Before starting your journey to Veterinary school, it’s important to note there is no degree titled “Pre-Veterinary”. Rather, students pursuing Veterinary school are generally working towards an Undergraduate degree while completing specific pre-requisite coursework as they prepare to meet eligibility requirements to apply to Veterinary school.

The Pre-Professional Veterinary Studies program at Red Deer College is essentially the first two years of a Bachelor of Science program that is tailored to help students become eligible to apply to the University of Calgary’s Doctor of Veterinary Studies (DVM) program.

In order to be eligible to apply to the DVM at the University of Calgary (U of C), students must complete a minimum of two full years of post-secondary courses, including courses in specific pre-requisite areas.

While students can be eligible to apply to Veterinary school after two years, it is not required to do so, and it is not uncommon for students to gain admission into Veterinary school after completing an undergraduate degree.

Take note that admission into the Veterinary School is competitive and therefore obtaining the minimum requirements will not guarantee admission. Prospective Veterinary students are strongly encouraged to fulfil the prerequisite courses while pursuing a university degree that is flexible enough to accommodate the prerequisite courses and is suitable to their interests and possible future career.

Different Veterinary schools will have different entrance requirements and admission processes. It is recommended to start researching Veterinary programs of interest to learn about their admission requirements. This planning guide will have information relating to the University of Calgary’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program.

Visit the University of Calgary’s Veterinary Webpage: [https://vet.ucalgary.ca](https://vet.ucalgary.ca)
PREREQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO DVM PROGRAM
Required Courses for admission to D.V.M. at U of C

1) U of C requires a minimum overall average of 3.00 ("B" or its equivalent) with a passing grade in each of the following required courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUIRED COURSES</th>
<th># OF CREDITS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED RED DEER COLLEGE COURSES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>BIOL 217 &amp; BIOL 218 (see note 5 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Chemistry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>CHEM 211 &amp; CHEM 212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory English</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CHEM 351 (also recommended to complete CHEM 352) (see note 3 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Biochemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOC 393</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PATTERN OF COURSES FOR YEAR 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 211</td>
<td>CHEM 212 (see notes 3 &amp; 4 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 217 (see notes 2 &amp; 5 on page 3)</td>
<td>BIOL 218 (see notes 2 &amp; 5 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 219 (see note 2 on page 3)</td>
<td>STAT 251 (see note 2 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Course (see note 1 on page 3)</td>
<td>CHEM 351 or Option (see notes 3 &amp; 4 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Course (see note 1 on page 3)</td>
<td>Option Course (see notes 1 on page 3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 2 REGISTRATION INFORMATION
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. In Year 2, you can also choose to complete any outstanding pre-requisite courses not completed in Year 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
<th>WINTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 351 or CHEM 352 (take CHEM 352 if CHEM 351 was completed in first year)</td>
<td>CHEM 352 or Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 317 (see note 2 on page 3)</td>
<td>BIOL 318 (see note 2 on page 3)</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
<td>Course Towards Undergraduate Degree</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOOTNOTES

1. Examples of available Arts & Science Options for the 2019-2020 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)

   Not all of these courses may be transferable to your university (though the majority are). Remember to visit Transfer Alberta to check for course transferability, or check with an advisor.

2. These courses can be completed in either term. BIOL 317/318 can also be completed in any order/term once appropriate pre-requisites are met.

3. To maximize transferability of CHEM 351 to the University of Calgary, its 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.

4. Completing CHEM 351 in year 1 can offer students more versatility in course scheduling for their second year, however taking the course in Year 1 can also create a heavier schedule (if combined with CHEM 212). As such, students can choose to complete CHEM 351 and/or CHEM 212 in their first or second year of study. Note: CHEM 212 and CHEM 351 can also be completed in the Spring term. Students wishing to lighten their first year course load should take one of CHEM 212/351 in the Winter term of Year 1, and then the other course in the Spring term of Year 1.

5. 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.
PLANNING FOR VETERINARY SCHOOL

1) **Read and review Admission Information from the University of Calgary** [https://vet.ucalgary.ca/](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/)

2) **Plan to gain admission after completing a 4 year degree!** Yes, you may be able to gain admission earlier (which is great!) but it is not uncommon to gain admission after completion of an undergraduate degree.

