

# Advising the Veterinary Student

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AUGUST 12, 2015

# Today's Agenda

- ▶ Introductions & Housekeeping
- ▶ The VMCAS 2016 Timelines
- ▶ Understanding Your Application Status
- ▶ Experience Entry
- ▶ Evaluations
- ▶ The Personal Statement
- ▶ How to choose a Vet School
- ▶ What schools look for in applicants
- ▶ Student Debt / Financial Literacy
- ▶ Questions & Answers

# Introductions...



## Tony Wynne

Director of Admissions & Recruitment Affairs

Director: Veterinary Medical College Application Service

Editor: Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements

Advocate for Pre-Veterinary & Applicant Rights

# Housekeeping



1. All Attendees Are on Mute
2. To Ask questions, type your question in the pane on the right of your screen
3. This webinar \*may\* be recorded
4. Questions \*may\* be retained for use in other webinars, website, FAQ's



**VETERINARY MEDICAL**  
COLLEGE APPLICATION SERVICE

# The VMCAS 2016 APP Timeline

May 13, 2015

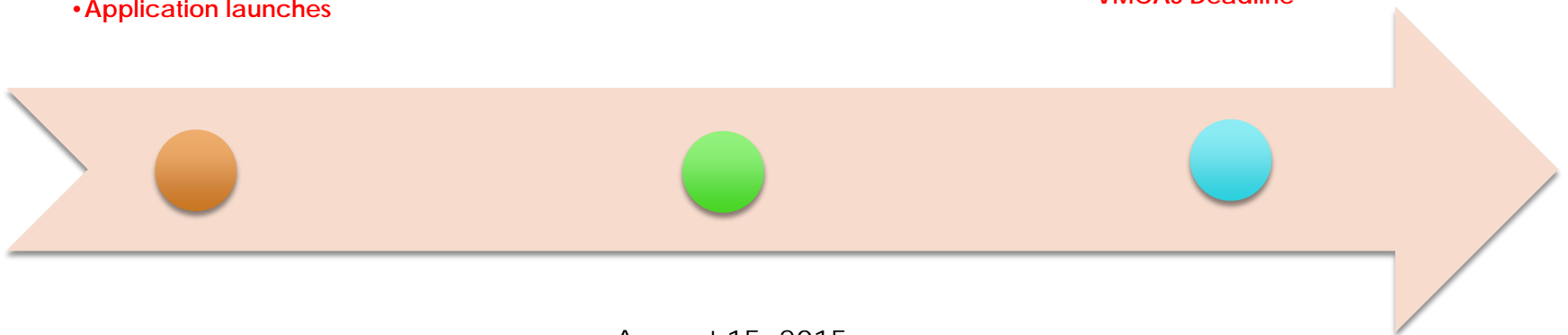
• Application launches

September 15, 2015

• VMCAS Deadline

August 15, 2015

• Recommended  
completion date to  
allow time for verification





# The VMCAS 2016 Timeline

**VMCAS 2016 DEADLINE: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ Midnight ET**

**Prior to Starting Application: Research programs, prerequisites, and other requirements**

3 Months Before  
Deadline

- Begin App
- Inform Evaluators
- Complete Colleges Attended

6-8 Weeks Before  
Deadline

- Monitor application for receipt of Transcripts & eLORs
- Follow up on Missing Items

