



# Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Veterinarians help animals and people live longer, healthier lives and serve society by preventing and treating animal diseases, improving the quality of the environment ensuring the safety of food, controlling diseases transmitted from animals, and advancing medical knowledge. Prospective veterinarians must have good manual dexterity, an affinity for animals and the ability to get along with animal owners. Additionally, they should be able to quickly make decisions in emergencies.

## Taking the Right Classes

Academic preparation for Veterinary school begins with selecting courses that meet the pre-Veterinary requirements as an undergraduate in college. Although each Veterinary school independently decides upon its own pre-Veterinary requirements course list, most schools will require the courses listed below.

Note: various Veterinary schools require some additional courses as well. For the most accurate list of courses required by individual schools, check with the school's admissions office or Web site. A good resource manual for obtaining this information is the most current edition of the Veterinary School Admission Requirements published by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges: <http://www.aavmc.org/>

### Pre-Veterinary Course Requirements for Most U.S. Veterinary Schools

1 year of English	ENGL G100 + 110
1 year of chemistry (with laboratory)	CHEM G180 + G185
1 year of organic chemistry (with laboratory)	CHEM G220
1 year of biology (with laboratory)	BIOL G180 + G182
1 year of mathematics*	MATH G180 + G185
1 year of physics (with laboratory)	PHYS G120 + G125
1 semester of statistics	MATH G160
1 quarter/semester of microbiology	BIOL G210 <sup>1</sup>
1 quarter/semester of genetics	Upper Division Course: Taken at University
1 quarter/semester of biochemistry	Upper Division Course: Taken at University
1 quarter/semester of systemic physiology	Upper Division Course: Taken at University
Additional sciences: molecular biology, endocrinology, parasitology, advanced physiology <sup>1</sup> .	Upper Division Course: Taken at University
Computer Skills	Highly Recommended
<sup>1</sup> Required by Western University. 3 upper division courses in Biological and Life Science with labs. Requirements reflect changes to 2017 admission standards	

\*Many colleges will accept one semester of Calculus and one semester of statistics.

## Choosing the Best Major

What is the best major for pre-veterinary students? The answer is: *there is no best major*. Choose a major that you find most interesting, challenging and satisfying. You should study subjects that you really enjoy, and avoid choosing a major because it might "look good" on your application. No points are given for the major that you choose, however, you will probably perform better in a major that captures your interests. In California, a Biology major from a UC campus was preferred for admission over other majors and campuses.<sup>1</sup>

Many students choose to major in the biological sciences because the requirements for a biology degree are very similar to veterinary school admission requirements. Other majors such as Animal Science, Animal Biology are also majors that

<sup>1</sup> UC Davis Profile of Admitted Students / Admissions Statistics: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/students/admissions/ClassOf2019Statistics.cfm>  
 Golden West College Pre-Professional Guides. Updated 08/30/2016 YVP  
 Median income from Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/home.htm>

satisfy most pre-veterinary school prerequisites. If you decide to pursue a non-science major, then your strong performance in the pre-vet requirements will be crucial.

### **Important for Community College Students:**

If you complete all of your pre-vet requirements at community college, it may be in your best interest to take several upper-division science classes at the four-year institution to which you transfer. Performing well in upper-division science courses further demonstrates your ability to handle the rigorous science-based coursework found in veterinary school. If you are not a science major, it may still be important for you to take additional science courses beyond the minimum requirements to further support application to veterinary school.

### **GRE Preparation**

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a standardized examination that most U.S. Veterinary Schools require for admissions. The GRE is offered several times a year and it can play a very significant role in the application process. Most all colleges will require the GRE with the Analytical Writing portion, as well as the Biology Subject Exam.

### **Hands-on Experience**

Knowledge of and experience in working with animals is critical preparation for a successful veterinarian. Appropriate preparation includes formal training and experience as well as contact with and handling of animals. Applicants to the College of Veterinary Medicine are expected to be familiar with animal and animal behavior. General agriculture knowledge is encouraged for those interested in farm animal veterinary medicine.

To obtain this experience, applicants should register for the course work which provides exposure to animals or involve themselves in practical animal applications in the private sector. Many Veterinary schools will require a minimum of 100-500 hours of practical experience. Don't be fooled by this number - Most admitted students have over 3500 hours!

### **Veterinary School Application Process**

1. Meet minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree for most all applicants, prerequisite coursework, GRE scores within 3-5 years of application.
2. Apply to universities (GRE scores included).
3. Be invited to interview with selected university committees
4. Get a letter of "Acceptance", "Denial", or "Waitlist"
5. Matriculate to the university of choice where final acceptance was granted.

### **Veterinary Medicine Schools:**

There are 29 Veterinary schools in the U.S.: <http://www.aavmc.org/aavmc-members/full-member-listing.aspx>

There are only two School of Veterinary Medicine in California

UC Davis: [http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/students\\_home/index.cfm](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/students_home/index.cfm) Avg GPA: 3.78 / 3.65 Sci

Western University of Health Sciences: <http://prospective.westernu.edu/veterinary/welcome-17/>

Avg GPA: 3.40

**Degrees Offered:** Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)

**Dual Degrees:** Some campuses will offer joint degrees along with the DVM, including a research Ph.D.; Masters in Business Administration (MBA); and other Master's level degrees.

**Minimum GPA** required for applying is 2.50 (UC Davis) – 2.75 (Western University)

**Average GPA** for admission to Veterinary Schools: 3.3 cumulative / 3.54 sciences

**Median Income:** \$88,490

### **Additional Resources:**

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges: <http://www.aavmc.org/>

GRE: <http://www.ets.org/gre/>