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Veterinary School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?

D.V.M.= Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

For 2020, there were 8,152 applicants for D.V.M. programs for approximately 3,719 seats (including 32 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 <http://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
BIO 375/376: Genetics with Lab	CHM 241: Organic Chem for Life Sciences I
BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab or	CHM 242: Organic Chem for Life Sciences II
BIO 357: Environmental Microbiology	CHM 461: Biochemistry I
PHY 220: General Physics I	CMB 405: Cell and Molecular Biology (eukaryotic)
PHY 221: General Physics II	MTH (122 and 123) or (125) or (201): consult with your advisor to choose the appropriate course

Other suggested courses: BIO 432, BMS 410, BMS 450, COM 201, STA 215, COM 201, additional Animal Biology 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 https://www.aavmc.org/assets/Site_18/files/VMCAS/VMCASprereqchart.pdf 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 only eight (8) 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 in.

The national GRE average for applicants accepted to veterinary school fluctuates minimally from year to year. Recently reported has been **59th percentile** for GRE Verbal and **45th percentile** for Quantitative.

GPA

To gain entrance to veterinary school, usually a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA above 3.0 is required.

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 is typically around **3.50**

Recently, the average science prerequisite GPA at Michigan State University Veterinary School was 3.36 and a last-3-semester GPA of a 3.54. 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 (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- **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.

Keep a journal of your experiences so you have accurate records for your application you can track service hours on “Laker Link” (<https://gvsu.campuslabs.com/engage>) if you would like. Include dates, hours, supervisors, and what you took away from the experience. Check out the VMCAS Achievement & Experience Tracker documents on the Preprofessional website for a template for recording activities.

Want More Information??

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

Dr. Jodee Hunt huntj@gvsu.edu	Dr. Michael Henshaw henshawm@gvsu.edu	Dr. Michael Lombardo Lombardm@gvsu.edu
Dr. Rod Morgan morganr@gvsu.edu	Dr. Bruce Ostrow ostrowb@gvsu.edu	Dr. Joe Jacquot jacquotj@gvsu.edu
- Meet with a prevet advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center: Julie Mattox JulieMattox@gvsu.edu or Alexis Schewe scheweal@gvsu.edu
Schedule an appointment via www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising
- Attend events sponsored by the CLAS Academic Advising Center to assist you while at GVSU.
- Plan ahead using the Prevet Cocurricular Map (available on the Preprofessional website)
- Subscribe to the **PreVet Google Group** to receive vet related updates and announcements while you are at GVSU: www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising/googlegroup.

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)