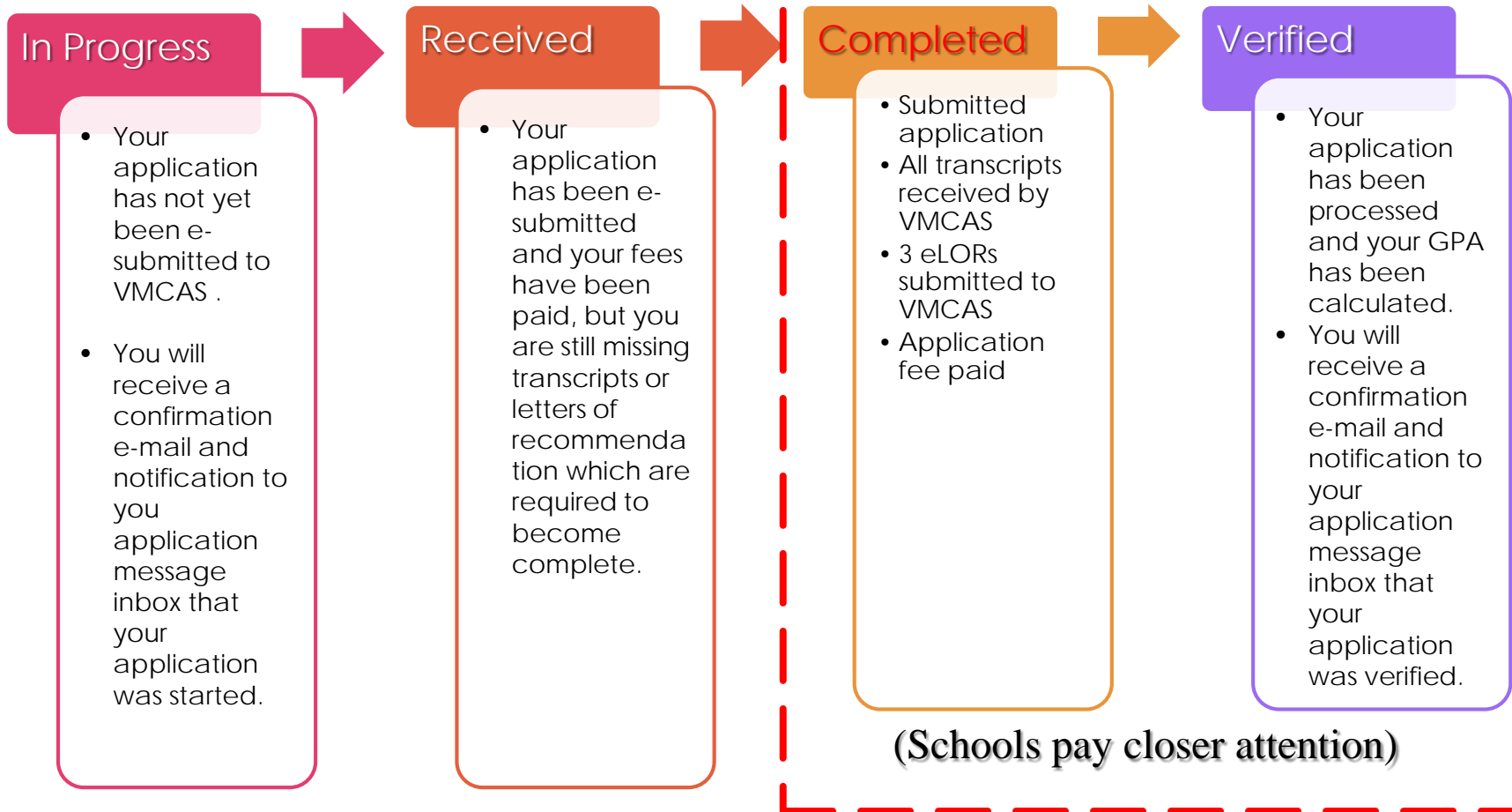
10-12 Weeks Before  
Deadline

- Request Transcripts to be sent to VMCAS
- Request additional copy for your entry

4-6 Weeks Before  
Deadline

- Submit application
- All transcripts, payments and at least 3 eLORs received
- Monitor status frequently through verification

# Understanding Your Application Status





# Experience Entry Hints

Please select ONE category which best describes each of your experiences. DO NOT list an experience more than once in this section.

