



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SCIENCES ACADEMIC
ADVISING CENTER

616.331.8585 | www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising | C-1-120 MAK

Veterinary School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.V.M.= Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

For 2024, there were 11,508 applicants for DVM programs for approximately 4,707 seats (including 36 U.S. Veterinary schools, 5 Canadian, and 18 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 American Association of Veterinary 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 125/126: Principles of Chemistry I (formerly CHM 115)
BIO 121: General Biology II	CHM 127/128: Principles of Chemistry II (formerly CHM 116)
BIO 302: Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy or	CHM 235/236: Organic Chem for Life Sci. I (formerly CHM 241)
BMS 208: Human Anatomy	CHM 237/238: Organic Chem for Life Sci. II (formerly CHM 242)
BMS 290: Human Physiology	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
BIO 375/376: Genetics with Lab	CMB 405: Cell and Molecular Biology (eukaryotic)
BMS 212/213: Intro Microbiology w/lab or	MTH (122 and 123) or (125) or (201): consult with your
BIO 357: Environmental Microbiology	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, additional Animal Biology and Biomedical Science, Management/Accounting, and English/Writing 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 mentor or an advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center for assistance in choosing elective courses.

C or better grades are typically required for prerequisite courses.

GRE

Currently six (6) 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 **62 percentile** for GRE Verbal and **51 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 3.4 and a last-3-semester GPA of a 3.55. 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 pre-vet faculty mentors 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 pre-vet advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center.
- Attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you while at GVSU.
- Visit our pre-veterinary 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 Pre-Vet Advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center, visit www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising and click on “Schedule Appointment”