

**Cornell University  
College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Jennifer Mailey  
Director of Admissions**

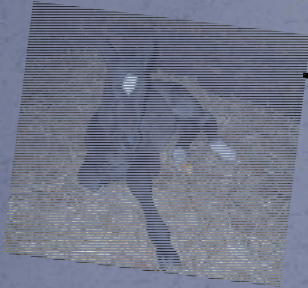




# Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine



## Who Are You?



# Veterinary Medical Admissions

## How to Prepare~

- Educational preparation, major, course load, course choice, rigor of curriculum, lab sciences together, full-time load, honors program, etc.
- Prerequisite courses
- Veterinary Experiences
- Animal Experiences
- Research
- Extra-curricular & Co-curricular experiences





# Choosing a Major

Choosing an Undergraduate Major  
Cornell Class of 2015

## Sample of Majors

Animal Science

Biology

Business

Forestry

Psychology

English

Religion

Spanish

Political Science

Biochemistry

Engineering



# College Students

## Undergraduate Students



- Take a rigorous curriculum
- Take a full-time load; avoid withdrawing from coursework
- Keep your GPA up; take courses for letter grades, not pass/fail (especially your prerequisite courses)
- Get Involved! Opportunities in leadership, extra-curricular & co-curricular activities are valued
- Note, AP credit may only count for certain prerec courses
- Reminder- some colleges do not require a bachelors degree (only 60-90 credits)





# College Students

## Prerequisite Courses

### COR – Cornell University

#### Courses (Semester Hours)

- **Physics with laboratory (full year) (6)**  
AP credit of 4 or higher allowed.
- **Biochemistry (half year required, full year preferred) (4)**
- **Biology or zoology with laboratory (full year) (6)**
- **General chemistry with laboratory (full year) (6)**  
AP credit of 4 or higher allowed.
- **Organic chemistry with laboratory (full year) (6)**
- **English composition and literature (full year) (6)**  
Three credits of literature may be satisfied by a course  
in public speaking.
- **Microbiology with laboratory (3)**
- **Elective (53)**

**Total *semester* credits 90**





# College Students

## Cornell University Prerequisite College Courses



Additional criteria:

- 12 credits may be in progress when applying
- Junior/Senior level courses are encouraged
- Must earn C- or higher
- AP accepted for General Chemistry & Physics (score of 4 or higher)
- Prerequisite Substitution option

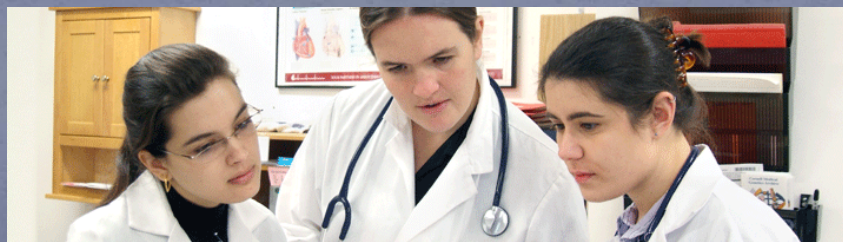




# Veterinary Experiences

Gain Veterinary Experience~

- 300-400 hours
- Minimally one letter from a veterinarian
- Small animal and/or large animal experience (bovine/equine)
- Other veterinary experiences: zoo, wildlife, exotics, lab animal medicine
- Breadth of experience with other species



# Animal Experiences

Where to find animal experiences~

- Zoo's- internships and volunteer opportunities;
- Wildlife Centers- assist in care, capture, release;
- Humane Society's- cleaning cages, walking dogs, socializing animals, assisting in adoptions;
- Stables- cleaning out stalls, grooming horses, riding lessons;
- Farms- feeding animals, milking cows;
- Sanctuary's- assisting in care of animals





# Experiences

- Keep a journal to include what you do, number of hours, who you worked with
- Ask for a (good) letter when you complete the experience
- Research what the expectations of the Vet Colleges you will be applying to are with regard to veterinary and animal experiences (as well as letters)



