

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY MEDICINE
ROSS UNIVERSITY
DONALD SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

UPDATED: April 2022

You are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at Red Deer Polytechnic and/or to the university to which you wish to transfer (if applicable). You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit (if applicable), admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from Red Deer Polytechnic. Please consult with an Advisor if you have any questions.

Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required. Please note that institutions can make changes to their program and/or transfer requirements without consulting Red Deer Polytechnic. 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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- See the Academic Calendar of your goal institution for admission requirements to their program

WHAT IS THIS GUIDE?

- This is an Academic Planning Guide, prepared by the Student Connect Centre to help you register for courses towards your desired program.
- If you are transferring to another institution to complete your degree, we strongly advise that you read the Academic Calendar of your destination institution for full information.

WHAT IS THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM AT RED DEER POLYTECHNIC (RDP)?

- Pre-Professional Programs at RDP are starting points to help students understand, and work towards, future admission into programs such as the Ross University Veterinary Medicine program (RUSVM).
- Students are eligible to apply to RUSVM 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.
 - The RDP 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 RUSVM.

- RDP also has transfer pathways for students interested in University of Calgary School of Veterinary Medicine. Courses and requirements do differ from RUSVM, so please refer to that [academic planning guide](#) if interested.

How do I become eligible to apply to Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine?

- RDP and Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine agree to cooperate in providing undergraduate/professional school education from RDP and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from RUSVM.
- The first phase (undergraduate) of the collaborative program will consist of the completion of a minimum number of courses at RDP, including specific [pre-requisite courses](#).
- Under this agreement, the student would first complete the prerequisite courses from RDP and upon approval of RUSVM, the student will complete the requirements for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at RUSVM. Choosing this program provides the opportunity of a smooth transition between the student's undergraduate experience and graduate veterinary training.
- The prerequisite courses are completed at RDP prior to beginning the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at RUSVM. To participate, the student would need to apply formally to the DVM program through the RUSVM online application or the VMCAS application service.
- RUSVM will designate some seats in each RUSVM semester class for eligible students during the admissions process. Student applicants are subject to all published timelines and due dates for the application process.

Guidelines for Admission:

- Note: holding the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to RUSVM. Admission is competitive. More in-depth information on admission can be found on the [RUSVM website](#).

To be considered for admission, RDP students must satisfy the minimum requirements:

- An overall Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher.
- A Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher in all courses designated by RUSVM as pre-requisites of admission. (see page 3 – 4 for [pre-requisite coursework](#) info)
 - No F or D grades in a pre-requisite course designated by RUSVM.
- A score in the 20th percentile or better in each category of the Graduate Record Examination("GRE").
- Two (2) letters of recommendation, one letter from an academic instructor, preferably a science instructor, and one letter from a veterinarian familiar with the student's job/volunteer performance.
- A minimum of 150 hours of experience working/volunteering in a professional veterinary practice working with animals or conducting veterinary research. It is preferable that all experience has taken place under the supervision of a practicing veterinarian, but comparable experience maybe considered.
- Personal essay indicating applicant interest and experience in veterinary medicine.
- Complete a personal interview with a RUSVM admissions representative.

Candidates must submit a completed application to RUSVM at least sixty (60) days prior to the class start date. RUSVM terms start in January, May and September. Please consult with the [RUSVM website](#) for more information on all requirements, or connect with vetadmissions@rossu.edu

WHAT IS A TERM? TERMS ARE THE PERIOD IN WHICH YOUR STUDIES TAKE PLACE. AT RDP, WE OFFER FOUR TERMS.

- Fall term (September through December)
- Winter Term (January through April)
- Spring term (May through June): Spring term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.
- Summer Term (July through August): Summer term is an optional, condensed term. Course offerings are limited.

HOW MANY COURSES SHOULD I TAKE A TERM?

- The maximum number of courses you can take in the Fall or Winter terms is 5 courses and 2 courses in the Spring (optional).
- To complete your program in four years, you would need to take the maximum number of courses per term (5 courses in the Fall and 5 courses in the Winter), or 10 course per year. Some students will complete 10 courses in a year by taking 4 courses in the Fall, 4 courses in the Winter, and 2 courses in the Spring (or a combination thereof).
- We encourage you to find the best course load for you to be successful in your courses and your program! However, we encourage you to check the course load requirements for your destination university and degree.
- When determining your course load keep your funding in mind, if applicable. For course load requirements for funding purposes, please visit www.rdpolytech.ca/psfunding.

WHAT IF I COMPLETED COURSES AT ANOTHER POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?

Once you are admitted to RDP, you can then apply to have your post-secondary courses assessed for transfer credit through our [Recognition of Prior Learning Office](#). Once admitted to RDP you can complete an [RPL application form](#), provide the Polytechnic Assessors with any and all transcripts, course outlines/descriptions, or other documentation necessary to support your PLAR application.

NOTE: To qualify for a Red Deer Polytechnic program credential, students must complete at least 50% of the credit requirements for the credential through enrolment in RDP courses.

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM AUDIT

- Refer to the **Registration** tab on your Loop account to view **Registration Tips and Tricks** for information on:
 - Registering in classes
 - Waitlisting
 - Checking Prerequisites and Corequisites
 - Courses listed as **prerequisites** must be completed before you start the course in question.
 - Courses listed as **co-requisites** must be taken at the same time as the course in question.
 - Viewing Your Schedule
 - And much more!
- After you have completed your registration, if you would like an advisor to review your registration please submit a [Registration Review Form](#).

