

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – PRE-PROFESSIONAL VETERINARY MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
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.

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 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.
 - 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 UCVM.
- RDP also reached an articulation agreement for courses to transfer into Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Courses and requirements do differ from UCalgary, so please refer to that guide if interested.

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 UCVM admission, and each student's pathway will be unique.

Below is a brief overview of the main academic requirements, with wording taken directly from UCalgary admissions page. Please visit the [admission website](#) for in-depth information on each requirement.

- **Write the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT):** A minimum MCAT score of 495 is required. All applicants must write the MCAT in sufficient time to ensure their MCAT scores are available to the UCVM Admissions Committee prior to the application deadline of November 26, 2021. It is the applicant's responsibility to write the MCAT in sufficient time to have their score released before the application deadline. Typically, this means writing the test by mid-August of the year of application, however applicants should contact the MCAT Program Office (aamc.org/mcat) to confirm necessary lead time and instruct the organization to release their MCAT results to the University of Calgary. Applicants must have completed the 2015 MCAT within the three-year period prior to the date of submission of their application.
 - RDP Note: If you are planning to apply to Veterinary School after 2 years at RDP, you will write the MCAT in the summer after your first year.
- **Complete the [10 Required courses](#):** A passing grade is required in each of the 10 required courses. Each of the ten (10) courses below must be showing on your official transcript. You must have completed or be in the process of completing the TEN (10) required courses with at least SEVEN (7) of the TEN (10) required courses being completed before December 31, 2021. All courses (including in-progress, online or distance learning courses) must be completed by the end of the Winter term preceding admission (i.e. April 30, 2022). No exceptions will be made

Four (4) most recent full-time semesters: A minimum combined grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 ("B" or its equivalent) over the last four full-time terms of undergraduate academic years 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, 2022).

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?

- Students working towards UCVM should take at least 4 new/first-attempt courses each term (Fall and Winter) to meet UCVM course load and academic requirements (see UCVM [minimum academic requirements](#))
- 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 UVCM

REQUIRED COURSES	# OF CREDITS	RECOMMENDED RED DEER POLYTECHNIC COURSES
Introductory Biology	6	BIOL 217 & BIOL 218 (see note 2 on page 4)
Introductory Chemistry	6	CHEM 211 & CHEM 212
Introductory English	3	ENGL 219
Introductory Organic Chemistry	3	CHEM 351 (also recommended to complete CHEM 352) (see Important Note 1)
Introductory Statistics	3	STAT 251
Introductory Biochemistry	3	BIOC 301 or BIOC 393
Introductory Genetics	3	BIOL 317
Introductory Ecology	3	BIOL 318

CHECKLIST AND SAMPLE SCHEDULE for YEAR 1

REQUIREMENT	PREREQUISITE(S)	COMMENTS	DONE
FIRST TERM - RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE			
BIOL 217 (3 Credits)	Introduction to Cell Biology	BIOL 30 and CHEM 30 Can be taken either term See Important Note 2	
CHEM 211 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry I	CHEM 30 and MATH 30-1	
ENGL 219 (3 Credits)	Essay Writing and Critical Reading	ELA 30-1 Can be taken either term	
Arts or Science Elective			
Arts or Science Elective			

SECOND TERM - RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE				
BIOL 218 (3 Credits)	Evolutions and Biological Diversity	BIOL 30	Can be taken either term See Important Note 2	
CHEM 212 (3 Credits)	General Chemistry II	CHEM 211	See Important Note 1	
STAT 251 (3 Credits)	Introductory Statistics	Math 30-1 or Math 30-2	Can be taken either term	
CHEM 351 OR Arts or Science Elective (3 Credits)	Organic Chemistry I	CHEM 211 OR CHEM 102	See Important Note 1	
Arts or Science Elective				

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 or, if you would like to stay at RDP, you can complete a four-year degree in our Bachelor of Science Biological Sciences degree!

FALL TERM	DONE	WINTER TERM	DONE
BIOL 317 (can be taken either term)		BIOL 318 (can be taken either term)	
CHEM 351 (if not completed in Year 1) or CHEM 352		CHEM 352 (if not completed in Fall term) or Art/Science Elective	
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree		BIOC 393	
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree		Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	
Course Towards Undergraduate Degree		Course Towards Undergraduate Degree	

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 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.
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 RDP's CHEM 351 and CHEM 352.
3. It is **highly recommended students complete both BIOL 217 & BIOL 218 prior to transferring to the U of C**. Completion of both courses will cover the requirements for the U of C's Introductory Biology courses (BIOL 241 & 243). Students who transfer with only one of RDP's BIOL 217 or 218 completed will still need to complete both U of C's BIOL 241 & 243 upon transfer.

ELECTIVE LIST

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

TRANSFER INFORMATION

Make sure the courses you take are transferable to your goal institution using [Transfer Alberta](#).

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). <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>
Application Deadline	Please refer to the UCVM website for important dates.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HELPFUL 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
University of Calgary Veterinary Medicine (UVCM)	www.vet.ucalgary.ca vet.admissions@ucalgary.ca