College of Veterinary Medicine
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program

Orientation Booklet
and Admissions Guide

Prepared by
Admissions Office
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The Interview Process

Interviews at Western University of Health Sciences are meant to be an exchange of information in a warm and welcoming environment. It is an experience that is to be both positive and enjoyable for the student applicants. Our interviews are never meant to be threatening nor confrontational in any way. Applicants have been selected by the admissions committee because they exemplify those qualities that we feel are important in the professionals whom we educate.

We understand that the applicants are also making choices regarding the professional school that they will attend. Our goal is to inform the applicants of the educational programs provided to assist them, the state of the art facilities that are available to the applicants, and demonstrate to potential students that we are “living our values” so that we are here for our students and for each other. This is what makes Western University of Health Sciences a special place to learn.

General Applicant Information
- We received over 700 applications and expect approximately 400 interviews to be scheduled to fill a class of 105 students.
- Interviews will be conducted October 29 and 31 and November 5, 7, 12, and 14, 2016

Orientation
The interview day has been organized to allow candidates to obtain information on our program and support services; therefore, we encourage you to ASK QUESTIONS!

Tour of the Campus
Take a [360 degree tour of our campus](#) from the comfort of your home.

Interview
- Candidates should be in the interview waiting area 15 minutes prior to the interview.
- The average interview is conducted in a multiple mini-interview format with two sessions approximately 15 minutes in duration for each session.
- The interview panel may be comprised of two of the following: faculty member, a practicing DVM, and/or alumni of Western University.

Admissions Committee Decisions
- Following the interview, candidates are placed in one of three categories: Accept, Alternate, or Not Accept.
- Candidates are notified by e-mail of the college’s decision. Notification letters for all categories will be e-mailed by mid-December 2016. If you have not received notification of your status by mid-January 2017, please feel free to contact the Admissions office.
- Official transcripts, history & physical information, and titer results are required of all accepted students.
- Candidates selected as alternates may be offered a seat in the class as late as the first week of school in August.

Questions
If you have questions regarding your application, please contact your Admissions Counselor by phone or email (please refer to the Contacts page for contact information).

Evaluation Form
You will receive an e-mail shortly after your e-mail with a link to our interview day evaluation form. Please take a moment complete and submit it to the Admissions Office as soon as possible. Your feedback and comments are important to us, as we consider them when planning next year’s interview day activities. The information that you report will remain confidential and will not be used in determining admission.
IMPORTANT ACCEPT STATUS INFORMATION

For DVM candidates accepted to Western University of Health Sciences, the acceptance deposit is $500, payable to Western University of Health Sciences and is due by the date indicated in the acceptance letter. This deposit is non-refundable.

ALL prerequisite course work in progress must be completed by the end of the Spring 2017 semester or quarter or June 15, 2017. Summer and Fall 2017 courses will not be accepted. If you have prerequisite course work in progress, and are accepted to WesternU’s Veterinary Medicine program, your acceptance will be contingent upon successful completion of ALL prerequisite courses (“C-” or lower is unacceptable) by Spring 2017 and satisfaction of all admissions requirements.

A current history and physical along with the results of a TB test or chest x-ray, both within six months of matriculation, and current Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and adult pertussis) will be required for registration. We will also need titer results for MMR, varicella (chicken pox), and the Hepatitis B series (or have first two shots completed in order to register). Rabies vaccination is also required of all Veterinary Medicine students (must have started series by first day of class). We strongly recommend that you schedule an appointment for your physical examination as soon as you receive your letter of acceptance.

All required documentation must be received no later than June 1st. Failure to complete the admissions and pre-matriculation requirements will result in the delay of your registration, financial aid, and/or rescindment of your acceptance.

If you have any questions, please check with the Admissions Office.

International Students

International students and any other applicants, who are not US citizens and are living in the US, should be prepared to provide proof of legal US residency at the time of interview. Proof of legal US residency is required prior to any offer of acceptance. For more information please visit the international student website or contact the Designated School Official (see Administrative Contacts on page 15).

