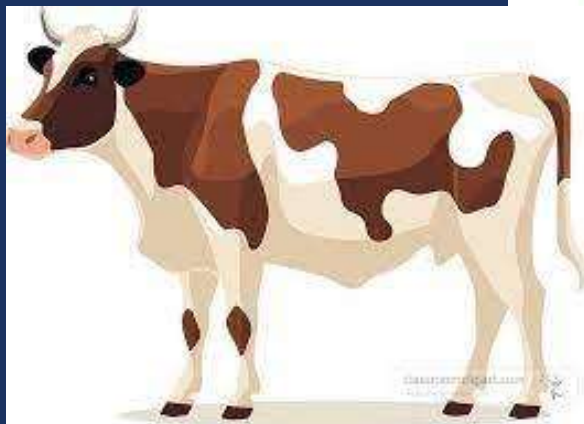


HOW TO GET INTO VETERINARY SCHOOL



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 and regulations change quite often (per acceptance year)



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



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



ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE @ UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

- Interview invite is based on:
 - GPA (last four 15.0-credit semesters & prerequisites)
- 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 (recommended emphasis on animal biology) = 6.0 credit (BIOL2030 is a great choice for one!)
 - Cell biology = 3.0 credit (BIOL2021)
 - Genetics = 3.0 credit (BIOL2040)
 - Biochemistry = 3.0 credit (BIOL2020)
 - Statistics = 3.0 credit
 - 2 Humanities/social sciences = 6.0 credit

More details: [OVC DMV Program Application](#)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Academic

- 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



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Non-academic

- **Undergraduate Student**
- **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

- **Background Information Form**

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.

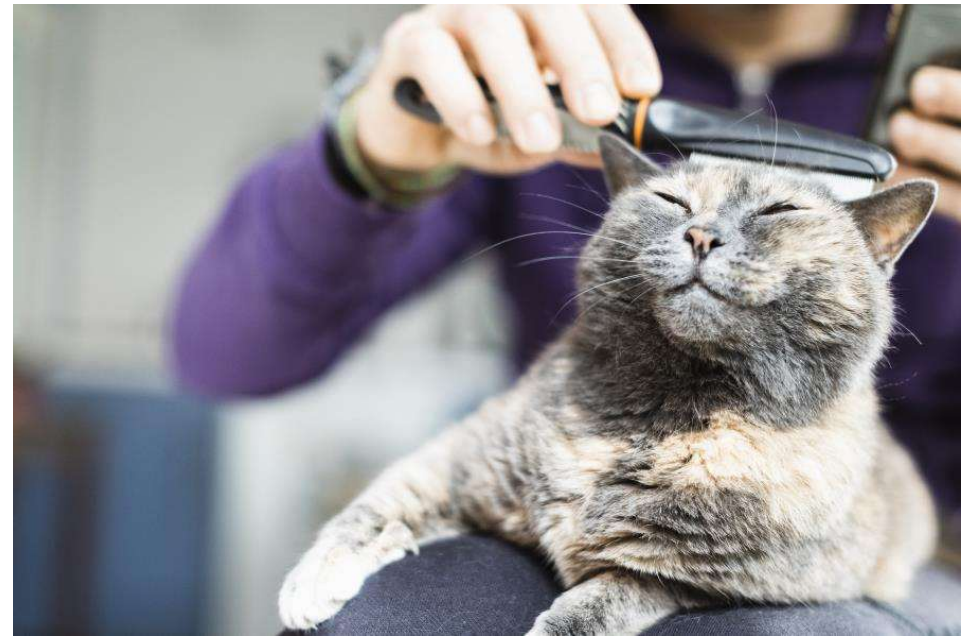
APPLICATION PROCESS

DUE DECEMBER 15:

- **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.
(Can be found on UofG degree program page)

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 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, GPA is important!)
- 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 (10 min each). 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.



OTHER CANADIAN VETERINARY SCHOOLS

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

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.

