

Pre-Veterinarian Information Sheet

Prerequisites

Prerequisites can vary on a school by school basis. Please check the prerequisites for schools to which you hope to apply

A summary of course prerequisites, for the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges Member Institutions, can be found at <http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchrt14.pdf>.

The following courses are required by many veterinary schools in the United States as the minimum background needed for acceptance.

Veterinarian School Prerequisite	GMU Recommended Courses
Biology, 2 semesters with lab	BIOL 213/Cell Biology BIOL 311/Genetics
Biochemistry, 1 semester	BIOL 483/Biochemistry or CHEM 463/Biochemistry
General Chemistry, 2 semesters	CHEM 211/ General Chemistry CHEM 212/ General Chemistry
Organic Chemistry, 2 semesters with lab	CHEM 313/315 Organic Chemistry I CHEM 314/318 Organic Chemistry II
College Physics, 2 semesters	PHYS 243/244 College Physics PHYS 245/246 College Physics
Mathematics, 2 semesters – varies by school	MATH 113, STAT 250/BIOL 214
English, 1 semester	ENGL 101
Humanities/ Social Sciences, 2 semesters	PSYC 100 Basic Concepts in Psychology SOCI 101 Introductory Sociology

Additionally, some schools may be looking for one, or more, of the following: Microbiology, Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, Nutrition and Speech Communication. See <http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchrt14.pdf> for further information.

Admission to veterinary schools is highly competitive. According to the [Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine](#), a competitive grade point average is 3.5. A competitive GRE general aptitude score, a wide variety of experience with both large and small animals, experience working for a veterinarian for 400-600 hours, experience working in a research laboratory or in commercial or industrial settings related to veterinary medicine are also expected.

Veterinarians

According to ExploreHEALTHCareers.org, veterinarians are best known for healing ill and injured animals, but helping all kinds of creatures live longer, better lives is not all veterinarians do.

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges has identified a variety of veterinary settings that include private practice, corporate veterinary medicine, the federal government, the U.S. Army Corps and U.S. Air Force, research, teaching, public health, food supply medicine, global veterinary medicine, public policy and shelter medicine.

Veterinarian Education

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Veterinarians must complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) degree at an accredited college of veterinary medicine. There are currently 28 colleges with accredited programs. A veterinary medicine program generally takes 4 years to complete and includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical components...All states and the District of Columbia require veterinarians to have a license. Licensing requirements vary by state, but all states require prospective veterinarians to complete an accredited veterinary program and to pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam."

Standardized Tests

Most veterinary schools require students to take at least one standardized test. The majority of schools require the [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](http://Graduate Record Examination (GRE)). Students need to understand which the schools require the GRE or the MCAT.

Letters of Recommendation

Veterinary schools vary with regard to the letters of recommendation required of applicants.

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 current Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook for Veterinarians can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/ooH/healthcare/veterinarians.htm>.

Pre-Veterinarian Advising

The information contained in this information sheet should be discussed with a Health Professions Advisor. 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. The availability of small health professions advising group opportunities is announced through the HEALTHPROFESSIONS-L listserv.

7/19/13