ALTERNATE STATUS INFORMATION

Alternate candidates may be offered a seat from the time the alternate letter is received until classes begin in August 2017. An electronic response from you, when you first learn of your alternate status, is all that is required for you to remain in consideration. If you should accept a seat elsewhere, please notify us in writing by email as soon as possible so that we may remove you from the alternate list. Be advised that second interviews are not granted.

The alternate status will remain unchanged until notified in writing from the Admissions Office. Applicants placed as alternates may or may not be offered a seat for the upcoming entering class. Please note that alternate candidates are not numbered or ranked. The alternate status remains unchanged until an offer of acceptance is made by Western University.

If you are placed in the alternate pool, and you would like suggestions on how to improve your application for the next application cycle, you are encouraged to review the competitive statistics page on the prospective student website. In addition, suggestions on how to improve your application do not guarantee an interview and/or acceptance to the DVM Program. We ask that you not email your admissions counselor for advising, as they do not have details regarding why you were not chosen initially for a seat in the class.
Should an alternate be made an offer of acceptance in July, candidates are required to provide all official transcripts, health clearance documents, and request a background check within 24-48 hours after the offer of acceptance is made. Failure to provide such documents will result in a rescindment of offer.

Candidates who are unsuccessful in gaining admission will be notified, via e-mail and by mail, by the first week of September.

**IF YOU ARE NOT OFFERED AN ACCEPTANCE**

The Office of Admissions will notify candidates who are unsuccessful in gaining admission by email. Applicants not offered a seat are encouraged to review the competitive statistics page on the prospective student website. In addition, suggestions on how to improve your application do not guarantee an interview and/or acceptance to the DVM program. We ask that you not email your admissions counselor for advising, as they do not have details regarding why you were not chosen initially for a seat in the class.

Remember to check our website for new application deadline dates and any changes in program prerequisites. Please review the admissions requirements carefully for these changes.

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES CATALOG**

You may access the University Catalog via our web site. It is presented as a pdf file so you will need to download Acrobat Reader to access the catalog. The web address is.

In addition, with the advent of an online catalog, the information contained in the Student Handbook has been incorporated into the catalog. University Academic Policies and Procedures are contained as a section within each program component.

**View the DVM Curriculum**

**VIEW STUDENT TIME COMMITMENTS & WEEK IN THE LIFE**
FINANCIAL AID

APPLYING FOR AID

Students need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to apply for financial aid. The Financial Aid Office encourages all students to file the FAFSA via the web at [http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) on or after October 1, 2016.

Students are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to update your 2015 IRS tax return information. The school code for Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) is **024827**. The priority deadline for the financial aid application is **March 2, 2017**. Once the student has submitted the completed FAFSA application, the Financial Aid Office will then be able to determine the student’s eligibility for federal aid. An award letter will be sent electronically to the student’s Western U e-mail address by mid-April. More detailed information about the financial aid process is available online.

STUDENT BUDGET

The budgets are set for the student alone. **Per federal regulations we are not allowed to supplement** the student budget for spouses or any other dependents. However, we are able to add childcare expenses to your budget if your spouse is working while you are attending WesternU. In addition, financial aid is not designed to cover outside consumer debt such as automobile payments, auto insurance, credit card debt, and moving expenses to attend WesternU.

Please visit our website to view the budget for first year veterinary medicine students for the 2016-2017 academic year. Budgets for the 2017-2018 aid year will be posted on our webpage by the end of March 2017. Please visit our website to view updated budgets beginning in April.
Western University Financial Aid Office has developed Financing A Healthy Future a literacy program that can be used in all phases of your student, work and personal life. Our goal is to help our students make better-informed financial decisions and give you the tools needed to help with financial planning, counseling and budgeting. This site will also help give you the financial awareness to prepare you for financial success and a healthier financial future. Please explore all of the areas of this site and visit often for new and additional information.

For more information on budgeting and finances, please visit our “Financing a Healthy Future” website.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Federal regulations require that all federal funds be divided into equal payments. Based on the Veterinary Medicine program, disbursements are typically scheduled 5 days prior to the first day of enrollment for the fall term. Spring disbursements are typically scheduled the first Monday of January upon returning from the winter holiday break and summer disbursements typically occur by the end of April.

- Your financial aid disbursement will be applied to your student account to pay off tuition and other fees before the tuition due date.

