you have attended in order to ensure that they send the transcripts directly to the UCVM Admissions Office in advance of the stated deadline.

## Transcripts:

UCVM Admissions Office  
CWPH 2E09, 3280 Hospital Dr NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 4Z6

You can make sure we have received your transcripts by checking their status in your Student Centre.

## Step 6: Required Courses

***Information from this section will be used to select applicants for an interview.***

Provide the course equivalent name and number as indicated on your transcripts, the institution at which the course was taken and the final grade for the course. If the course is currently in-progress, please indicate with "IP". To be considered, you must have completed or be in the process of completing all of the **TEN (10)** required courses, **with at least SEVEN (7) of the TEN courses being completed before December 31, 2023. All in-progress courses (including online and distance learning courses) must be completed by April 30, 2024.**

**\*\*For your application to be considered, this course table must be completed in its entirety listing examples of the science courses taken.**

## Step 7: Program Specific Questions

***Students requesting an exception to any aspect of the stated admission requirements must do so at the time of application by completing the following sections of the application form. Such requests will only be considered following submission of a complete application.***

**7.1** Please provide information regarding if you have withdrawn, been required to withdraw, or been expelled from any **school or college of veterinary medicine**.

- You do not need to complete this section if you have withdrawn from a course during a different undergraduate degree.

**7.2** Recognizing that various academic barriers may have been encountered by applicants, you have the opportunity to use this section of the application to expand on any such circumstances. In addition, this section gives you the opportunity to explain any extraordinary circumstances (e.g. medical health event; residency status, or other commitments) that may have had a negative influence on your academic performance or prevented you from meeting our stated admission requirements. Please provide a detailed explanation of the extraordinary circumstance(s), precisely when they occurred, and specifically which course(s) or semester(s) were affected. Please provide any supporting documents of the circumstance to the UCVm Admissions Office ([vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca)), and include a description of specific steps you have taken to mitigate the impact of these events on your future full-time studies.

**Any supporting documents are due on the Application Deadline: Friday, November 24, 2023.**

**7.3** Acknowledging that applicants come from diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and worldviews, please take this opportunity to highlight the significance of these characteristics, including non-educational achievements, as they relate to your connection to animals and the environment, that you feel will benefit your ability to succeed in a career in the Veterinary medicine profession and influence your goals as a future veterinarian.

**7.4** Please complete this section if you have had any repeat attempts on any of the ten (10) required courses.

**7.5** All applicants are being requested to please provide some details about your life experiences as part of the application process. They will form part of your file evaluation and consideration for entrance awards for successful applicants. There is a **500-word** limit.

To answer the question, please describe up to 5 activities or experiences that you feel define you as an individual. These may be employment or volunteer experiences, other life experiences, awards, educational or research experiences, etc. For each experience or activity, provide a description and explain the impact the experience had on you and what that brings to your career in veterinary medicine.

***The information in the following sections (Steps 8-12) will be used to offer applicants an interview. In addition, the information is used retrospectively, for awarding entrance scholarships and for UCVM to gain a better understanding of the interests, prior accomplishments, and achievements of its applicant pool. The UCVM Admissions Committee requests that you complete these sections.***

## **Step 8: Interests, Prior Accomplishments, & Achievement Questions**

The UCVM Admissions Committee is interested in your background and your career interests within veterinary medicine. Please select your primary and secondary areas of career interest according to the following categories or describe an area under “Other”. This information **will be used** in selecting applicants for interviews or for determining admission and may also be used in offering entrance awards to successful applicants.

**Production animal health:** population and individual animal health of all food and other production animal species; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the livestock industry and rural Alberta.

**Ecosystem and public health:** animal and public health at the interface of domestic animals, wildlife, humans and the environment; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of society through public and private practice in areas related to public health, food safety, environmental and agricultural interfaces, wildlife/conservation/zoo medicine and health.

**Equine health:** population and individual care of horses; educating veterinarians to meet the needs of the horse industry, horse owners, and rural Alberta.

**Investigative Medicine:** comparative medicine and biomedical research; encouraging students to pursue careers advancing animal and human health through research (basic, clinical, applied, or population health).

**Small or Companion Animal:** population and individual veterinary care of companion animals. Including: cats, dogs, birds, companion small mammals and other companion exotic animals.

**General Veterinary Practice:** multi-species and rural practice. Multi-species practice includes providing veterinary services to a wide range of companion and large animal species, most often in a rural or small-town environment.

**Other:** if the area of your career interest in veterinary medicine is not listed, please overwrite the “other” option in the drop-down menu.

