

# Path to Veterinary Medicine

Veterinarians are medical professionals who care for animals and work to protect public health. In addition to working in clinics and animal hospitals, veterinarians also work with governmental agencies, public health organizations, and in disease prevention initiatives.

Though many students interested in veterinary medicine pursue a major in COSAM, students can earn a degree in any major and attend veterinary school if the correct prerequisites are taken. Prerequisites vary by school, and most do not require a bachelor's degree for admittance. Students should research the schools that interest them for more information.

Applicants seeking admission to a veterinary medicine program are assessed based on a variety of factors such as academic ability, interpersonal skills, leadership experience, and professionalism. Therefore, students are encouraged to develop a competitive application by gaining leadership experience, shadowing professionals in the field, and participating in research activities.

After obtaining a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD) degree, graduates must obtain licensure in the state in which they intend to practice. While practicing, veterinarians must maintain their licensure by taking continuing education courses.

## Preparation Checklist

- Research programs that interest you.
- Shadow a veterinarian.
- Volunteer with an organization that you like.
- Gain clinical experience.
- Develop core competencies.
- Get involved on campus.
- Take prerequisite courses.
- Maintain a strong overall and science GPA.
- Conduct undergraduate research.
- Take the GRE.



## Common Prerequisites

- English Composition
- General Biology I & II with Labs
- General Chemistry I & II with Labs
- Organic Chemistry with Lab
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Microbiology
- Biochemistry
- Anatomy & Physiology
- Statistics
- Physics I & II with Labs
- Humanities
- Animal Nutrition



## Metrics

- Minimum GPA: 3.0
- Mean GPA: 3.5
- Average GRE: 310



## Standardized Tests

- Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)
- CASPer



## Helpful Organizations

- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)