

Academic Advising and Pre-Veterinary Objective

Each student has an opportunity to be advised by a Pre-Health Advisor in the Office of Academic Advising (OAA). Call (541) 346-3211 to schedule an appointment. Please see your academic advisor on a regular basis to confirm you are on track for your degree and medical school admission.

In order for the Pre-Health Advisors to communicate directly to you and your interests, it is highly recommended to declare a Pre-Veterinary Professional Objective. To do so, email health@uoregon.edu with your name and University of Oregon (UO) ID number, or fill out a form in the OAA.

You are also encouraged to sign up for the Pre-Health mailing list, which provides students with timely announcements and a monthly newsletter. OAA also has a facebook page, located at www.facebook.com/uo.prehealthadvising, which is where more health information can be found.

Undergraduate Requirements for Veterinary School

General Requirements

Most veterinary schools will admit students without a bachelors degree. Some veterinary schools require a bachelors. All students are urged to plan an academic program leading toward a bachelors degree, and work closely with an advisor to ensure the prerequisites are complete.

Specific Course Requirements

Admission requirements vary from school to school, however most have very similar course requirements. Students are encouraged to review the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) online at www.aavmc.org, or go to the individual school websites to find out specific school's requirements.

- English Composition
- General (or Inorganic) Chemistry

- Biology
- Organic Chemistry
- Biochemistry
- Calculus and/or Statistics
- Physics w/ Labs
- Genetics
- Social Sciences and Arts and Letters

OSU is the only school in the state of Oregon to have a veterinary school.

Recommended University of Oregon Curriculum

The minimum requirements for admission to OSU and most other schools can be met with the following classes:

- English Composition – WR 122, 122 or 123
- General Chemistry – CH 221, 222, 223 with labs CH 227, 228, 229
OR Honors Chemistry – CH 224H, 225H, 226H with labs CH 237, 238, 239
- Organic Chemistry – CH 331, 335, 336 with labs CH 337, 338
- General Biology – BI 211, 212, 213 or 214
OR Foundation Biology(H) - BIO 251, 252, 253
 A Pre-Health Advisor can assist you in determining which biology sequence you should take.
- Calculus – MATH 251 (MATH 111 and 112 are prerequisites to 251. See your placement scores)
- General Physics – PHYS 201, 202, 203 with labs 204, 205, 206
- Statistics – MATH 243
- Genetics – BI 320
- Biochemistry – CH 360 or CH 461, 462
- Animal Physiology – BI 356
- Animal Nutrition – UO does not offer this course. OSU offers ANS 311 online class for students not attending OSU.

Advanced Placement (AP) credit are sometimes accepted for some required courses if such credits appear on an undergraduate transcript. Consult with a Pre-Health Advisor for clarification. All of the courses listed above must be taken for a letter grade.

The Pre-Veterinary Curriculum

First Year

Fall Term	Winter Term	Spring Term
CH 221 + 227 lab	CH 222 + 228 lab	CH 223 + 229 lab
-or-	-or-	-or-
CH 224H + 237 lab	CH 225H + 238 lab	CH 226H + 239 lab
MATH 111	MATH 112	MATH 251

Consider:

- Begin Veterinarian-Related Experience
- English Composition
- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes
- Major requirements (if a major has been chosen)

Second Year

BI 211	BI 212	BI 213 -or-
CH 331 + 337 lab	CH 335 + 338 lab	CH 336
		MATH 243

Consider:

- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes
- Major requirements (if a major has been chosen)

Third Year

PHYS 201 + 204 lab	PHYS 202 + 205 lab	PHYS 203 + 206 lab
CH 461 ¹	CH 462 ¹	CH 463 ¹
BI 356		BI 320
BI 214		

Consider:

- Arts & Letters, Social Science or Multicultural classes
- Major requirements
- June - Earliest possible time for submitting veterinary school applications.

Fourth Year

Consider:

- Completion of all University and department requirements.
- Apply to veterinary school during the summer prior to senior year.

Comments:

¹ Two quarters of upper division biochemistry are required by OSU. Three quarters (CH 461, 462, 463) are strongly recommended.

This curriculum on the following page is not set in stone. Talk to an Advisor for course plans that are right for you.

The Undergraduate Major and Academic Advising

The courses described so far consist only of the courses needed to be considered for veterinary school, but not as a degree-granting major. According to the AAVMC, some schools waive general requirements if an applicant has a bachelors.

Science Majors

Given the Pre-vet curriculum, the obvious major is someplace in the sciences: chemistry, biology, biochemistry, general science, mathematics, and physics dovetail efficiently with the recommended classes. Many of the requirements of those majors are satisfied with the Pre-vet prerequisites. Since major requirements do vary considerably, you should plan college courses very carefully in anticipation of a major choice if you have not already committed yourself.