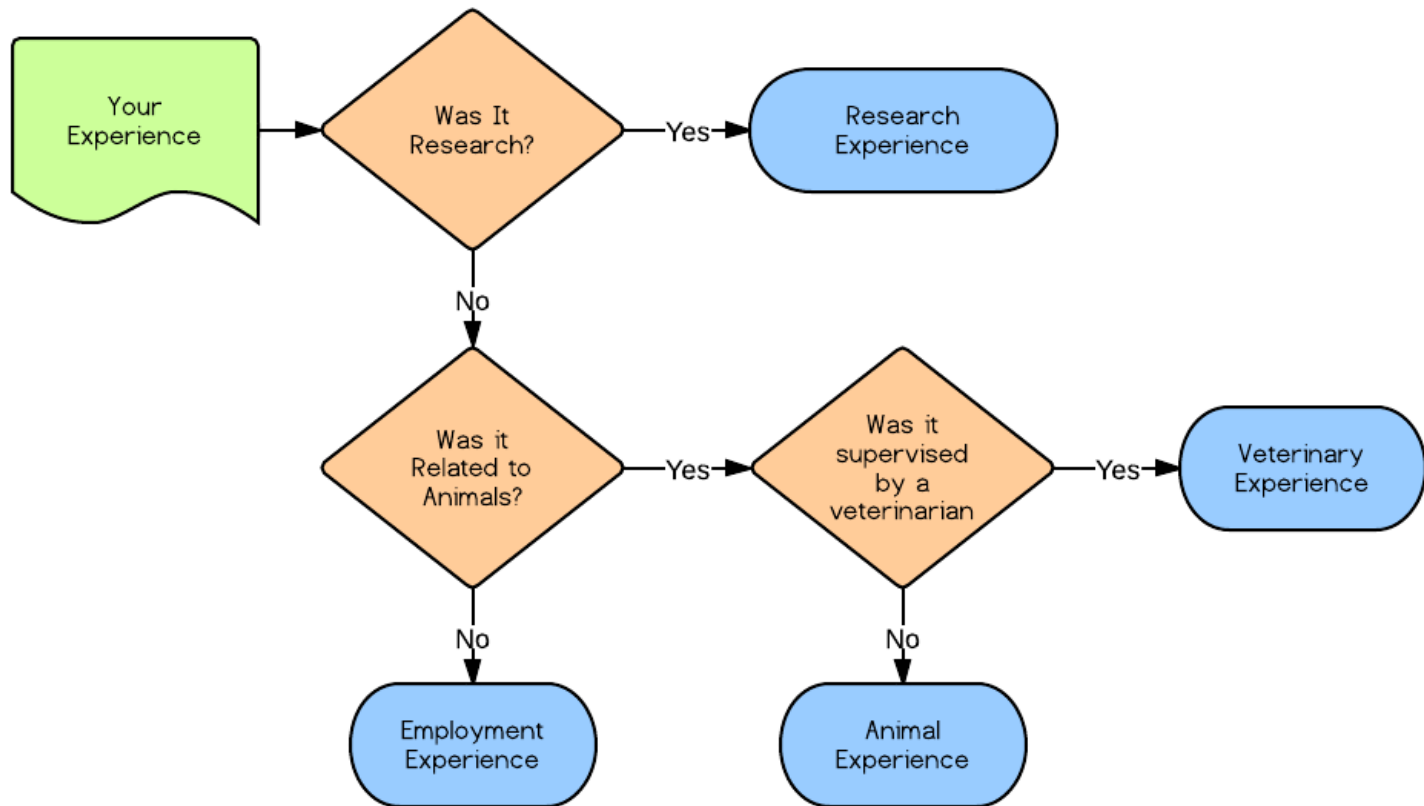
Include all relevant experiences, whether they are voluntary, paid, or academic experiences, **beginning with the most recent**. If you are unsure of the dates or number of hours worked, please estimate.

If your current experience will continue beyond when you submit your application, list the expected ending date. However, the total hours should reflect **completed** hours (total hours-to-date), and should **NOT** include future hours.

If your experience was over broken periods of time (for example, summer break), enter the average number of weekly hours and note the periods worked in the Description/Key Responsibilities text box.

You are allowed 600 characters in the Description/Key Responsibilities text box. If you need additional space, use the Explanation Statement.