WESTERN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE @ UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

- **WCVM serves the four western provinces** of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, **as well as the territories** of Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Must be a Resident.
 - BC: 20 seats
 - Alberta: 20 seats
 - Saskatchewan: 20 seats
 - Manitoba: 15 seats
 - Territories: 1

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 VET SCHOOL APPLICATION-

Advice and resources from a York-grad OVC student



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

How to Get into OVC

1. Grades - 65%

***sort of

2. Supplementary Application

3. Interview - 35%

Grades

****New!**

Stage 1: Admission Average

Each applicant's Admission Average is determined using a combination of their academic average (75%) and their Casper score (25%).

The applicant's academic average is calculated using a 50:50 ratio as follows:

- 50% is based on the average of the courses completed in the applicant's most recent two acceptable full-time semesters. A minimum cumulative average of 75% is required to be further considered.
- 50% is based on the average of the applicant's eight prerequisite courses. A minimum prerequisite average of 75% is required to be further considered. Applicants must declare which course grades they wish to use for the 8 prerequisites, which must be from their eligible courses taken in full-time semesters.

All applicants in each cohort are ranked based on this Admissions Average, and only top-ranked applicants will progress to the second stage of review.

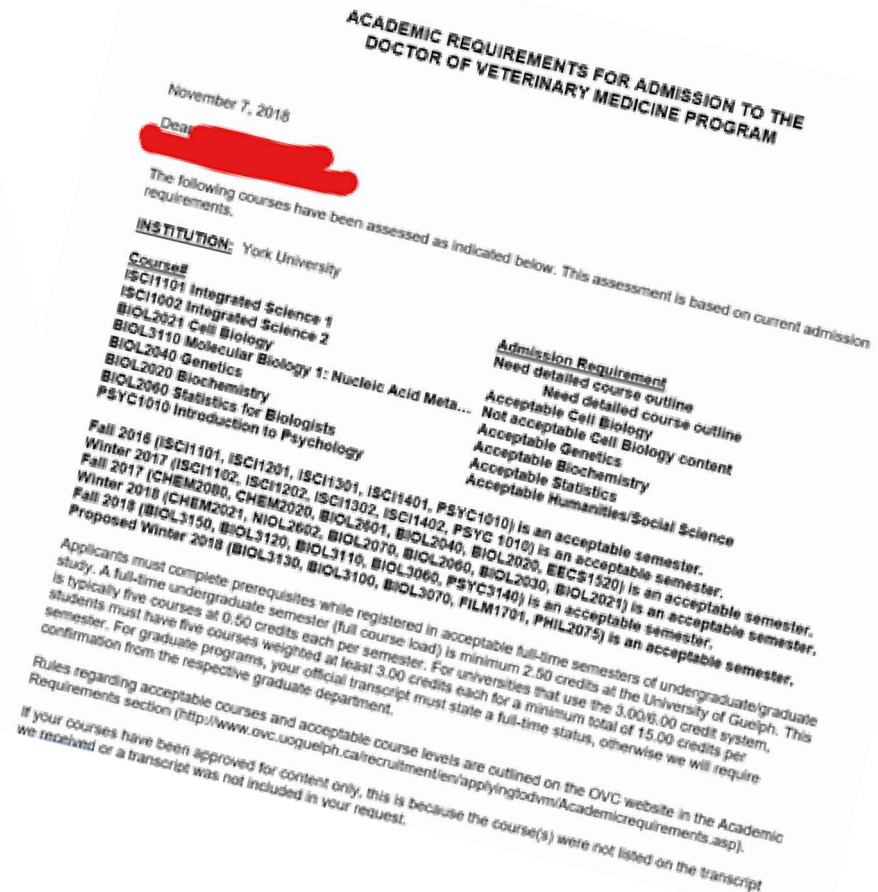
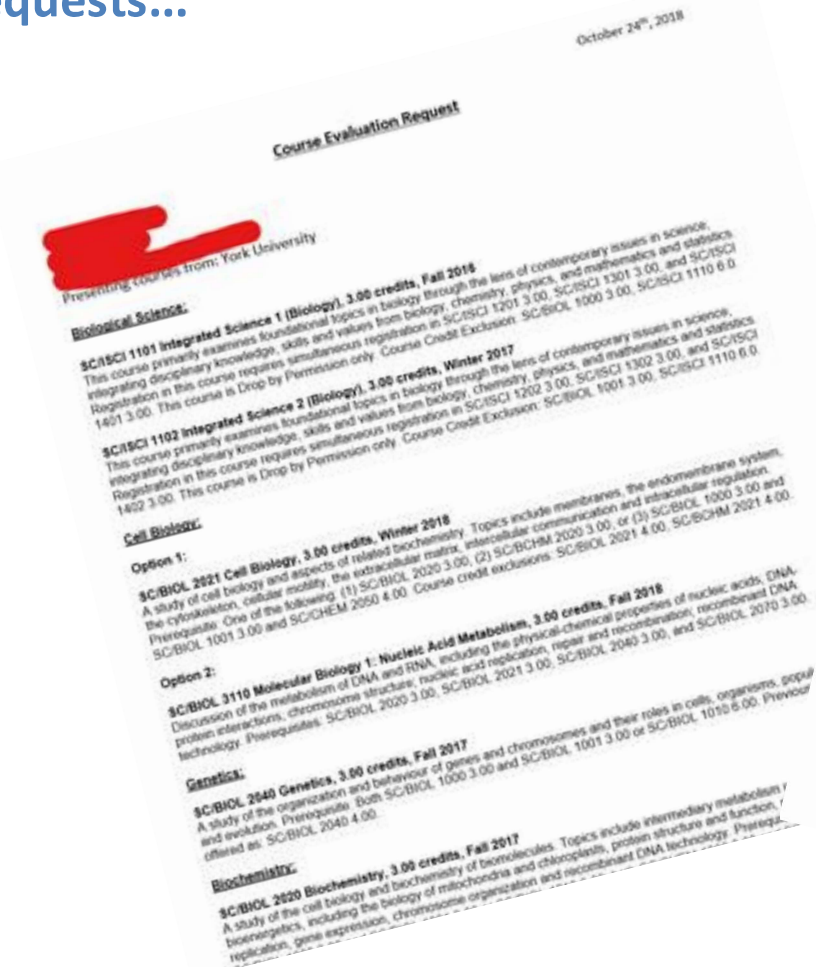
*****Casper score needs to be sent to OVC by Mar. 1st (need to give permission for Altus to submit your score to them)**

