

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: April 21, 2011

SUBJECT: **Western College of Veterinary Medicine: Change to Admission Requirements for DVM program**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve the proposal from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to change admission requirements as follows: that the Biochemistry requirement be changed to 3 credit units, and that the curriculum be altered to include the additional biochemistry material; that the Physics requirement be changed to 3 credit units; and that the minimum overall GPA be changed to 75 per cent, effective for September, 2012.

PURPOSE:

The University of Saskatchewan Act 1995 requires that a decision to change academic or other qualifications required for admission as a student be approved by University Council [61 (1) (i)] and be confirmed by University Senate [63(1) (3) (a)]

SUMMARY:

This proposal would reduce the Biochemistry and Physics courses required for admission to 3 credit units each. These changes reflect the need to establish admission requirements which can be met in two years of university study by students at universities across the western provinces, and which do not discourage excellent students from applying for admission. The increase in GPA for admission to 75 per cent reflects the college finding that students with lower entrance averages find the veterinary program too difficult to complete successfully.

REVIEW:

At its March 23, 2011 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee discussed this proposal with Associate Dean Bruce Grahn and Admissions Manager Heather Mandeville. It was noted that these proposals had been developed by an Admissions Task Force within the college. The Committee agreed to recommend that Council approve this proposal.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal documentation

**Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) Report to
Academic Programs Committee and University Council
February 18, 2011**

The WCVM Faculty Meeting was held February 9, 2011 and the following changes to admission requirements were approved. As background information the Admissions Committee of the WCVM appointed an Admissions Task Force in June, 2010 to review the current admission requirements and procedures for the WCVM and determine recommendations for changes. The Task Force was chaired by Dr. Grahn (Associate Dean Academic and Chair of the Admissions Committee) and included representatives from all five veterinary departments, as well as a veterinarian from outside the university.

The following changes require Academic Programs Committee and University Council approval:

Prerequisites

After reviewing the prerequisites for application to the Canadian Veterinary Colleges, it was realized that the WCVM has a heavier prerequisite requirement than others. Specifically, of the English speaking DVM Programs with regards to the Biochemistry and Physics prerequisites:

Biochemistry	Physics
- WCVM requires 6 credits	- WCVM requires 6 credits
- OVC and U of C require 3 credits	- OVC and U of C don't require any
- AVC doesn't require any	- AVC requires 3 credits

In addition, the Biochemistry prerequisite requirement of 6 credits has become increasingly difficult for applicants to complete in a two-year pre-veterinary program of study based on many universities/colleges requiring students to complete 6 credits of Chemistry and 3 credits of Organic Chemistry as prerequisites for the Biochemistry course.

Note: Consultations with the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences faculty realized that an estimated 16 hours of lecture time would be required (added) to the WCVM curriculum to cover the Biochemistry topics not obtained prior to entry to veterinary medicine.

Motion: That we change the 6 credits of Biochemistry prerequisite to 3 credits and that the curriculum be altered to accommodate the credits of metabolism in the DVM Program.

Motion: That we change the 6 credits of Physics prerequisite to 3 credits.

Note: The current prerequisite requirement for WCVM is 60 credits which includes 15 credits of electives. If the following prerequisite motions are approved, the elective requirement would be increased to 21 credits to correspond with the mandatory prerequisite changes.

Minimum Overall GPA for Application and Admissions Formula

The Task Force was presented with an analysis of admissions data from applicants and accepted students over the last number of years. One of the findings upon reviewing the data was that “grades predict grades”. The area of concern was the provincial pools that traditionally received fewer applications where the 70-75% students were competitive to be both interviewed and accepted.

Motion: That the minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) be increased to 75% from the current requirement of 70%.

For Information

WCVM Changes approved by Faculty – Feb 9, 2011

Application Deadline – December 1 effective fall 2012 entry

The application deadline for the WCVM has historically been January 3 but will be moved to December 1 effective fall 2012 entrants. The suggestion to change the application deadline was made based on the current deadline falling at a time when staff cannot provide assistance to applicants with questions about completing the form or requirements because the university is closed the last week of December (directly preceding the current deadline). In addition, based on the fact that the majority of applicants are currently attending university when applying and writing final exams in December, it was felt that moving the deadline to early December would be optimal.

Application Fee – \$100

It was approved to change the WCVM application fee from \$50 to \$100 (fee change approval through Financial Service Division and PCIP pending). Background: the application fee has been \$50 for some time (greater than 20 years). Application fees of other Canadian Veterinary Colleges are in the \$100-\$125 range. Similarly, application fees for non-direct entry U of S Colleges range from \$75-\$175.

References – Two Required

It was approved to use a new reference form and reduce the requirement from 3 references to 2 with one needing to be from a veterinarian and the second from someone from an agriculture- or animal-related background.