

## How to Become a Veterinarian in Canada

A veterinarian in Canada is a doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM), a professional in animal health care who has completed a university degree at a veterinary college. It typically takes 4 years to finish a DVM degree. Veterinarians may also choose to continue their studies after their graduations to become specialized in areas such as surgery, dentistry, cardiology or other fields.

Currently, there are 5 veterinary schools offering DVM degree in Canada. In general, each veterinary college gives admission priority to residents of the region or province the college is located in. For a list of schools, please refer to the resource: [Canadian Veterinary Schools](#). Some school provides admission statistics and they can be found here: [University of Calgary](#), [University of Guelph](#), and [University of Saskatchewan](#). The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association also provides statistics on the number of veterinarians and practices in Canada: [Veterinary Demographics](#)

To practice veterinary medicine, students must obtain a licence by passing the **North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE)**. There may be additional licensure requirements depending on the province/territory you live in. To learn more about the additional requirements, please contact the veterinary licensing body of the province you live in for more information. For a list of the licensing bodies, please refer to the resource: [Provincial Veterinary Licensing Bodies in Canada](#).

If you are trained in schools outside Canada, you should contact the appropriate provincial veterinary licensing bodies for information on licensing procedures and degree equivalency. To obtain more information on how a foreign-trained veterinarian can obtain a license, please refer to the resource: [Information for foreign-trained veterinarians](#).

In general, a graduate of a *non-accredited* veterinary school is required to complete the National Examining Board examination sequence in order to receive a **Certificate of Qualification (CQ)**. A CQ is a pre-requisite to apply for a license from any of the provincial veterinary licensing boards in Canada. The NEB has 3 parts: The Basic and Clinical Sciences Examination (BCSE), the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE); and the Clinical Proficiency Examination (CPE). To learn more about the exam, please refer to the resource: [National Examining Board \(NEB\)](#).

Graduates with a DVM degree are employed in many areas: private clinics, research, shelter medicine, public policy, global veterinary medicine and others. For more career options, please refer to the resource: [Exploring Veterinary Career Options](#).

To learn about admission process for the veterinary schools in the US, Canada and other countries, please read the book: **Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements** ([McGill Catalogue](#))

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## How to Become an Animal Health Technologists (AHT) / Veterinary Technicians (VT)

Animal health technologists/veterinary technicians are highly trained professional who work as an integral part of the veterinary medical team to provide quality animal health care. The training usually takes 2 to 3 years depending on the colleges and provincial requirements. The study involved the basic sciences as well as applied technical courses. Graduates may find employments in private veterinary practices, zoos, wildlife rehabilitation, government and research. For a list of schools, please visit: [Animal Health Technologist/Veterinary Technicians](#) -> Link "[List of Colleges with Accredited AHT/VT Programs](#)". To learn more about AHT/VT career options, visit: [Career Opportunities for RVTs](#)

Sources: [wikiHow - How to Become a Veterinarian](#) | [FCRO: Veterinary Medicine in Canada](#) | [CVMA - A Career in Veterinary Medicine](#)

This handout is available at: **What can I do with my studies?** (<http://www.mcgill.ca/caps/discipline>) -> **Animal Science**