Grade Conversion Chart

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

How to Get Courses Approved

Email admdvm@uoguelph.ca to submit your course evaluation requests...



...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/Academicrequirements.asp>



Approved Courses

**Warning: Always have your
courses verified by OVC
admissions administration - DO
NOT just use what worked for
others in the past**

Approved Courses – previous student

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

**Warning: Always have
your courses verified by OVC**

Pro Tip...

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

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

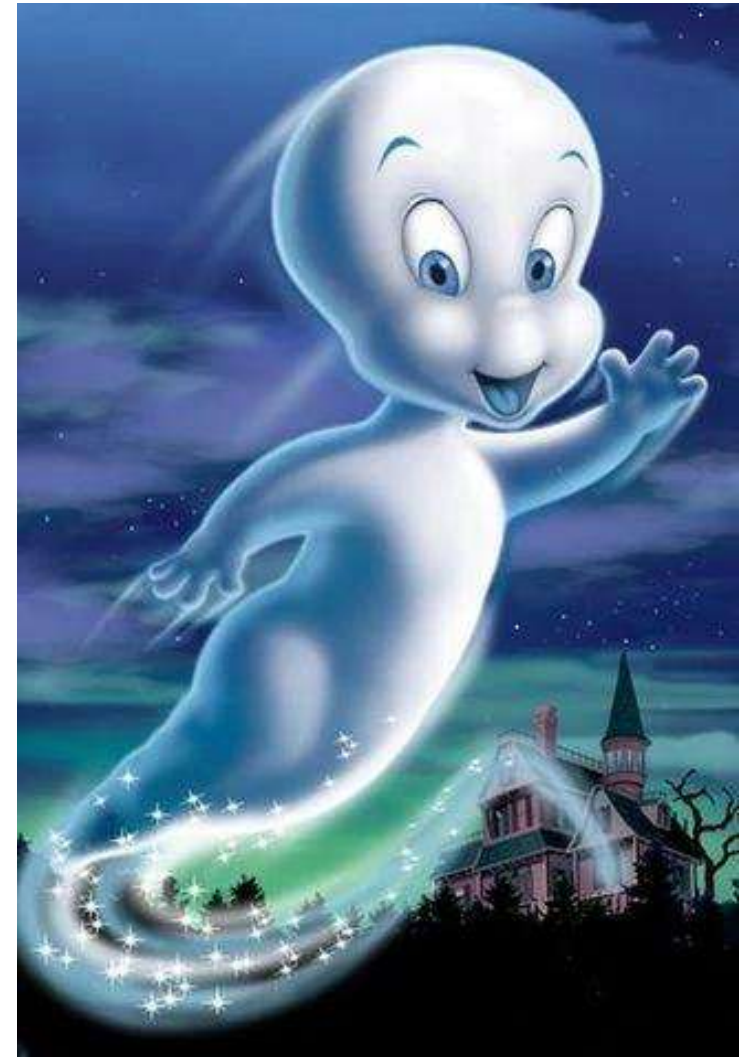
Try to take these courses in your undergraduate studies

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

CASPer

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



Interview- Tips

- Start preparing as soon as possible!
- PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE
- Join “YorkU goes to OVC” on Facebook!

Interview- Resource: YorkU Goes to OVC

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



Interview- Resource: Guelph Future Vets Club

- University of Guelph Future Vets Club
 - Mock MMI - 4 stations
 - Join the Facebook Group!

<https://www.facebook.com/fvcguelph/>



Interview- Tip

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



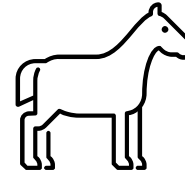
As uncomfortable as it may feel, it's the best way to notice your own habits.

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

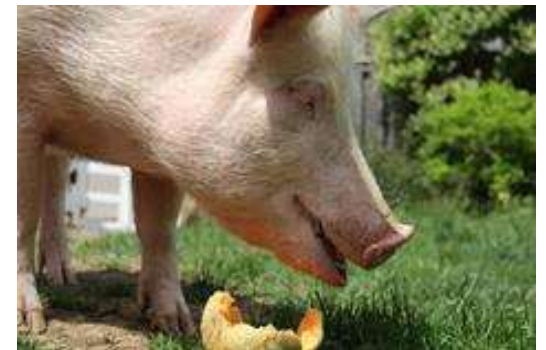
<https://admission.uoguelph.ca/dvmbif>

The screenshot shows the University of Guelph's Undergraduate Admission 2020 website. The header includes the University of Guelph logo, the text 'Office of Registrarial Services Undergraduate Admission 2020', and navigation links for 'Ask Gryph', 'Contact Us', and 'FAQs'. A search bar is also present. Below the header, a yellow banner reads 'Have a question? Ask Gryph! Ask your question here. Use two or more words!'. The main content area is titled 'DVM Supplemental Forms'. It includes a 'Deadlines' section with a bulleted list: 'Background Information Form: February 1st', 'Official Transcripts and References: March 1st', and 'Grad Cohort Form: March 1st'. Below this is a paragraph about admission requirements. A sidebar on the right, titled 'FORMS', contains links: 'Sample BIF Question', 'Sample Reference Questions', 'Graduate Cohort Form', 'Application FAQs', 'Academic Background Form (International only)', and 'International only'. Two red arrows point from the 'Sample Reference Questions' link in the sidebar to the 'References' section on the main page. The 'References' section states that applicants must submit three references (two from veterinarians and one professional reference) and provides instructions on how to complete the Referee Assessments on-line.

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**
 - <https://wishingwellsanctuary.org/>
- **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- 2023

DVM Admissions Debrief for Canadian Applicants in the Undergraduate Pool

Elizabeth Lowenger
Sept 13, 2023

