

# CLAS Academic Advising Center

Academic advising for students pursuing majors and/or minors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Call Us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)

## Veterinary School Fact Sheet

### **What degree can I earn?**

D.V.M.= Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

### **What is the nature of this profession?**

Veterinarians play a major role in the healthcare of pets, livestock and zoo, sporting and laboratory animals. Veterinarians may work in an office, or travel to farms to work on animals. Some veterinarians are employed in public health and research. Long hours are often required. Evening and weekend hours are typical, as well as being on call for emergency situations.

### **Where can I find additional information about veterinary medicine?**

The Association of American Veterinarian Medical Colleges <http://www.aavmc.org> or  
The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

### **What major and pre-requisites are required for veterinary school?**

**You can major in anything as long as you fulfill the pre-requisites for veterinary school. Most students major in Biology.**

#### **The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for Veterinary School:**

BIO 120: General Biology I	CHM 115: Principles of Chemistry I
BIO 121: General Biology II	CHM 116: Principles of Chemistry II
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab <b>or</b>	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BIO 357: Environmental Microbiology	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BIO 375/376: Genetics with Lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BIO 405: Cell and Molecular Biology (eukaryotic)	PHY 220: General Physics I
MTH (122 and 123) or (201): consult with your	PHY 221: General Physics II
advisor to choose the appropriate course	Animal Nutrition (consult with your advisor to choose an appropriate option)

**\*\*Please note that pre-requisites may vary from school to school. Do your research to make sure that you have met the pre-requisites for the veterinary schools to which you intend to apply. See your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.**

### **What entrance exam is required and what GPA do I need?**

<b>GRE</b>	<b>GPA</b>
Either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is required. Most students take the GRE.  The 2010 national GRE average for admission is 651.	To gain entrance to veterinary school, usually a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA above 3.0 is required. No grade below a C is allowed for pre-requisite courses. The national average for admission is 3.46-3.66. You should check with individual colleges to determine a competitive GPA.

## What do I need to do to be a competitive applicant to veterinary school?

Besides a strong GRE or MCAT score and GPA, veterinary schools look for the following:

- ✓ Animal experience: Significant Clinical Volunteer Experience with large and small animals
- ✓ Shadowing a Veterinarian
  - See <http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/veterinary-school--dvm-77.htm> for lists of vets in the area
- ✓ Extracurricular activities [www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey](http://www.gvsu.edu/studentlife/stuey)
  - Pre-Veterinary Club; other clubs of interest
- ✓ Community service [www.gvsu.edu/service](http://www.gvsu.edu/service) (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- ✓ Strong letters of recommendation, at least one from a veterinarian

\* Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. This can also include awards and honors. Remember that while participating in various activities, you are a GVSU ambassador and should act professionally. At all times and in all ways, make sure that you are proud to be a Laker and appropriately represent GVSU for both yourself and your fellow Lakers who will follow after you.

## Want more information?

- Meet with the Biology Department's pre-veterinary advisor, Dr. Terry M. Trier, [triert@gvsu.edu](mailto:triert@gvsu.edu) or visit his Pre-Veterinary Advising website ([http://faculty.gvsu.edu/triert/prevet/index\\_advising.html](http://faculty.gvsu.edu/triert/prevet/index_advising.html))
- Discuss other options and interests with your faculty advisor and/or CLAS Academic Advisor
- Plan to also attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center (workshops in Writing Personal Statements, the Application Process, getting Healthcare experience, etc.) to assist you through this process while at GVSU. Log on to your Blackboard site and click on CLAS Academic Advising Center under MyOrganizations.

Sample Veterinary School Curriculum	
Year 1	Normality: normal structure and function, animal science, basic radiology, nutrition, physiology, immunology, clinical examination
Year 2	Abnormality: pathology, pharmacology, toxicology, surgery, anesthesia, epidemiology, public health, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and respiratory disease
One semester	Intervention/prevention: causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease
Years 3 & 4	Clerkships (equine medicine, food-animal medicine, small-animal medicine, surgery, anesthesia, diagnostic imaging, pathology, and electives)

Call us: (616) 331-8585 • Visit us On-line: [www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising)  
C-1-140 MAK • 1 Campus Drive • Allendale, MI 49401-9403

