

Master of Veterinary Science (MVetSc)

Department of Veterinary Pathology, WCVM

The Master of Veterinary Science program is oriented to learning by doing diagnostic work under supervision. The program is available only to students with a DVM degree or equivalent. Clinical course work in diagnostic pathology, either anatomic or clinical pathology, is the major component of study for all students. Students majoring in anatomic or clinical pathology may take courses to obtain limited experience in clinical or anatomic pathology respectively. Students majoring in clinical pathology normally also obtain training in surgical pathology.

In the Wildlife Health Option in Anatomic Pathology students acquire knowledge, skills and experience relevant to the practice of wildlife veterinary medicine. The program uses the core activities of the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Western and Northern Regional Centre as its "clinic" for practical experience in the practice of wildlife veterinary medicine. The core curriculum includes anatomical pathology of both domestic and wild animals, chemical immobilization, animal handling and drug safety, risk analysis in wildlife health issues, disease surveillance and field investigation of wildlife diseases, and course work in wild animal diseases, statistics and wildlife biology, and a small research project.

The goal of the MVetSc program is to graduate competent, broadly trained diagnosticians in either clinical pathology or anatomic pathology. They should be well on their way to successful writing of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) examination if they choose to do this. (Note: ACVP eligibility requires 3 years of training.)

In the Avian Pathology/Medicine option, course work would include epidemiology, pathology, microbiology, nutrition and poultry science. Training is directed at successful writing of the certifying examination of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV).

The MVetSc degree is not a research degree. The research component of the program is small, giving an introductory encounter; however, the research component is essential to the program. It is intended to provide insights into the strengths and limitations of research data and, thereby, to foster critical evaluation of scientific information. Research projects for MVetSc students most often will deal with problems in applied, diagnostic veterinary pathology. Some may venture into the pathogenesis of disease, but major experimental studies exceed the intended scope of the research component of the program. Some students may choose to enrol in a PhD program following completion of the MVetSc degree.

The MVetSc degree normally requires two years to complete. The application deadline is **December 1**, with MVetSc programs beginning **August 15**.