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Veterinary School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.V.M.= Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

For 2022, there were 10,834 applicants for DVM programs for approximately 3,860 seats (including 33 U.S. Veterinary schools, 5 Canadian, and 11 international institutions). Although most programs don't require a bachelor's degree, the majority of admitted D.V.M. students have a 4-year degree.

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 www.aavmc.org.

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) www.avma.org.

YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY MAJOR YOU WOULD LIKE AS LONG AS YOU FULFILL THE PREREQUISITES FOR VETERINARY SCHOOL. MOST STUDENTS MAJOR IN BIOLOGY WITH A PRE-VET EMPHASIS.

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 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 290: Human Physiology	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BIO 375/376: Genetics with Lab	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab or	CMB 405: Cell and Molecular Biology (eukaryotic)
BIO 357: Environmental Microbiology	MTH (122 and 123) or (125) or (201): consult with your advisor to choose the appropriate course
PHY 220: General Physics I	
PHY 221: General Physics II	

Other suggested courses: BMS 391, BMS 410, BMS 450, COM 201, STA 215, COM 201, additional Animal Biology and Biomedical Science courses, Business Management and Accounting courses.

Please note that prerequisites may vary from school to school. Due to variations in admission requirements and procedures, it is advisable to research different veterinary programs. Visit the Veterinary School Directory (<https://applytovetschool.org/>) to see the specific prerequisite course requirements for all veterinary schools. In addition, see your faculty advisor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.

C or better grades are required for prerequisite courses.

GRE

Currently ten (10) vet schools require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test as part of their admissions process. Check the admissions requirements of the schools you are interested.

The national GRE average for applicants accepted to veterinary school fluctuates minimally from year to year. Recently reported has been 64th **percentile** for GRE Verbal and 53rd **percentile** for Quantitative.

GPA

Typically a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA above 3.0 is required for vet school admission. **All attempts of each course are counted in GPA calculations if a student has repeated courses. The national GPA average** for applicants accepted to veterinary school fluctuates minimally from year to year, but averages around **3.60 overall and 3.5 science**. *The average science prerequisite GPA at Michigan State University Veterinary School was 3.36 and a last-3-semester GPA of a 3.59.* You should check with individual colleges to determine a competitive GPA.

Besides a strong GPA (and GRE if applicable) veterinary schools look for the following:

- **Animal experience: Significant Clinical Volunteer Experience** with large and small animals
- **Shadowing a Veterinarian**
 - See www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional for lists of vets in the area
- **Extracurricular and Leadership Activities:** Join Laker Link: www.gvsu.edu/studentorg to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
 - Pre-Vet Club and other clubs of interest
- **Community service** www.gvsu.edu/service
- **Research experience** www.gvsu.edu/ours; Departmental websites: Listing of research by faculty member and discipline
- **Strong letters of recommendation**, at least one from a veterinarian and some from faculty
- Your ability to pass a criminal background check (CBC), depending on the state where you wish to practice. Students must disclose a criminal background when applying to veterinary school, and certain criminal records could potentially prevent licensure in certain states

The Medical and Health Humanities Certificate, Intercultural Communications Certificate, and the Research Scholar Designation are great ways to attain competencies professional schools are looking for in applicants.

Track your experiences. Create a copy of our Preprofessional Action Plan document (www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/actionplan) to log information you will need for your application process. This document has tabs for many items including your academic plan, experiences and hours, GPA calculators, potential letter writers, important contact info and more!

Want More Information??

- Meet with one of the prevet faculty advisors in the Biology department:

Dr. Joe Jacquot
jacquotj@gvsu.edu

Dr. Michael Henshaw
henshawm@gvsu.edu

Dr. Rod Morgan
morganr@gvsu.edu

Dr. Bruce Ostrow
ostrowb@gvsu.edu

- Meet with a prevet advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center.
- Attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you while at GVSU.
- Visit our preveterinary website, www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/vet, for more resources!

Also follow us on social media!  **YouTube** [GVSU Pre-Professional Programs](#)

 | **Instagram** [@gvsupreprofessionaladvising](#)

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)

To schedule an appointment with a Prepharmacy Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising and click on “Schedule Appointment”