Advising the Veterinary Student

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DIRECTOR: VM CAS
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
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
The VMCAS 2016 APP Timeline

May 13, 2015
- Application launches

August 15, 2015
- Recommended completion date to allow time for verification

September 15, 2015
- VMCAS Deadline
The VMCAS 2016 Timeline

VMCAS 2016 DEADLINE: September 15th, 2015 @ Midnight ET

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

3 Months Before Deadline
- Begin App
- Inform Evaluators
- Complete Colleges Attended

10-12 Weeks Before Deadline
- Request Transcripts to be sent to VMCAS
- Request additional copy for your entry

6-8 Weeks Before Deadline
- Monitor application for receipt of Transcripts & eLORs
- Follow up on Missing Items

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

**In Progress**
- Your application has not yet been e-submitted to VMCAS.
- You will receive a confirmation e-mail and notification to your application message inbox that your application was started.

**Received**
- Your application has been e-submitted and your fees have been paid, but you are still missing transcripts or letters of recommendation which are required to become complete.

**Completed**
- Submitted application
- All transcripts received by VMCAS
- 3 eLORs submitted to VMCAS
- Application fee paid

**Verified**
- Your application has been processed and your GPA has been calculated.
- You will receive a confirmation e-mail and notification to your application message inbox that your application was verified.

(Schools pay closer attention)
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

1. Your Experience
2. Was it Research?
   - Yes: Research Experience
   - No: Was it related to animals?
3. Was it related to animals?
   - Yes: Was it supervised by a veterinarian?
   - No: Employment Experience
4. Was it supervised by a veterinarian?
   - Yes: Veterinary Experience
   - No: Animal Experience
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 an 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?**
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.

- **Personal Information**
  - 0/10 Sections Completed

- **Academic History**
  - 2/3 Sections Completed

- **Supporting Information**
  - 0/5 Sections Completed

- **Program Materials**
  - 0/2 Sections Completed

- **My Program Selections**
  - 0 Have Upcoming Deadlines
  - 0 Ready to Submit

- **Manage My Programs**

- **Latest Notifications**
  - VMCAS Playground application - Welcome!

- **View My Notifications**
Operations and Technology Management

Our M.B.A. program prepares students for managerial positions in various types of health care organizations. This program supports the development of problem solving, decision making and conflict-resolution skills and in operationalizing the mission and goals of the healthcare delivery system.

Applicants for admission to the M.B.A. program must hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution. No specific undergraduate course of study is required for admission. All applications for admission are considered on the basis of their own merits, with weight given to the strength of a student's previous academic performance, scores obtained on standardized tests, and experiences indicating increasing levels of responsibility.

Program Details

<table>
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<tr>
<th>App Type: All applicants</th>
<th>Concentration: N/A</th>
<th>Deadline: 01/7/2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delivery: Regular</td>
<td>Department: N/A</td>
<td>Level: MBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Term: Fall</td>
<td>Start Year: 2015</td>
<td>Track: Health Service Management</td>
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</tbody>
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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!
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The #1 Reason for Denial:
- Applying to schools you are QUALIFIED to apply to!
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/](http://aavmc.org/)
- VMCAS Updates: [http://aavmc.org/v16updates.aspx](http://aavmc.org/v16updates.aspx)
- VMCAS Webinars: [http://aavmc.org/webinars.aspx](http://aavmc.org/webinars.aspx)
- Tony Wynne’s email: twynne@aavmc.org