

# Pre-Veterinarian Information Sheet

## Pre-Veterinarian Program Requirements

Veterinary schools have different requirements. Students may consult with the Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements in the United States and Canada (VMSAR) book for updated information on specific requirements for the schools to which they plan to apply. Go to [aavmc.org](http://aavmc.org) for more information. The prerequisites for the Virginia-Maryland Regional College are:

### Veterinary School Requirement

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Biology (Biol 213, 303)                     | 2 semesters |
| General Chemistry (Chem 211, 212)           | 2 semesters |
| Organic Chemistry (Chem 313/ 315, 314/ 318) | 2 semesters |
| Biochemistry (Biology 483 or Chemistry 463) | 1 semester  |
| Physics (Phys 243/ 244, Phys 245/246)       | 2 semesters |
| English (Engl 101, 201 or 302)              | 2 semesters |
| Mathematics (college algebra or higher)     | 2 semesters |
| Humanities/Social Sciences                  | 2 semesters |

Admission to veterinary schools is highly competitive. Students admitted to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College in recent years have had a cumulative gpa of a 3.53, competitive GRE scores, a wide variety of animal experience in both large and small animals and 400-600 hours of work experience in a veterinary practice.

## Veterinarians

Veterinarians are professionals who diagnose medical problems and care for pets and farm animals. They dress wounds, set broken bones, perform surgery, prescribe and administer medicine, and vaccinate animals against disease. Veterinarians also:

- Advise owners about the care and breeding of animals,
- Engage in research, food safety inspection and education,
- Work with physicians and scientist on research to prevent and treat diseases in humans,
- Specialize in epidemiology or animal pathology, thus helping to prevent the outbreak and spread of animal diseases like rabies,
- Play a leading role in government public health efforts by overseeing food production to ensure its safety, and
- Examine slaughtering and processing plants and enforce government food purity and sanitation regulations.

According to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, the majority of veterinarians in the United States are in private practice though there are many others who are involved in preventive medicine, laboratory animal medicine, research and development, and teaching. Some veterinarians choose to specialize in small animal, others in large animals.

## Veterinarian Education

The DVM or VMD (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) program typically takes four years to complete. Graduate veterinarians may apply for a license to practice. Each state has its own licensing rules and procedures for practicing within the state. There are 28 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States. Most Virginia residents attend Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine— <http://www.vetmed.vt.edu> located in Blacksburg Virginia.

### **Standardized Tests**

Most veterinary schools require students to take at least one standardized test. The majority of schools require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); students need to contact the schools to find out which tests are required for admission. For more information about the GRE, visit their website at: <http://www.gre.org>.

### **The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)**

VMCAS is a centralized service which allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to multiple veterinary programs. Three of the veterinarian schools do not participate in VMCAS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out which schools participate and send individual applications to those that do not participate. For more information about VMCAS, visit their web site at: <http://www.aavmc.org/>

### **Employee Outlook and Earnings**

The Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) expects the employment outlook for veterinarians to be very good because they do not expect the number of veterinarians to increase significantly. The employment opportunities for veterinarians are expected to increase.

According to the BLS, the median annual earnings of veterinarians in 2008-2009 was \$71,990. The middle 50 percent earned between \$56,450 and \$94,880. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$43,530, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$133,150.

Refer to the BLS website for more information: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos076.htm>

### **Pre-Veterinarian Advising**

The information contained in this information sheet should be discussed with a pre-health professional advisor. Pre-veterinarian advising is available by appointment at the Academic Advising Center located in SUB I, Room 304, 703-993-2470. Students must still be advised in their department regarding their major. Students may also go to the <http://prehealth.gmu.edu> website for more information.

“Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements,” 2007 edition, the Bureau of Labor and Statistic Occupation Handbook, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College website were the primary sources of information for this fact sheet.

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