# Experience Entry



# Electronic Letters of Recommendation (eLORs)

## Types

- Individual Letters
- Committee Letters

## Content

- Realistic, honest review
- Not every applicant is perfect

## Tips

- Schools prefer individual letters
- Do not wait for eLORs before submitting application

# The Personal Statement – 3 Hints

1

Do not repeat your experiences

2

Write about your knowledge of the veterinary profession

3

What makes you a good candidate?



AAVMC



PLAYGROUND



Tony Wynne  
CAS ID: 4362442230

Sign Out

## My Application

This dashboard is your application home providing access to each part of the application you need to complete and a high level overview of your progress.

**My Program Selections** 2

HAVE UPCOMING DEADLINES  
**0**

READY TO SUBMIT  
**0**

**Manage My Programs**

**Latest Notifications**

VMCAS Playground application – Welcome! Last week >

**View My Notifications**

### Personal Information



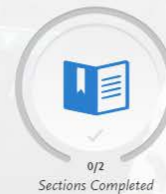
### Academic History



### Supporting Information



### Program Materials







## Program Details

App Type: <b>All applicants</b>	Concentration: <b>N/A</b>	Deadline: <b>01/7/2015</b>
Delivery: <b>Regular</b>	Department: <b>N/A</b>	Level: <b>MBA</b>
Start Term: <b>Fall</b>	Start Year: <b>2015</b>	Track: <b>Health Service Management</b>



# Considerations when applying



## Location

- Where do you see yourself going to school?
- Where do you ultimately want to practice?
- Study abroad or domestic?



## Culture & Climate

- What kind of educational environment do you want to be in?
- What do current students think?
- Take a look at the curriculum
- Do your research!



## Costs

- Understand the cost of attendance, not just tuition!
- School(s) in your permanent state are less expensive.
- Fully understand, early, what you're getting into!



Location

- Where do you see yourself going to school?
- What cultural background will you have?
- Study of domestic?



Culture

- What kind of educational background do you have?
- Take a look at the curriculum
- Do your research!



Cost

- Understand the cost of attendance, tuition! (s) in your area.
- Fully understand, early, what you're getting into!

## The #1 Reason for Denial:

- Applying to schools you are QUALIFIED to apply to!

# What are schools looking for?

Academic Ability  
Leader **resilient** empathy  
experience **maturity** Tough  
strong writer accountability Inspired  
determination Dedication Teachable Sense  
Balanced **Positive Attitude** motivation  
Commitment team Knowledgeable Passion **diverse**  
**Adaptability** Cognitive Ability Inquisitive Well Rounded  
Emotionally Stable Ethical player  
Critical Thinker Common aware Integrity  
**compassionate** **Intellectual** moral  
culturally interest **Open Minded**  
Self aware Enthusiasm  
Communication Skills  
**Problem Solver**

# What are schools looking for?

- ▶ Schools seek a well-rounded individual (clinical + soft skills)
- ▶ Wide variety of experiences
- ▶ Rigorous undergraduate academic experiences (good grades)
- ▶ References that speak to who you are, not just how fabulous you are!
- ▶ Professionalism & time management
- ▶ School weigh different sections of the application differently!!



# Student Debt / Financial Literacy



# Student Debt / Financial Literacy

## Considerations Going Into Vet School

School Tuition vs. Cost of Attendance

Financial Aid



## Considerations During Veterinary School

Pets & Adoption

Learn to Manage Your Money



## Considerations After Veterinary School

Average Debt (~\$162,000)

Repayment Plans





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# Questions & Answers

## Resources:

- AAVMC Website: <http://aavmc.org/>
- VMCAS Updates: <http://aavmc.org/v16updates.aspx>
- VetSchool Student Engagement System:  
<http://aavmc.org/vses.aspx>
- VMCAS Webinars: <http://aavmc.org/webinars.aspx>
- Tony Wynne's email: [twynne@aavmc.org](mailto:twynne@aavmc.org)