Non-Science Majors

Most veterinary schools make a point of welcoming non-science majors. Successful vet students come from a wide variety of educational backgrounds, including those who major in English, business, communications, among others. We encourage non-science majors to plan carefully, as many of the vet prerequisites can be taken as electives around a student's major and General Education requirements.

The Major as an Alternative Career

As a Pre-veterinary student, you should face realistically the possibility of not gaining admission to veterinary school. What will you do if you are not accepted? Another health career? Reapply? Follow other pathways within your major? Don't be surprised if you are asked this often by friends, advisors, and interviewers. It isn't intended to discourage you but to remind you of the realities of veterinary school application.

Non-Curricular Requirements for Veterinary School Admission

The following information can be found on the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) website and at the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) website.

The General Record Exam (GRE)

Usually, schools accept scores from the GRE. More information about the test can be found at www.ets.org/gre. OSU requires GRE scores, yet some schools also accept the MCAT in place of the GRE.

Letters of Recommendation

Many veterinary degree programs require one to four letters of recommendations (otherwise called “letters of reference” or “letters of evaluation”). Schools may require you to submit letters from a veterinarian, professor, advisor, or supervisor. You are encouraged to find individuals who can speak to your maturity, dependability, dedication, compassion, communication skills, leadership, and any experience you may have in the field. Check the admission requirements school by school for instructions about letters of recommendations, because some schools ask you to use a school-specific evaluation form in lieu or in addition to the letter from the evaluator, many times signed, and on letterhead.

Official Transcripts

All vet schools require official transcripts from every college you have attended. Although few veterinary schools publicly list mandatory GPAs for admission, accumulated statistics illustrate that only applicants with averages at 3.2 and above stand a good chance of admission. The recent national mean for accepted applicants was 3.5 in all college work and 3.5 in sciences.

Take all required courses graded.

In general, you should avoid dropping below a full academic load of 15 or 16 credit hours.

Veterinary and Animal Experience

Veterinary schools encourage if not require students to have either volunteer or paid experience working with animals in a veterinarian's office or health-related setting. Ongoing work or volunteer opportunities are important factors in the admission process to gain a realistic perspective of the profession. Review the school's requirements for the hours required.

The Application Process

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) coordinates the national and international affairs of most veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada. All applicants are required to apply online through AAVMC's Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). Applicants can begin submitting their VMCAS applications in June. For more information, visit www.aavmc.org. There may be a supplemental application for in-state residents.

There are 28 veterinary schools in the USA. Veterinary school admissions are complex and highly competitive. Admission procedures vary considerably from one school to another. Make sure you understand and follow the specific requirements of the schools you are applying to.

Many vet schools give preference to residents of the state they are located in and to residents of contract states (states that have a formal agreement with the vet school). If you are a resident in a state which does not have a veterinary school, you may be eligible for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). More information can be found at <http://wiche.edu/>, or by calling 303-541-0200. There are veterinary schools in the following WICHE states: Oregon, Washington, California, and Colorado.

Chances for Admission: Self Evaluation

The best way to assess your chances for gaining admission to veterinary school begins with a review of selection features.

Early planning and preparation is virtually essential for improving your chances for successful admission. Do not fall into the “trap of the minimums,” as virtually no one with just the minimums gets into veterinary school. Going above and beyond the minimum admission requirements is a very good thing! Over and over again, admission websites and committees stress the importance of the “whole candidate,” representing your academics, extra-curricular activities, leadership, motivation, experience and character. Above all, there is no guarantee of being accepted. Even the most qualified candidates may have to apply more than once.

Residence

The likelihood of acceptance is greatest at the public institutions in the state of which you are a resident. OSU does not give preference to Oregon residents. Private schools do not preference residents and therefore all applicants are considered.

Academic Record

The GPA is critical in selection. Good grades, by themselves, guarantee nothing. They do indicate a solid performance in the past and can be used to predict a high probability of repeated success within the veterinary school curriculum. It is clear that students with a 3.2 GPA and below are in a high-risk category.

Of Special Interest

There are 28 veterinary medical schools in the United States and 15 international veterinary medical schools that use the VMCAS service. Veterinary schools are typically 4 years in length, awarding graduates with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD). Once completed, many veterinarians choose to complete a 1 year internship. In order to be licensed to practice, veterinarians must earn a passing grade on a national board exam.

Pre-Vet Club: Puppy Time

For information on meeting times, days and locations, please email them at *prevet@uoregon.edu*.

Websites for more information and which provided material for this booklet include:

Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine
<http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/>

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
<http://www.wiche.edu/>

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

Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)
<https://portal.vmcas.org/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov

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