Veterinary School Fact Sheet

What degree can I earn?
D.V.M. = Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
For 2017, there were 7,077 applicants for D.V.M. programs for approximately 4,120 seats (including 30 U.S. Veterinary schools, 5 Canadian, and 14 international institutions). Although most programs don’t require a bachelor's degree, 82.6% of admitted applicants had earned one.

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 Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) [www.avma.org](http://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.

<table>
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<th>The following courses are strongly recommended as preparation for Veterinary School:</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 120: General Biology I</td>
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<td>BIO 121: General Biology II</td>
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<td>BIO 375/376: Genetics with Lab</td>
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<td>BMS 212/213: Introductory Microbiology w/lab or</td>
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<td>BIO 357: Environmental Microbiology</td>
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<td>PHY 220: General Physics I</td>
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<td>PHY 221: General Physics II</td>
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Other suggested courses: BIO 432, BMS 410, BMS 450, COM 201, STA 215, 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 [http://www.aavmc.org/data/images/prereqchart.pdf](http://www.aavmc.org/data/images/prereqchart.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.

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<th>GRE</th>
<th>GPA</th>
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<td>Either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test or the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is required. Only some schools accept the MCAT, therefore, most students take the GRE. Not all schools require the GRE – 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 65th percentile for GRE Verbal and 58th percentile for Quantitative.</td>
<td>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 3.44 and a last-3-semester GPA of a 3.64. You should check with individual colleges to determine a competitive GPA.</td>
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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://gvsu.edu/clasadvising/preprofessional for lists of vets in the area
- Extracurricular activities www.orgsync.com—sign up and create your profile today to begin searching for organizations to join at GVSU!
  - Pre-Veterinary Club; other clubs of interest
- Community service www.gvsu.edu/service (subscribe to their newsletter for frequent event updates)
- 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, Certificate in Intercultural Training, 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 use the “Service Tracker” at www.gvsu.edu/service if you’d like. 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 one of the pre-vet 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 pre-vet advisor in the CLAS Academic Advising Center:
  - Julie Amon-Mattox amonju@gvsu.edu or Alexis Schewe scheweal@gvsu.edu
  - Schedule an appointment via www.gvsu.edu/clasadvising

- 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 My Organizations.

- Subscribe to the Pre-Veterinary google group to receive helpful information while you are at GVSU. To join follow the instructions below:
  1. Sign into your GVSU student e-mail
  2. Send message to “preveterinary+subscribe@mail.gvsu.edu” > leave everything else blank
  3. Look for message in GVSU student e-mail with subject “Join request for preveterinary”
  4. Open the “Join request email” and click the blue “Join This Group” button
    - If adding from a mobile device you must click desktop version in the footer after clicking “Join This Group”
  5. Welcome message will appear confirming you have been added to the group. Be sure to click on Join this Group button after reviewing group information.

## Sample Veterinary School Curriculum

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