



Pre-Vet Quick Facts

Typical Vet School Prerequisites

- Biology** - BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L
- General Chem** - CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L
- Organic Chem** - CHEM 2211/L & 2212/L
- Physics** - PHYS 1111 & 1112 OR 1211 & 1212
- Physiology** - VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710
- Genetics** - GENE 3200
- Biochemistry** - BCMB 3100 or 4020
- Microbiology** - MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L
- Psychology** - PSYC 1101
- Cell Biology** - CBIO 3400
- Anatomy** - CBIO 3010/L or 4200
- Immunology** - CBIO 4100
- English** - ENGL 1101, 1102 or 1103
- Statistics** - STAT 2000, BIOS 2010
- Calculus** - MATH 2250

Average Matriculant Numbers

- **Overall GPA: 3.7**
 - **Science: 3.5**
- U.S. vet colleges enroll about 4,000 first-year (DVM).

There are 33 schools (DVM: four-year degree program) in the US that are pending or have accreditation. All are members of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

- Only one accredited school in GA: UGA Vet Med

Grade Trends

Admissions Committees Look For:

- **Upward Trends** — Improvement over time shows resilience and growth.
- **Red Flags** — Repeated withdrawals or poor performance in science courses
- **Course Location** — Too many difficult courses taken outside your home institution may raise concerns

While an instance or two of poor performance is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of red flags should be avoided.

1st & 2nd Year

Build Credentials

Shadow,
Volunteer,
Network with
Faculty and
Students

Do not wait until junior year to begin!

3rd Year

Fall: Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc.

January/Feb/March: VMCAS opens, work on Personal Statement & any extra essays, Ask for Letters of Evaluation

April/May: Send out letter of recommendation requests via VMCAS link

Summer Before 4th Year

May: Complete and submit VMCAS application

June/July/August: Prepare for and complete secondary applications (look online for previous year's questions)

4th Year

September: VMCAS application deadline

Fall-Spring: Schedule Interview if needed. Check each school for their requirements.

March: Schools send out admission offers. Dates vary. Check each school for their dates.



Majors

Even though veterinary schools do not require or favor a specific 'Pre-Vet' major, students should choose a major that demonstrates their ability to succeed in rigorous science coursework and aligns with their interests.

Common majors include: Animal Science, Biological Sciences, Avian Biology, Dairy Science, Environmental Health, Wildlife Sciences, etc.

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Animal Health majors can apply to the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine after their third year of studies or continue the traditional four-year track and earn a bachelor's degree in animal science, Avian Biology, Biological Science, Dairy Science, or Poultry Science and then apply to vet school or pursue other career opportunities.

Warnell College & UGA Vet School

Other DVM majors that show students ability to do well in a rigorous science curriculum are available at Warnell College as well as the Veterinary school campus. Even though vet schools do not favor a pre-vet major, it does benefit the student in understanding animal science and performing well in the required courses needed for veterinary school.

Animal Experience

Generally, veterinary schools require that applicants have experience observing or shadowing a veterinarian in action.

- Unsupervised Animal Experience: includes time spent in settings like animal shelters, petting zoos, doggie daycares, etc.
- Supervised Animal Experience: involves observing or working hands-on with a veterinarian in a clinical setting.

It's important to show a variety of experiences here- including work with small animals, large animals, and exotics.

Undergraduate Research

Most veterinary schools do not require undergraduate research for admission, but it can make your application more appealing. If you are interested in research you should plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or research lab.

If you are not interested in research, you would be better served dedicating that time to other activities such as volunteering or shadowing.

Volunteering

Club affiliations and volunteering are a large part of the application. Veterinary schools are looking for students to demonstrate that they can manage rigorous courses while staying busy. Focus on strong engagement in few activities to demonstrate dedication.

Schools look for people that work with both people and animals, and for those that are dedicated to being compassionate by serving the community.

Letters of Evaluation

- Large lecture classes make it harder to connect. Be intentional in building relationships with professors
- Attend office hours regularly
- Engage during class & labs
- Develop relationships over a period of time for a strong letter

Choose Letter Writers Wisely

- Pick people who know you well
- Choose strong, specific letters over generic letters
- Ask early and give plenty of notice

Most veterinary schools require three letters of evaluation. Requirements can vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have collected the correct letters for their program of interest.

Generally, programs expect students to provide:

- one letter from a veterinarian
- one from a science faculty member
- one other of the student's choosing

Students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.