3) **Pay attention to your course schedule.** It is not uncommon to experience “growing pains” in your first year. Your first year is meant to be an exploratory year and to help you adjust to post-secondary life. If you have a term where you do not meet course load or GPA requirements, it may take longer until you will be eligible to apply for Veterinary School, but you will not be disqualified from applying.

4) **Your schedule should be a mixture of:**
   - Taking a course load that is appropriate for you (while staying within U of C requirements)
   - Taking courses that work towards an undergraduate Bachelor’s degree
   - Completing pre-requisite courses at a pace that works for you

5) **Stay current with Admission dates/deadlines and entrance requirements.** Universities provide a wealth of information to aid you in applying, as well as detailing the full admission process. Admission statistics are often provided, as well.

   Pages 5 of this guide provide brief overviews of the current year’s admission process. Use this to gain a working knowledge.

6) **Visit the Veterinary program at the University of Calgary and ask questions.** The U of C will have an open house along with information sessions – go visit and learn from current students & faculty!

7) **We also recommend that students read the University of Calgary Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Applicant Manual.** This is a handbook that has a wealth of information on how to prepare to apply to Veterinary school. The U of C traditionally updates this manual in the Fall of each year
1. **You must have completed or be in the process of completing four or more terms 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, taken between the months of September – December (Fall term) and January – April (Winter term) for a total of 16 three credit 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.

   **Students must also present a minimum combined average of 3.00** (Grade of “B” or its equivalent) over EACH of the last four full-time undergraduate academic terms.

   Refer to the Applicant Manual for more in-depth information on how GPA is calculated for interview eligibility and selection, as well as how GPA is calculated for the purposes of admission.

2. **A minimum overall cumulative average of 3.00** ("B", or its equivalent) with a passing grade is required in each of the ten required pre-requisite courses (see page 2). Applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing the ten required courses, with at least 7 of the 10 required courses being completed before December 31 in year of application. All courses must be completed by the end of the Winter term preceding admission. No exceptions will be made.

3. Courses completed more than 10 years prior to the application date will not normally be considered in the admissions process. If you have coursework that is more than 10 years old, it is recommended to contact the University of Calgary Veterinary program for further information.

4. **In addition to the education requirements**, student’s applications will also be assessed on the basis of non-academic requirements such as Interviews, On-Site Essays, and References. For more information on all the academic & non-academic requirements for admission, please visit [https://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram). It is especially important to familiarize yourself with the interview process.

5. **Pay attention to application cycle timeless**, as these timelines may change each year. Students applying for Fall 2020 admission can apply on October 1.2019. Applications will close on November 30.2019. Visit [https://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram](https://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram) for information on application deadlines and requirements.

6. Each fall, the University of Calgary will create an applicant manual with key information about the application process for the upcoming year. It is highly recommended for students to read this as it is extremely helpful and vital to the application process. Click here to access the most recent Applicant Manual.
PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

- A minimum grade of C- is recommended to attain at the minimum in each course to maximize transferability. 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 courses: Please speak to an Advising & Recruiting Specialist if you want to take a Spring Course.

HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

School of Arts & Sciences
Advising & Recruiting
Room 2203
artscienceinfo@rdc.ab.ca
403-342-3585 (select option 1)
www.rdc.ab.ca/artscience

Alberta Transfer Guide
http://transferalberta.alberta.ca

University of Calgary
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
http://vet.ucalgary.ca/
Vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca

UofC Veterinary Applicant Manual

Admission Information
https://vet.ucalgary.ca/dvmprogram

PLEASE NOTE:

This planning guide is designed to help you choose courses at RDC that will transfer to your destination institution and towards your intended degree. The recommendations in this guide are based off current RDC courses that transfer to the institution identified in this guide, as well as information provided by the institution (either through printed publication and/or communication between our institutions).

Institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting Red Deer College. 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.

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is completed, and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted to at RDC and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer. This planning guide is meant to help you gain a basic understanding of your program and provide suggestions for course sequencing.

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 student advisor (above) if you have any questions.

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.