# Post-Bac Students

## (Career Changers)

- Look for a solid college or university to do post-bac work
- Some colleges offer a post-bac (pre-med or pre-vet) formal program
- Sciences are sequential, so it can take 4 semesters (2 years) to complete all prerequisite courses
- Try to take some lab sciences together
- Important to have veterinary and animal experiences, so this extra time taking classes can be a benefit
- Some Vet Colleges prefer to see course work under 10 years





# Exploring Veterinary Colleges

## Consider:

- Curriculum
- Clinical Experiences
- Location
- Research Opportunities
- Externship Opportunities
- Faculty
- Your Learning Style
- Student Life (Organizations & Extra/co-curricular activities)



# Teaching & Learning @ Cornell

- Teaching Style:
  - Small Group Learning
  - Lectures
  - Labs
  - Individual Study
- Faculty involved in teaching and learning
- Access to hospitals and cases





# Teaching & Learning @ Cornell

- Tutorial sessions
- Small group learning
- Case-based exercises- promotes integration of basic and clinical sciences
- Students actively involved in learning
- Develop skills in communication, information research, and analysis of information
- Fosters critical thinking, scientific curiosity, problem-solving and self-education



# PATHWAY CLINICS

## *MUST COMPLETE 1 PATHWAY*

- Small Animal: SA Soft Tissue Surgery; SA Medicine; Anesthesia; Imaging; SA E/CC; SA Ortho Surgery; Cardiology; Oncology
- Equine: LA Medicine; LA Soft Tissue Surgery; Anesthesia; Imaging; SA E/CC; LA Ortho. Surgery; Therio; Equine Specialty
- General (Mixed): SA Medicine; LA Medicine; Anesthesia; Ambulatory; SA Ortho. Surgery; LA Ortho. Surgery; Cardiology or Oncology; Community Practice Service
- Exotics: SA Medicine; SA Soft Tissue Surgery; Anesthesia; SA Ortho. Surgery; Oncology; Lab Animal Med.; Exotics/Zoo (2 blocks)
- Zoo & Wildlife: SA Medicine; LA Medicine; Oncology; Lab Animal Med.; Therio; Exotics/Zoo (3 blocks)
- Production Animal: Ambulatory (2 blocks); LA Medicine; LA Soft Tissue Surgery; Pathology; Quality Milk; Therio; CPS Med.





# Research Opportunities



- Dual DVM/PhD Program  
<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/OGE/DualDegree/>
  - For students interested pursuing careers in (biomedical) research, academic leadership, and teaching
  - 7 year program leading to the DVM & PhD degrees
  - Integrates Cornell's veterinary & graduate curriculum
  - Advantage: allows students to complete degree requirements in approximately 1.5 years less time than typically required



# Other Research Opportunities

- Veterinary Investigator Program

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/oge/investigator/>



- Provide first and second year Cornell vet students
- Intense summer research experience
- Intended to lead to a sustained interest in research and academic medicine
- Includes research round-table discussion, weekly seminars on current and emerging research techniques, grant writing, scientific ethics, field trips





# Other Research Opportunities

- The Summer Dairy Institute

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/summerdairyinstitute/>

6-week course; up to 24 participants; competitive application

Professional information on subjects such as:

- Reproduction
- Nutrition
- Dairy facilities
- Dairy Record Systems
- Biosecurity
- Public Health & Regulatory Considerations
- Financial Decision Making



# Other Research Opportunities



- Leadership Program

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/OGE/Leadership/>

- Summer learning experience for veterinary students interested in research
- Approximately 25 veterinary students from US and abroad
- Intensive, research-oriented initiative
- Combines faculty guided research with vocational counseling, student directed learning and other professional enrichment activities





# Research Opportunities

- AQUAVET

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/aquavet/>



- Offers a unique & exciting opportunity to work in the area of aquatic animal research and medicine
- Research projects through 8 weeks during summer
- Sponsored by veterinary colleges at Cornell and Univ. of Penn in collaboration with 3 marine science institutions in Bristol, RI



# Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Student Organizations

- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA)
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- American Association of Equine Practitioners
- Feline Club
- Canine Club
- Veterinary Student for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
- American Association of Small Animal Ruminant Practitioners
- Zoo and Wildlife Society
- International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine
- Student Chapter of the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society
- The Pet Loss Support Hotline
- Cornell Companions

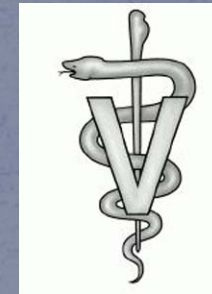




# Student Organizations

continued...

- Veterinarians Internationally Developing Animal Health
- Veterinary Students One In Ethnicity and Color
- Vets for Diversity
- UltraSound
- The Cornell Veterinary Players
- Phi Zeta
- Omega Tau Sigma
- Southside Community Center
- The Cornell Raptor Program
- Veterinary Business Management Association
- Students for Animal Interests and Veterinary Ethics
- Open House~ **Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 10:00-4:00**



# Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)

- VMCAS~ centralized application program for participating Veterinary Medical Colleges
- Link to Sample Application:  
<http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/sampleapp2011.pdf>
- 25 U.S. Veterinary Medical Colleges participate in VMCAS, along with two Canadian Veterinary Medical Colleges, and international institutions





# VMCAS Colleges

Auburn University  
University of California- Davis  
Colorado State University  
Cornell University  
University College of Dublin  
University of Florida  
University of Georgia  
University of Illinois-Urbana  
Iowa State University  
Kansas State University  
Louisiana State University  
Massey University  
Michigan State University  
University of Minnesota  
Mississippi State University  
University of Missouri  
Murdoch University  
University of Edinburgh  
North Carolina State University

Ohio State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Oregon State University  
University of Pennsylvania  
Purdue University  
University of Tennessee  
Virginia-Maryland Regional College  
Washington State University  
University of Wisconsin  
University of Glasgow  
University of Guelph  
University of Prince Edward Island  
Western University  
Royal Veterinary College



# VMCAS 2012 Fees

1=\$159

2=\$220

3=\$280

4=\$342

5=\$450

6=\$557

7=\$657

8=\$763

9=\$866

10=\$965

11=\$1,072

12=\$1,172

13=\$1,273

14=\$1,383

15=\$1,487

16=\$1,588

17=\$1,689

18=\$1,796

19=\$1,895

20=\$2,005

21=\$2,104

22=\$2,211

23=\$2,313

24=\$2,413

25=\$2,521

26=\$2,628

27=\$2,727

27=\$2,835

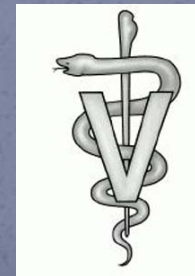
29=\$2,942

30=\$3,048

31=\$3,154

32=\$3,254

33=\$3,357





# Veterinary Medical Admissions

- Veterinary Medical Application Service (VMCAS)  
<http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx>
- June-October 2, 2012
- Electronic Letters of Reference (eLor's)- 3 required to complete your application (deadline October 2, 2012)



# VMCAS Applicant Checklist

## Evaluations:

- Register a minimum of three evaluators in the eLOR section
- Verify that your evaluators have received the e-mail request and have submitted your evaluation by 1:00 PM Eastern Time, Monday, October 2nd, 2012.
- VMCAS requires electronic evaluations with exception of committee and composite letters (note some schools will not accept committee/composite letters).
- Verify that your evaluations have been received by VMCAS

*from [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)*





# VMCAS Applicant Checklist

## Other Application Materials:

- Send transcripts and test scores directly to your designated college prior to the deadline.
- Visit the web site for each designated college to obtain college-specific instructions.
- Complete any supplemental applications of required



AAVMC Chart with Specific Vet College Information:

