BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY MEDICINE

Red Deer College – School of Arts & Sciences
Updated April 2020

Frequently Asked Questions
Please read this section first as it will help you understand the purpose of this guide, give you important information to understand and register for courses, as well as provide definitions for common phrases and terms used in post-secondary.

What is the Pre-Professional Program Veterinary Medicine program at RDC?
Pre-Professional Programs at RDC are starting points to help students understand, and work towards, future admission into programs such as the University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine program (UCVM).

Students are eligible to apply to UCVM after two years of appropriate study, however, students should know that it is common to gain admission after completion of a four-year baccalaureate degree. This program is very competitive and admission is not guaranteed. As such, the RDC Pre-Professional Program recommends students pursue an undergraduate baccalaureate degree in an area of their interest, while taking courses to work towards being eligible to apply to the UCVM.

What are terms, and how many of them are there?
Terms are the period of time in which your studies take place. At RDC, we offer four terms.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is a condensed term. We recommend only a maximum of two courses in the Spring. Course offerings are reduced in this term as well.
- Summer Term (July through August): Only select upgrading courses are currently available in this term.

How do I become eligible to apply to Veterinary Medicine at UCalgary?
Please read the UCVM admission requirements. It is your responsibility to understand these admission requirements as this guide will provide basic information to help you start your studies. There are countless ways to work towards UVCM admission, and each student’s pathway will be unique.

Academically, students 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, 2021).

Additionally, students must also complete required pre-requisite courses prior to applying. Page 3 of this guide will detail these courses, and more information can be found on the admission requirements page of the UCVM website.
How do I choose courses?
This guide will present a recommended set of first year courses based on UCVM pre-requisite course requirements. Ultimately, we want to encourage students to pursue a four-year baccalaureate degree. This degree can be in any discipline, however, all required pre-requisite courses will need to be completed before being eligible to apply into the UCVM.

For students who are not sure of a degree, this guide will present recommended courses based on the first year of a General Science Degree, tailored to help meet some UCVM requirements. We recommend students choose a preferred degree by the start of their second year. Overall, we recommend your schedule become a mixture of:

- Taking a course load that is appropriate for you (while staying within UCVM requirements)
- Taking courses that work towards an undergraduate Bachelor’s degree
- Completing pre-requisite courses at a pace that works for you

How many courses should I take a term?
The traditional path you will see is 5 courses per term, 10 total (5 in the Fall, 5 in the Winter). However, you may have flexibility depending on your destination university and degree. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 in the Fall, 4 in the Winter, and 2 in the Spring (or some mixture). Some students will take 3-4 courses per term (6-8 per year) and take 5-6 years to complete their degree.

Students working towards UCVM should take at least 4 new/first-attempt courses each term (Fall and Winter) to meet UCalgary Veterinary requirements.

What happens if I take less than 10 courses a year?
You may need an extra term or year to complete your degree, or may need longer to be eligible to apply into UCVM. Remember, it is okay if you are not set to apply after two years – prioritize your academic performance and working at a pace that suits you initially.

What does the term “credit” mean?
A credit is what you earn for completing courses. To earn most four-year baccalaureate degrees, a student will need to earn 120 credits. Most courses a student completes will be three credits. There are some courses that span a full year (Fall to Winter) that are six credits. As such, 120 credits is generally 40 courses.

Why can I only take two years at RDC?
Every 30 credits (10 courses) a student completes is equivalent to one academic year. If a student completes 10 courses per year for four straight years, they will graduate with their degree in four years. This is why you see 10 courses recommended for each year. Universities have what is called a residency requirement. This means that universities require a specific amount of credits to be completed as their student in order to grant the degree. UCalgary (and most universities), require a minimum of 60 credits to be completed while registered as a student of their institution. Therefore, students can transfer up to 60 credits towards their degree.

You can absolutely transfer with less than 60 credits, but if you transfer with more than 60, your transfer University will still require 60 credits to be completed while registered as their student. This is why we recommend that you apply to transfer as you are completing your second academic year or nearing 60 transfer credits. The degree you choose to pursue will influence if you transfer after one year or two years of study.

Final thoughts
- Use this guide and use the advice!
- Make sure the courses you take are transferable using Transfer Alberta.
- You should be taking university level and university transferable courses
  - “200” Level courses are Year 1 courses at RDC
  - “300” Level courses are Year 2 courses at RDC
  - (each institution will use different numbering conventions for their years
PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO UVCM

A minimum overall average of 3.00 ("B" or its equivalent) with a passing grade in each of the following required courses (see UVCM Admission Requirements for more information). You must have completed or be in the process of completing the TEN (10) required courses (listed below) with at least SEVEN (7) of the TEN (10) required courses being completed before December 31 of the preceding year’s admission. All courses (including in-progress, online or distance learning courses) must be completed by the end of the Winter term preceding admission. No exceptions will be made.

### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSES</th>
<th># OF CREDITS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED RED DEER COLLEGE COURSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>BIOL 217 &amp; BIOL 218 (see note 2 on page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHEM 211 &amp; CHEM 212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory English</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 219</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CHEM 351 (also recommended to complete CHEM 352) (see note 1 on page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOC 393 (recommended)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Ecology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 318</td>
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### SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE – Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>WINTER TERM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 217 (can be taken either term) (see note 2 on page 4)</td>
<td>BIOL 218 (can be taken either term) (see note 2 on page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 211</td>
<td>CHEM 212 (see note 1 on page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 219 (can be taken either term)</td>
<td>STAT 251 (can be taken either term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art or Science Elective (see note 3 on page 4)</td>
<td>CHEM 351 or Art or Science Elective (see note 1 on page 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts or Science Elective (see note 3 on page 4)</td>
<td>Arts or Science Elective (see note 3 on page 4)</td>
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### SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE – Year 2

As you start planning for year 2, we recommend that students have an undergraduate degree and transfer University in mind. The degree you are pursuing can be anything! Students will transfer after year 2 to a University.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>WINTER TERM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 317 (can be taken either term)</td>
<td>BIOL 318 (can be taken either term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 351 (if not completed in Year 1) or CHEM 352</td>
<td>CHEM 352 (if not completed in Fall term) or Art/Science Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
<td>BIOC 393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
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<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
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REGISTRATION NOTES

1) Completing CHEM 351 and CHEM 212 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling in their second year, however taking these courses concurrently in Winter term can also create a heavier schedule. CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 are also available in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first-year course load can take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then take the other course in the Spring term of Year 1, or complete in Year 2.

To maximize transferability of CHEM 351 to the University of Calgary, it is recommended students also complete CHEM 352 prior to transfer. U of C’s Organic Chemistry courses are called CHEM 351 and CHEM 353. In order to receive appropriate transfer credit for U of C’s CHEM 351/353, students must complete and transfer both RDC’s CHEM 351 and CHEM 352.

2) It is highly recommended students complete both BIOL 217 & BIOL 218 prior to transferring to the U of C. Completion of both of these courses will cover the requirements for the U of C’s Introductory Biology courses (BIOL 241 & 243). Students who transfer with only one of RDC’s BIOL 217 or 218 completed will still need to complete both U of C’s BIOL 241 & 243 upon transfer.

3) Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed here: https://rdc.ab.ca/node/80375/attachment (you can pick up this printout from the School of Arts & Sciences in Room 2203 or view on the Loop)
**IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW**

**Admission Requirements**

It is imperative you familiarize yourself with the UCVM Admission Requirements. As mentioned previously, the path towards Veterinary School will be unique for every student.

There are many academic and non-academic requirements that students will need to be aware of and prepare for.

**Application Manual**

UCVM prepares an Application Manual that details the admission Cycle for the upcoming year. This manual goes over the full application process and procedure in depth and should be read by anyone interested in UCVM.

**Minimum Transferable Grade**

A **minimum grade of C- is recommended** to maximize transferability to most universities (“D” grades may transfer to some universities, depending on the circumstance). *Please talk to an Academic Advisor as soon as possible if you feel you may be in jeopardy of not getting at least a C- in a course you are enrolled in.*

**Spring Term**

If you are planning to take a Spring term course, please connect with the School of Arts & Sciences at artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca.

**Application Deadline**

Please refer to the UVCM website for important dates.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Arts &amp; Sciences Red Deer College</th>
<th>Room 2203 <a href="mailto:artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca">artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca</a> 403.342.3585 (select option 1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Alberta Guide</td>
<td><a href="http://transferalberta.alberta.ca">http://transferalberta.alberta.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td><a href="https://vet.ucalgary.ca">https://vet.ucalgary.ca</a> <a href="mailto:vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca">vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PLEASE NOTE:**

This document is designed to provide recommendations and general information related to transfer pathways that best suit Red Deer College (RDC) course offerings. There are many ways to create a schedule and complete your studies, and we recommend you familiarize yourself with the intricacies of the program and university you want to transfer into. We are here to assist in helping you navigate your studies and can connect you with resources as needed, but you are responsible for your course registration, class schedule, applications to transfer and other related matters. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university that they wish to attend, and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

Please note that institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting RDC. As such, it is recommended you consult with the appropriate institutional information (i.e. university calendars, websites, advisors,) to gain the most up to date information as you progress through your studies.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major, or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit or admission requirements for future programs. Consult with the School of Arts & Sciences if you have any questions.