Next: Please select the community type you lived in prior to your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### Step 9: Academic Honours

Please include all scholarships, medals, and awards that you have received at the post-secondary level, including entrance awards and the date they were received.

### Step 10: Work Experience

Provide details of your most relevant work experiences (up to 5). These can include paid and unpaid positions. Indicate the name of your employer, start and end dates (leave end date blank if still employed), and a brief description of the nature of the work and your responsibilities. This description is limited to 250 words.

### Step 11: Extra-Curricular Activities

Please provide details of your most relevant extra-curricular activities (up to 5). Indicate the name of the organization, start and end dates (leave end date blank if still involved), and a brief description of your role and participation. This description is limited to 250 words.

### Step 12: Volunteer and Community Activities

Please provide your most relevant volunteer and community activities (up to 5). Indicate the name of the organization/community, start and end dates (leave end date blank if still involved), and a brief description of the volunteer or community-related activity. This description is limited to 250 words.

### Step 13: Program Specific Supporting Documents

This page lists the documents that are required to complete your application. You must provide the supporting documents (e.g. proof of residency) in order to complete your application, however, these documents CAN ONLY be uploaded to your Student Centre once the online application has been completed and submitted.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that all required documentation is received by the UCVM Admissions Office by the required due dates. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Please be aware that some versions of Internet Explorer do not fully support the web application or allow the user to upload documents into the Student Centre. Please consider using a different browser if this is an issue.

## Step 14: Adding Three (3) Referees

Your referees must include an instructor at a post-secondary institution, a supervisor from a work/volunteer setting, and a personal reference who is a non-relative or close friend. Referees will be contacted directly and provided with a pre-set list of questions that will be used to determine the applicant's suitability for Veterinary Medicine.

Add each referee separately, including their:

- Last, and First name,
- Title,
- Affiliated Organization,
- Type of Referee: Instructor, Supervisor, or Personal,
- Phone number,
- Email Address,
- and then confirm the email address.

Once all references are entered it will show as, Referees Entered – 3

An email will be sent to the referee directly where they will be able to fill out the reference form and submit by our stated deadline.

## Step 15: Review and Submit

Once you have completed the online application, carefully review all of the information for accuracy and completeness. Make edits if necessary, since once the application has been submitted, you cannot edit or change any of the information. If you are interested, you can print a summary of the submitted information for your records. Once you are satisfied with your application, press 'Submit'.

**\*\*You must submit your completed application before you can upload your proof of Alberta residency and declaration documents.**

## Step 16: Application Declaration & Payment

**16.1 Declaration of Applicant:** Print the Declaration of Applicant, and sign. Once it is completed, scan and upload the Declaration Form through your Student Centre on the 'My U of C' tab of the UCVM website.

This Declaration Form is due in your Student Centre on or before November 24, 2023.

The link to the form is:

[https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Declaration\\_of\\_Applicant2023-2024.pdf](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/Declaration_of_Applicant2023-2024.pdf)

**16.2 Payment:** Applicants are required to submit a \$125 **non-refundable** application fee payment with each application. Credit Cards are the preferred method of payment.

## **8. Non-Academic Attribute Assessments**

### **8.1 Interview Selection Process**

Selection for an interview is based upon a threshold of academic performance during undergraduate study established by the four (4) full-time term GPA of  $\geq 3.0$ , a Score of  $\geq 495$  on the 2015 MCAT, along with a passing grade in each of the ten (10) required courses. Applications meeting or exceeding the threshold will then be called academically qualified applications and will be subject to a file review. The file review process includes both objective and subjective assessment of non-academic attributes by three (3) members of the File Review Subcommittee. The File Review Subcommittee will be blinded to the GPA and MCAT scores as well as sex, age, and name of the applicant.

All qualified applicants will have their applications reviewed by the File Review Subcommittee, which reviews each file in a holistic manner for evidence of attributes that the DVM program has previously identified as consistent with the terminal objectives of the program. Each of these assessments is done by the assessors looking at the totality of the application file excluding GPA, transcripts, and MCAT score, but including extra-curricular activities, employment, letters of reference, and any other information contained in the file.

### **8.2 CASPer**

**Date April 9, 2024: CASPer Test – Applicants invited for an interview are required to write the CASPer test.**

**CASPer - Computer Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics (CASPer™)**

CASPer is an online situational judgement test used to assess non-academic competencies of applicants applying to professional academic programs. Characteristics such as ethical reasoning, resiliency, empathy, communication and collaboration ability may be assessed.