[http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/general%20school%20info%20chart 2012 final.pdf](http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/general%20school%20info%20chart%202012%20final.pdf)



# Veterinary Medical Admissions

## Supplemental Applications

- Some colleges have a Supplemental or Part II Application  
<http://www.aavmc.org/College-Specific-Requirements/College-Specific-Requirements/Supplemental-Information.aspx>
- Make sure you review the web sites of the colleges for application instructions
- Supplemental Application deadlines may vary





# Veterinary Medical Admissions

Example of Supporting Documents sent directly to the colleges:

- Additional letters of evaluation
- Official college transcripts sent directly from the college or university
- Official GRE or MCAT Scores
- AP Scores for Chemistry or Physics only
- TOEFL Scores
- Dean's Certification
- Residency Form (NY)



# Veterinary Medical Admissions

## Requirements and Considerations:

- Veterinary and Animal Experiences
- Evaluations
- Extracurricular and community service
- VMCAS Personal Statement
- Other written Statements
- Interview
- GPA
- Test Scores





# Cornell's DVM Admissions Formula

25% All Grades from All Colleges

25% GRE or MCAT Test Percentiles

5% Quality of Academic Program

one academic advisor's letter

20% Animal/Veterinary/Research Experience

with Letters of Evaluation

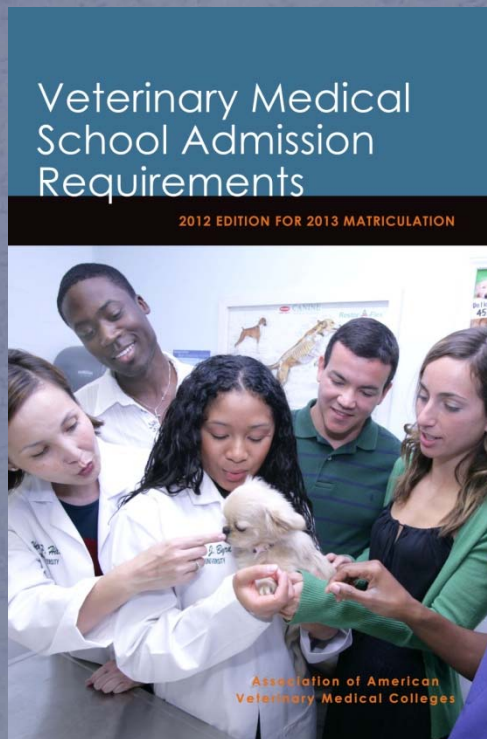
10% Non-Cognitive Skills

10% All Other Achievements

5% Personal Statements



# Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements



## Veterinary Medicine School Admission Requirements ~ VMSAR ~

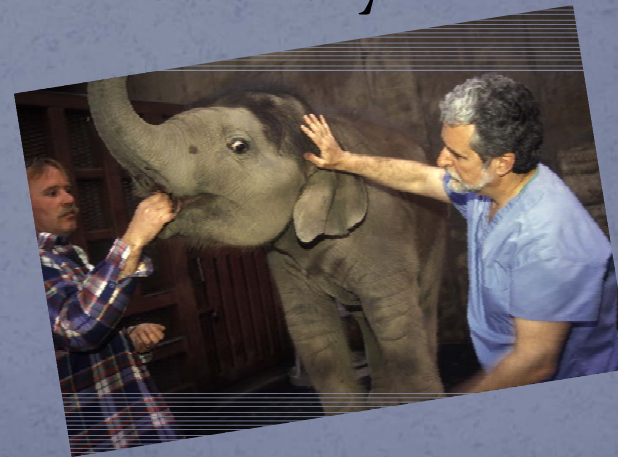
<http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/titles/format/9781557536167>





# Veterinary Medical Colleges

- Class size varies for different Vet Colleges
- In-state and out-of-state seats
  - Range from 56-150 in a class
  - OOS seats can be as few as 3% and as many as 67% of the class
  - In state and out of state tuition will also vary



