



PREVET INFORMATION SUMMARY

Veterinarians prevent and treat animal disease, improve the quality of the environment, ensure the safety of food, control diseases transmitted from animals, and advance medical knowledge. For more information on the profession, visit: www.aavmc.org.

Academic Preparation

Academic preparation for Pharmacy school requires a Bachelor's degree and completion of a set of prerequisite classes, usually science, which vary from school to school. Common classes are listed on the last page of this summary. For your degree, any major is appropriate. There is no preference in this regard, so study something you love! Competitive applicants have high grades so pace yourself in order to succeed, and remember that all grades will count when you apply even if you repeat classes

Interpersonal Skills

Vet schools are looking for students who have strong communication and interpersonal skills. The university offers a variety of courses in speech and writing to help you refine your abilities.

Animal/Veterinary Experience

All vet schools require experience with **animal care** and *substantial* first-hand observation or work experience with a **practicing veterinarian**. Many vet schools recommend experience with a range of animal species, both large and small. All schools require a letter of recommendation from a practicing veterinarian with whom you have spent a significant amount of time. These experiences demonstrate your motivation for the profession and help you develop important skills.

Why Veterinary Medicine?

Service to the Community

Because you are preparing for a humanitarian profession, it is important to have volunteer learning experiences which demonstrate a commitment of service to others. It is suggested that this be ongoing throughout your college years prior to application for admission. Want to find activities? Check out: <https://www.umsl.edu/studentinvolvement/service/index.html>

Leadership Experience

As a veterinarian, you will be a leader and team member with your patients, your staff, your colleagues, and your community. Examples include offices held in organizations, committee work; leadership in church activities; coordinating a project; managing, training, supervising at work or in other activities; teaching experience of any kind; coaching, peer counseling or mentoring, etc.

Research Experience

Veterinary medicine depends on professional literature to remain current in their field. Most veterinary schools highly recommend participation in research. It is good to participate in independent, hypothesis-based research using the scientific method. Your research experience could be from many different areas – it does not have to be medically related or in a lab.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program can be found here: <https://www.umsl.edu/studentresearch/>

Things to Remember

- Make sure you have contact information of supervisors and veterinarians you shadow or work within case you need to have them write recommendation letters. Even if you discontinue some activities, try to keep a relationship with them.

❖ APPLICATION TIMELINE

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR		
GRE®	Register, study, take exam & submit score to schools by Sept 15																		
Recom. Letters	Request letters and have writers submit letters by Sept. 15 (Get e-mail addresses from letter writers. VMCAS will contact them by e-mail.)																		
Application	VMCAS application form available online in late-January through Sept. 15																		
						You can submit your application in mid-May													
											Supplemental application deadline: Mid Oct								
											Interviews			FAFSA Application opens on Oct. 1					
												Acceptance Notifications							

❖ GRE

Take the GRE® when you have finished the necessary coursework. It is administered throughout the year. Taking the exam by spring will enable you to apply earlier. October is the last test accepted by most schools for the following Fall's entering class. It is divided into three multiple choice sections; Scored on a scale of 130-170 for Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning, and 0-6 scale for Analytical Writing. The exam may be repeated, but the best strategy is to prepare thoroughly and take it once.

❖ APPLICATION PROCESS

❖ VMCAS

There are 28 accredited vet schools in the US. State vet schools give priority to residents but accept some non-resident applicants. All vet schools participate in the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). Standardized application, links to vet schools, and much more are available online at: www.aavmc.org.

Your application process begins in spring or summer at the end of the junior year if you have completed the necessary requirements. Your first step is usually to take the appropriate entrance exam. As noted above, most schools require to take Graduate Record Examination (GRE®). A few schools may accept the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test).

The VMCAS application becomes available in January each year. You can begin filling it out then. In mid-May you will be able to choose your schools and submit your application. You should start completing it early, and apply before mid-September, one year prior to the entering class to which you desire admission. The deadline for most schools is **October 2**, but the VMCAS deadline for all materials is usually in **mid-September** to ensure meeting that deadline. However, *applicants are strongly encouraged to apply well before the deadline*. Transcripts, test scores, letters of evaluation, a personal statement, and resume are submitted through VMCAS.

❖ SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS

In addition to VMCAS, most schools require supplemental application materials and completion fees. Fees are paid directly to the individual schools when you send in the additional materials. Some vet schools which require supplemental material will first review your VMCAS application, then will notify candidates who have been selected to complete the application. Most schools now have a web based supplemental application and require completion of supplemental materials by the October 2. Deadlines for supplemental materials do vary, but some schools require that EVERYTHING (VMCAS, supplemental, all fees, transcripts, evaluations) be in by October 2. **Follow the instructions provided by each vet school.**

▪ LETTERS OF EVALUATION

Vet schools require letters from: **1) veterinarians** with whom you have worked or volunteered, **2) a college professor who has taught you in a classroom setting and has given you a letter grade**, and **3) an employer/supervisor**. Applicants must use the VMCAS online letter service called eLOR available on the VMCAS web site. You need to provide evaluators' e-mail addresses and have them submit their letters to VMCAS online. VMCAS will send your letters to the individual schools. For more information about eLOR, visit <http://aavmc.org/Applicant-Responsibilities/Evaluations.aspx>.

- **GET TO KNOW YOUR PROFESSORS BETTER!**

- Let professors know at the beginning of class that you would like them to keep an eye on your performance. It will give them a longer “observational window”. Visit their offices regularly and ask them for a letter at the end of the semester if you do well and they are agreeable.
- A key to a good letter is the establishment of a relationship between student and professor based on shared academic interests.
 - Ask thoughtful questions
 - Delve deeper into concepts presented in lectures
 - Share your academic and career goals
 - Ask for recommendations for additional reading
 - Inquire about their areas of interest and research
- After you have gotten to know professors, ask about further opportunities, e.g. teaching assistantships, individual research projects, etc.

- ❖ **GENERAL POLICIES REGARDING COURSEWORK**

CLEP Credit & Correspondence Study	Varies by school. Ask schools directly.
AP Credits	Must appear on official transcripts and be equivalent to the appropriate college-level coursework.
Online Courses	Depends on schools. Ask schools of choice directly.
Repeats	VMCAS will count all repeated courses in your GPA
Withdrawals	W's and EX's should be used only for emergencies, although W's and EX's will not affect GPA.

- ❖ **USEFUL WEBSITES**

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges <http://aavmc.org/>
- Veterinary Medical College Application Service <https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>

- ❖ **Common Vet Required Courses**

Specific courses required for Veterinary Programs varies, but usually requires some of the classes below:

- **Biol 1821** Introductory Biology: Organisms and the Environment
- **Biol 1831** Introductory Biology: From Molecules to Organisms
- **Upper level Biology Courses** – Ex. BIOL 2402 Vertebrate Anatomy or BIOL 3102 Animal Behavior
- **Chem 1111** Introductory Chemistry I
- **Chem 1121** Introductory Chemistry II
- **Chem 2612** Organic Chemistry I
- **Chem 2633** Organic Chemistry Laboratory
- **Chem 4712** Biochemistry
- **Physics 1011/L** Basic Physics I/Basic Physics Lab I
- **Physics 1012/L** Basic Physics II/Basic Physics Lab II
- **Math 1030:** College Algebra
- **Math 1105:** Basic Probability and Statistics **or Math 1320:** Introduction to Probability and Statistics