**Applicants required to write the CASPer test are responsible for:**

- a) **Registration at <https://takecasper.com/>**
- b) **Payment for the test - \$66.00 (\$50 base fee + \$16 for the distribution) + G.S.T**
- c) **Signing up for the listed test date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

### **8.3 Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI)**

Applicants invited for interviews will be notified via email on or before March 1, 2024. Interviews will be conducted on **March 23rd, 2024**. Applicants are responsible for all their own expenses related to the MMI & Essay.

The MMI is a standardized interview process that consists of a series of 10-minute mini-interview stations, where applicants rotate from station to station. MMIs present situational scenarios that are designed to assess the applicant's understanding of the veterinary profession and non-academic attributes that reflect the goals and objectives of the UCVM DVM program and of the veterinary profession.

## **8.4 Essay**

Applicants will be required to electronically write a timed on-site essay on Friday, March 22nd, 2024.

## **9. Admission Selection Process**

For applicants receiving an interview, the following elements are combined, in the proportions shown below, to rank order applicants for admission offers into the DVM class:

- MMI Performance: 65%
- Essay Performance: 30%
- Casper: 5%

## **10. Obligation to Register**

Applicants must register in the term to which they have been admitted for the DVM program. Individuals should not apply if they are not prepared to begin the DVM program in the Fall term of 2024.

## **11. Deferrals**

Deferral of admission will be considered only for exceptional cases (pregnancy, serious illness, compassionate grounds, participation in the Olympic Games, etc). Normally the reason would have to have arisen after submission of the application and be due to events happening to the applicant outside of their control. Deferrals will not be granted for circumstances or opportunities which could be reasonably foreseen at the time of application. This includes deferrals for the purpose of completing a degree, other course of study currently underway or other research or career opportunities.

Deferrals are only considered for a period of one year and only once a student has accepted the offer of admission to the DVM program. A request for deferral must be submitted in the form of a letter to the Dean, c/o UCVM Admissions Office, within 15 days of the date of the offer of admission. The letter must clearly explain the reason for the deferral request. The granting of a deferral is rare and is at the sole discretion of the Dean to grant or deny.

## **12. Disability Policy**

Physical and learning disabilities must not prevent the applicant, upon graduation, from demonstrating competency in the skills and procedures expected of an individual who has completed a DVM degree in an accredited institution. If you have questions about this requirement, please contact the UCVM Admissions Office.

### **13. Application Irregularities**

Failure to comply with the admissions requirements and deadlines will result in the denial of admission.

Discovery that any information is false or misleading, or that any material information has been concealed or withheld, will invalidate an application and will result in its immediate rejection or in the revocation and cancellation of an offer of admission and/or registration if the applicant has been admitted. Should an applicant be admitted, the discovery of a fraudulent admission application is grounds for dismissal.

Additionally, you should be aware that submitting forged documents is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, and that universities may take appropriate action against such cases. For the purpose of university admission, the withholding of information will be deemed fraudulent.

### **14. Areas of Concern**

Areas of concern is a general category that includes issues identified by MMI assessors, file reviewers, or members of the Admissions committee when interacting with the applicant or the applicant's file, that may demonstrate evidence of characteristics inconsistent with the goals and standards of a veterinary student at UCVM. These issues can be flagged at any time in the application process. Once an issue is flagged, the Admissions committee may review the entire application. The Admissions committee will decide whether to terminate the application, assign a score of zero to that component of the application, or allow the application to proceed without prejudice.

### **15. Correspondence with applicant**

**The UCVM Admissions Office will only correspond with you, the applicant.** In order to maintain your privacy and ensure consistency in the admissions process, we will not discuss your application at any time with a spouse, parent, co-worker, supervisor, employer, etc. Make sure that your current contact information is kept up to date in your Student Centre in the event that we need to contact you.



## **16. GPA Conversion Scale: Four (4) Term GPA Calculation**

In some cases, institutions report more than one form of the grade on the transcript (e.g. percent AND the institution's related-letter grade). We will use the percentage grade showing and convert the grades using the conversion scale in this application manual.

<b>IB</b>	<b>AP</b>	<b>9 Point</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>U of C Letter grade</b>	<b>U of C 4.0 scale</b>
			97 – 100	A+	<b>4.0</b>
6 – 7	5	9	90 – 96	A	<b>4.0</b>
	4	8	85 – 89	A-	<b>3.7</b>
5		7	80 – 84	B+	<b>3.3</b>
4	3		75 – 79	B	<b>3</b>
		6	70 – 74	B-	<b>2.7</b>
3			67 – 69	C+	<b>2.3</b>
		5	63 – 66	C	<b>2</b>
			60 – 62	C-	<b>1.7</b>
		4	55 – 59	D+	<b>1.3</b>
			50 – 54	D	<b>1</b>
1 – 2	1 - 2	1 – 3	0 – 49	F	<b>0</b>