# Offers of Admission



Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine  
~ Class of 102 students~

- 250-300 NY application for approximately 55 NY *seats*
- 650-700 Non-NY applications for approximately 47 non-NY *seats*





# Financing Your Education

Link to some options for assistance~

<http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Get-Help-Paying-for-a-Veterinary-Medical-Education.aspx>

- [Animal Health Student Scholarship](#)
- [scholarship from the Winn Feline Foundation](#)
- [Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program \(VMLRP\)](#)
- Harold Wetterberg Foundation Veterinary Medicine Scholarship Program
- [The Winner's Circle Scholarship Program](#)



# Financing Your Education

Many vet colleges will use the following forms:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- CSS PROFILE Application [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

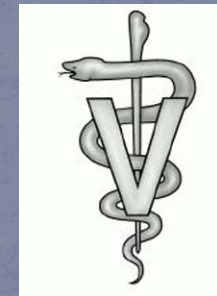




# Financial Aid

- Typical Financial Aid Package at Cornell:
  - **59% Student Loans**  
*(Health Professions Student Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Unsubsidized Loans, Grad Plus Loans, External Loans)*
  - **19% Gift Aid**  
*(grants, scholarships and fellowships)*
  - **20% Self-Help**  
*(student earnings and parental contributions)*
  - **2% Outside Gift Aid**  
*(state grants and private scholarships)*

*~Merit and Need Base Scholarships~*



# Career Opportunities



- **Clinical Practice**

- Private Practice or Corporate Practice
- Small Animal Practice: dogs, cats, birds, small mammals, reptiles, fish
- Large Animal Practice: Horses and/or farm animals
- Mixed/General Practice: Combination of the above





# Career Opportunities



- Public Health
  - Investigating animal and human disease
  - Examples food-borne illnesses, West Nile disease, rabies, influenza, etc.
  - Work at USFDA, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Institute of Health (NIH)
  - Cornell: Dual Degree DVM/MPH with the University of Minnesota

# Career Opportunities

- Regulatory Medicine

- State & federal regulatory agencies
- Prevent foreign diseases coming into US, ensure healthy animals enter food supply, animal care, research
- US Department of Agriculture

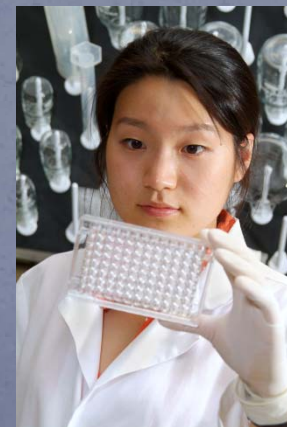




# Career Opportunities

- Research & Teaching

- Faculty at colleges and universities
- Teach through classroom and clinical experiences
- Research at universities, government agencies, corporate
- Research can associate with disease, treatments and methods/procedures



# Career Opportunities



- Other

- Lab Animal Medicine
- Aquatic Animal Medicine
- Zoo Medicine
- Shelter Medicine
- Wildlife Medicine
- Military
- Government
- Business and industry



*For more information about careers in veterinary medicine  
visit <http://www.avma.org/careers/default.asp>*



# Examples of Jobs

- Manage food-production animals at sites such as 3,000 milking cow dairy farms
- Prevent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses by working with government agencies to monitor food-processing plants
- Monitor rabies outbreaks and other zoonotic diseases for public health agencies such as the NYC Health Department
- Monitor animal health at places like the New England Aquarium

# Examples of Jobs

- Experts in bioterrorism, working with agencies such as the Philadelphia Health Department
- Serve as Pathologists at zoos & animal parks, such as the Bronx Zoo
- Monitor and identify disease outbreaks in the US, such as West Nile virus
- Work to conserve endangered species, such as the mountain gorillas of Rwanda
- Help establish and run offices for nonprofit organizations working with animal issues, such as the Humane Society of Ecuador
- Run centers that rehabilitate wildlife



# Cornell DVM Admissions



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