- If there is a credit balance, it will be disbursed to your checking account on your scheduled disbursement date. These dates will be updated by the end of March 2017 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

**LOAN PROGRAMS**

Your financial aid award will be based on the budget shown above. Graduate professional students are eligible for two types of federal loans as shown below:

**Federal Unsubsidized Stafford** - Students may be eligible for up to $20,500 based on a 12-month academic year. **Effective July 1, 2013 interest rates have changed to a “variable-fixed” rate.** The rate would be fixed until the loan is paid in full. Interest rates will be established on July 1, for the upcoming
academic year. For the 2016/2017 academic year the interest rate is 5.31% (T-bill + 3.60%) which starts accruing interest as soon as the funds are disbursed to the university. Please remember that the interest rate for the 2017/2018 academic year may differ based on what the 10-Year T-Bill will be by the end of May 2017. For additional information, visit our website. In addition, there is a 1.069% origination fee which is assessed at the time of disbursement. Federal unsubsidized repayment will begin six months after the student graduates or drops below half time enrollment. Limited deferments and forbearances are available to students upon graduation based on economic hardship.

Grad Plus Loan – Effective July 1, 2013 interest rates have changed to a “variable-fixed” rate. The rate would be fixed until the loan is paid in full. Interest rates will be established on July 1, for the upcoming academic year. For the 2016/2017 academic year the interest rate is 6.31% (T-bill + 4.60%) which starts accruing interest as soon as the funds are disbursed to the university. Please remember that the interest rate for the 2017/2018 academic year may differ based on what the 10-Year T-Bill will be by the end of May 2017. For additional information visit our website. In addition, there is a 4.276% origination fee which is assessed at the time of disbursement. Repayment begins six months after the student graduates or drops below half time enrollment. Limited deferments and forbearances are available to students upon graduation based on economic hardship. Students may borrow up to the cost of attendance minus other financial aid. *The Grad PLUS loan also requires a credit check.

Alternative Loans – Alternative loans are designed for international and DACA students. However, students eligible for federal loans can apply for alternative loans. In order for an international student to obtain funding a U.S. Citizen co-signer is required. Alternative loans are based on credit worthiness. Unlike the Stafford Loan program, approval is not guaranteed. The lending institutions determine interest rates of which there is no cap. Some lenders may charge an origination fee. Alternative loans may not have deferment/forbearance options as well. *Alternative loans also require a credit check.

*Please note: Grad Plus and alternative loan borrowers cannot have an adverse credit history, which includes 90 days or more delinquency on any debit, or a credit report that shows default, discharge, foreclosure, repossession, bankruptcy, tax lien, wage garnishment or write off of a Title IV debt during five years preceding the date of the credit report.
SCHOLARSHIPS

Private Scholarships – Scholarships are available from private sources such as: hospital auxiliaries, ethnic associations, religious affiliations, community organizations, etc. We encourage students to access the Internet for scholarship sources such as http://www.fastweb.com/.

Institutional Scholarships – Are also available. To find out more, visit the Financial Aid Office or visit our scholarship site.

National Health Service Corp – Pays tuition and fees, books and supplies, and a monthly stipend. The student must commit to serve in a medically underserved area.

WICHE – Pays a portion of tuition for those students who are residents of the following states: Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, and Wyoming.

For additional information on Financial Aid, please visit our website or call 800-346-1610
Learning Enhancement & Academic Development (LEAD)
The LEAD office is student-oriented. It serves as an important resource, partnership, and support system for students. LEAD counselors are dedicated to assist students in developing their academic, professional, and personal skills.

Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP): This program offers supplemental academic instruction for students. Instruction is facilitated by trained competent peer tutors.

Academic Counseling: In one-on-one academic counseling sessions, students can improve their competencies in a range of areas, including: study strategies, test taking, focus and retention, time management, stress management, academic writing skills, and more. Each session is designed to address the student’s particular learning style, with the help of basic assessments. Students can schedule as many sessions as needed.

Wellbeing Initiative: The initiative consists of Wellbeing workshops with topics that focus on student wellness, Wellbeing activities around exams, weekly meditation sessions, as well as other activities focused on enriching the humanistic side of the student experience.

Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy/Accommodation and Resource Center (CDHP/AARC)

If you have a disability and/or medical condition there are a number of support services available to you. Assistant Director of Accommodations and Resource Center (AARC), Sandra Lawler, is available to meet with you and discuss the intake process, required documentation, and academic accommodations. To contact the center, you may call (909) 469-5441 or email slawler@westernu.edu

AARC embraces the spirit of providing services to all students with permanent or temporary disabilities, ensuring that all University programs and activities are accessible. During your appointment, you will be advised about the required documentation. AARC understands educational needs and is able to assist with reasonable accommodations. Please keep in mind, there are no charges to you for services that are needed to support your educational program. We are here to help you succeed!

Fitness

Counseling
We are pleased to provide all full-time students access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for students through OptumHealth. Under the EAP for Students, you and any member of your immediate household are eligible for up to five free counseling sessions for each “incident” or situation. Counseling includes but is not limited to: emotional well-being, financial planning, work, and school issues. Counseling services may be accessed by telephone, via the web, or face-to-face. An on-campus counselor is available 10 hours a week. Counseling is also provided through the faculty advisor program and the Dean.

Health Insurance
As a full-time WesternU student, you must show, during registration EACH academic year that you have a current health insurance policy. We encourage you to “shop around” for a health insurance plan that meets your specific needs. For complete details visit our health insurance page or call WesternU’s insurance broker, Wells Fargo Student Insurance, at 1-800-853-5899.
NOTE: There is a University owned medical center (Patient Care Center) located on the WesternU Campus in Pomona, California and students are welcome to use this medical facility. There are no free services to students. Students may want to call in advance to verify that the wait time will be minimal. The Patient Care Center accepts many types of insurance including the insurance plan described above.

**Student Parking**

Annual parking permits are $470, and semester parking permits are $255 allowing you to park in designated WesternU parking places. These permits may be purchased during online registration. You may instead choose to park in City Public Metered Parking in Lot 12. When you purchase between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. the fee for over 3 hours is $3.00 per day. When you purchase after 7:00 p.m. the fee is $1.00. The machine accepts coins, bills, Visa, and MasterCard.

**Housing**

**Metrolink**

If you are interested in using the Metrolink, which has a station just a few blocks from campus, be sure to secure housing east of campus. To access schedules and other information, please go online. Rates are determined by distance traveled (originating station to destination station). The rail line runs parallel to WesternU and is the Riverside Line, which goes from Downtown Riverside to the Downtown Pomona station. There is also the San Bernardino Line, which goes from San Bernardino to the Pomona North station. These are the closest stations to WesternU.

**Student Government Association**

**Community Service & Clubs**

We have a very active Student Government Association (SGA) on campus that serves as the voice of the students. In addition, we over 130 different clubs between the Lebanon and Pomona campuses comprising such diverse groups as nationally affiliated professional organizations, cultural/religious groups, and interest-based groups, among others.

Our clubs and classes take part in a variety of community service events each year including offering free health screenings at numerous health fairs, facilitating “Santa’s Workshop” for over 300 foster care children, and assisting at/participating in events such as the Special Olympics and 5K runs to support cancer research. Students also host two Club Days each year where you have an opportunity to visit various club booths to discuss their mission and join as a member.

In addition, if you are interested in journalism, we encourage you to get involved in the publication of the WesternU Humanism magazine. The magazine is written and edited by students under the direction of faculty advisors.

**Diversity**

We are proud of our diverse student body, and the many extracurricular activities offered on campus reflect that diversity. We offer a wide range of opportunities with campus organizations that include cultural, religious, medical, and fine arts clubs. The cultural diversity present on our campus provides students with an appreciation and respect for people of all backgrounds.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

UNIVERSITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT INFORMATION

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT & ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT (LEAD)

CAMPUS & PARKING MAPS

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE STUDENT SERVICES
For specific questions relating to Veterinary Medicine Curriculum:
Nicole Jimenez
(909) 469-3470
njmenez@westernu.edu

LAPTOP COMPUTER TECHNICAL SUPPORT
For laptop computer assistance
techsupport@westernu.edu