

Applying to Professional Programs...

Veterinary Medicine

Trent Career Centre

trentu.ca/careers

careers@trentu.ca

...a place to begin

Veterinary Medicine as a Career:

- Small animal veterinarians deal mostly with household pets.
- Large animal veterinarians, who commonly work with horses, cows, pigs, sheep, and other farm animals, often have mobile practices. They may travel all over the countryside at all hours of the day and night, performing urgent procedures on sick or injured animals.
- Some veterinarians work with companies that develop and produce food or drugs to keep animals healthy. Others are employed by the government to inspect livestock for diseases. Quite a few take part in medical research projects that use animals as test subjects.
- Earnings are \$45,000 to \$150,000 a year or more.

Education & Training

- To become a veterinarian, you need to attend veterinary school for 4 to 5 years. Applicants to veterinary school must first complete 2 to 4 years of university level science courses. However, because the competition for veterinary school admission is so competitive, it's a good idea to complete a full Bachelor of Science degree before applying.
- Veterinary schools require applicants to have taken courses in certain areas of study such as chemistry, biochemistry, genetics, biology, physics, statistics, and English. However, exact requirements vary by school so be sure to check with the veterinary school you are interested in to find out what you need to take in university.
- Another admission requirement could be the submission of Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. The MCAT assesses concepts in the biological, biochemical, chemical and physical sciences as well as problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills. There are four multiple choice sections: Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social & Biological Foundations of Behaviors; and Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills. Practice tests, some free, are available at: e-mcat.com, as well as other test preparation companies. The GRE assesses verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing. Free test prep materials are available on their website: ets.org/gre.
- Other admission criteria may include relevant experience and knowledge of animals, a personal interview, references, or letters of recommendation.
- After graduation from veterinary school with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), you must pass the national board exams for veterinary medicine and become a member of the veterinary medical association in the province where you want to practice. Info about these exams is on the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association website.
- If you want to enter into a research position, you may have to do post-graduate studies.

Veterinary Medicine Schools in Canada:

- University of Guelph
- University of Calgary
- Université de Montréal
- University of Saskatchewan
- University of Prince Edward Island

NOTE: If you intend on applying to an out-of-province school of veterinary medicine be sure to check the residency requirements of that particular school. Certain schools require that you are a resident of that province, region or territory.

Timeline for Applying to Veterinary Schools

- Application deadlines are January/February but University of Prince Edward Island has as its deadline November of the year prior to admission. Check for exact dates with the individual schools.
- Check school websites for the submission deadline dates for MCAT/GRE score report.

Helpful Websites:

- canadianveterinarians.net -- **Canadian Veterinary Medical Association**
This association is the national body representing the interests of Canadian veterinarians. Their website also has info about the licensing exams required to practice veterinary medicine. Scroll over the About Us tab to find a link leading to Career Information.
- cfavm.ca -- **Canadian Faculties of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine**
Several universities in Canada have joined together to create this website which supports agricultural and veterinary medicine. Click on Careers in Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine for more info.
- cvo.org -- **College of Veterinarians of Ontario**
The College of Veterinarians of Ontario (CVO) regulates the practice of veterinary medicine in Ontario to protect the public interest. It licenses veterinarians, inspects and accredits veterinary facilities and investigates complaints against veterinarians.
- ets.org/gre -- **Graduate Record Examinations**
Scores from this test may be required for admission into a veterinary school.
- aamc.org/students/applying/mcat -- **Medical College Admission Test**
Scores from this test may be required for admission into a veterinary school.

Helpful Tip

Veterinary experience and animal care experience is very important in getting into veterinary schools. Start working or volunteering for a veterinarian, animal shelter, zoo, stable or farm during your university years. Keep track of the hours and experiences you have gained at these places and be prepared to elaborate on them when you apply to veterinary schools.

NOTE: personal pet ownership experience does not qualify as animal care experience.