PRE-REQUISITE COURSES FOR ADMISSION TO RUSVM

REQUIRED COURSES	# OF CREDITS	RECOMMENDED RED DEER POLYTECHNIC COURSES
General Biology I & II with Lab	6	BIOL 217 & BIOL 218
General Chemistry I with Lab	3	CHEM 211
Organic Chemistry I with Lab	3	CHEM 351 (See Important Note 1 on page 5)
Cell Biology or Genetics	3	BIOL 301 or BIOL 317 or BIOL 370 (completed in year 2)
Physics I with Lab	3	PHYS 205
Pre-Calculus, Calculus or Statistics	3	MATH 202 or MATH 203 or STAT 251
Biochemistry I with Lab	3	BIOC 393 (completed in year 2)
Expository Writing	3	ENGL 219

Students also require a minimum of 9 credits of Electives, including at least one (1) course from the list below

- Comparative Anatomy = KNSS 200 or BIOL 351
- Microbiology = BIOL 360 or MICR 365
- Animal Nutrition = KNSS 244
- Physiology = PSIO 258
- Introduction to Business = BUS 303 or BADM 110

Note: if you are also enrolled in the RDP Biological Sciences degree, BIOL 351 and/or BIOL 360 will be able to easily be completed in year 2 of the degree.

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE – Year 1

FIRST TERM	SECOND TERM
BIOL 217	BIOL 218
CHEM 211	CHEM 351
PHYS 205	MATH or STAT course
ENGL 219	Art or Science Elective (see Important Note 2 on page 6 if you are interested in taking CHEM 212)
Arts or Science Elective	Art or Science Elective

WHAT TO DO FOR YEAR 2

In Year 2, you will complete any outstanding requirements not completed in Year 1. However, as you start planning for year 2, we recommend that you pursue an undergraduate degree in the event you are not ready for admission after 2 years. Refer to the [academic planning guide](#) of your backup undergraduate program, and sequence in any unmet requirements.

Need help on a backup degree?

- If you would like to stay at RDP to complete a four-year degree, you can in our Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences degree!
- You can also focus on a university transfer program and apply to that university for Year 3 while you also apply to RUSVM.

CHECKLIST

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	DONE
BIOL 217 (3 Credits)	Introduction to Cell Biology	Biol 30 and Chem 30	
BIOL 218 (3 Credits)	Evolutions and Biological Diversity	Biol 30	
CHEM 211 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry I	Chem 30 and MATH 30-1	
CHEM 351 (3 Credits)	Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 211 OR CHEM 102	See Important Note 1 below
BIOL 301 OR BIOL 317 OR BIOL 370 (3 Credits)		Prerequisite for all 3: BIOL 217 Corequisite for BIOL 301: CHEM 251 or 351	Completed in year 2

MATH 202 OR MATH 203 OR STAT 251 (3 Credits)		MATH 202: Math 30-1 MATH 203: Math 31 STAT 251: Math 30-1 OR 30-2	Anti-requisite: STAT 241, PSYC 309, SOCI 311, and BUS 306	
BIOC 393 (3 Credits)	Fundamentals of Biochemistry	CHEM 211 and CHEM 251 OR 351	Completed in year 2	
ENGL 219 (3 Credits)	Essay Writing and Critical Reading	ELA 30-1		
One of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KNSS 200 or BIOL 351 • BIOL 360 • KNSS 244 • PSIO 258 • BUS 303 or BADM 110 (3 Credits)			If you are also enrolled in the RDP Biological Sciences degree, BIOL 351 and/or BIOL 360 will be able to easily be completed in year 2 of the degree.	
Elective (3 Credits)				
Elective (3 Credits)				

IMPORTANT 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 may be 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.

For students interested in transfer to UCalgary: To maximize transferability of CHEM 351 to the University of Calgary, it is recommended students also complete CHEM 352 prior to transfer (this can happen in year 2). U of C's Organic Chemistry courses are called CHEM 351 and CHEM 353. To receive appropriate transfer credit for U of C's CHEM 351/353, students must complete and transfer both RDP's CHEM 351 and CHEM 352.

- 2) CHEM 212 is not required for RUSVM, but may be required for your alternate degree, or required if you are also working towards University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine. If you have questions if you should take CHEM 212 or not, please consult with studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca.

If you do plan to take CHEM 212, please refer to Note 1 above if you are planning on taking CHEM 212 in the same term as CHEM 351.

ELECTIVE LIST

- Examples of available Arts & Science Electives for the current academic year can be viewed [here](#):

TRANSFER INFORMATION

Admission Requirements	<p>It is imperative you familiarize yourself with the RUSVM Admission Requirements. As mentioned previously, the path towards Veterinary School will be unique for every student.</p> <p>There are many academic and non-academic requirements that students will need to be aware of and prepare for.</p>
Minimum Transferable Grade	<p>Ross University requires a grade of C or better in all prerequisite coursework.</p> <p>A minimum grade of C- is recommended to maximize transferability to most universities (“D” grades may transfer to some universities, depending on the circumstance). <i>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.</i></p>
Spring Term	<p>If you are planning to take a Spring term course, please connect with the Student Connect Centre at studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca.</p>
Application Deadline	<p>Please refer to the RUSVM website for important dates.</p>

CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Red Deer Polytechnic Student Connect Centre	studentconnect@rdpolytech.ca www.rdpolytech.ca/SCC 403.342.3254
Red Deer Polytechnic website	rdpolytech.ca
Transfer Alberta Guide	transferalberta.alberta.ca
Ross University Veterinary School Website	www.veterinary.rossu.edu/admissions/dvm-admissions/requirements
Ross University Veterinary School Email	vetadmissions@rossu.edu
Ross University Veterinary School Phone	1.855.767.7838