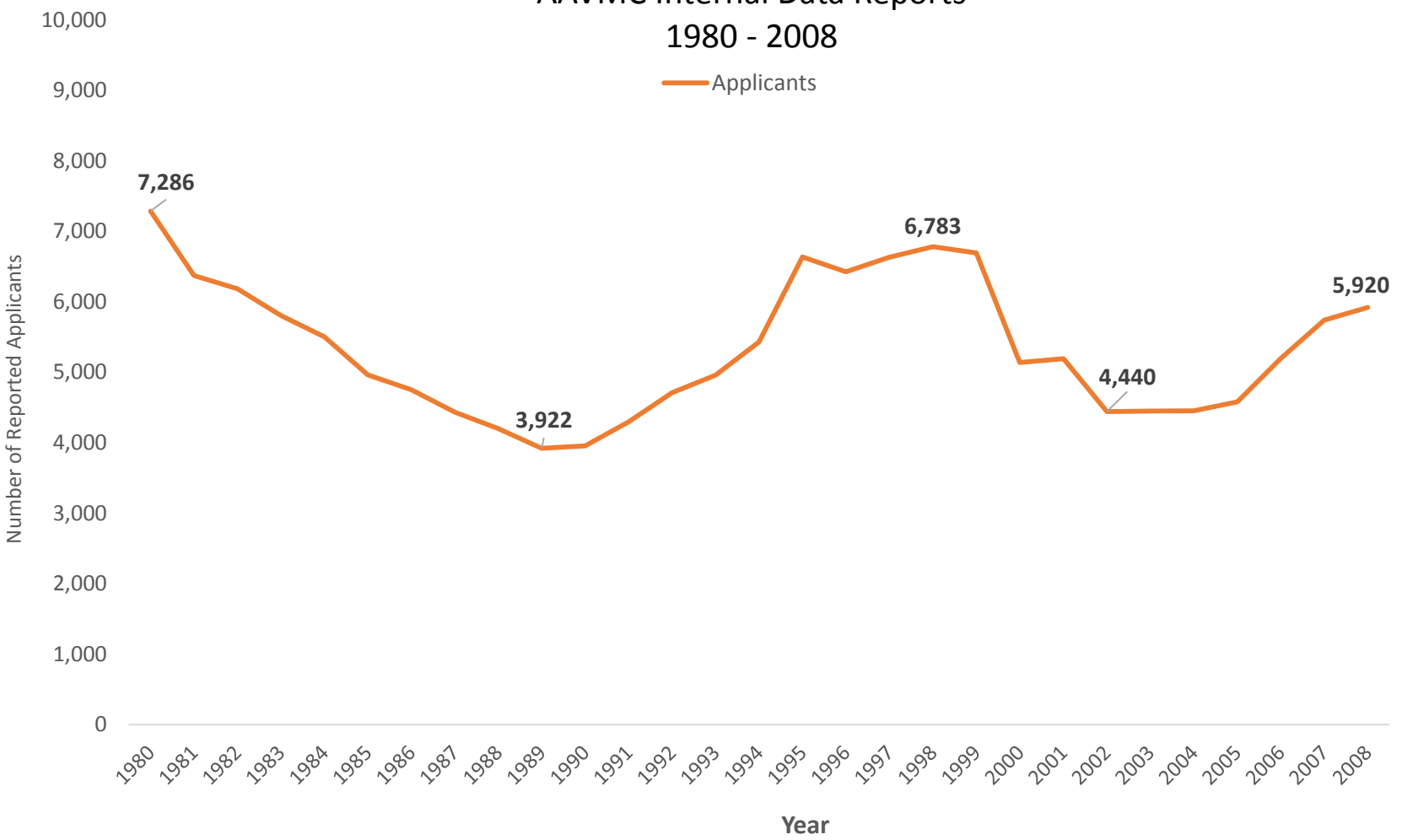# Demand for Veterinary Medical Education:
# The Veterinary School
# Applicant Pool

Lisa Greenhill, MPA, EdD
Associate Executive Director for
Institutional Research & Diversity
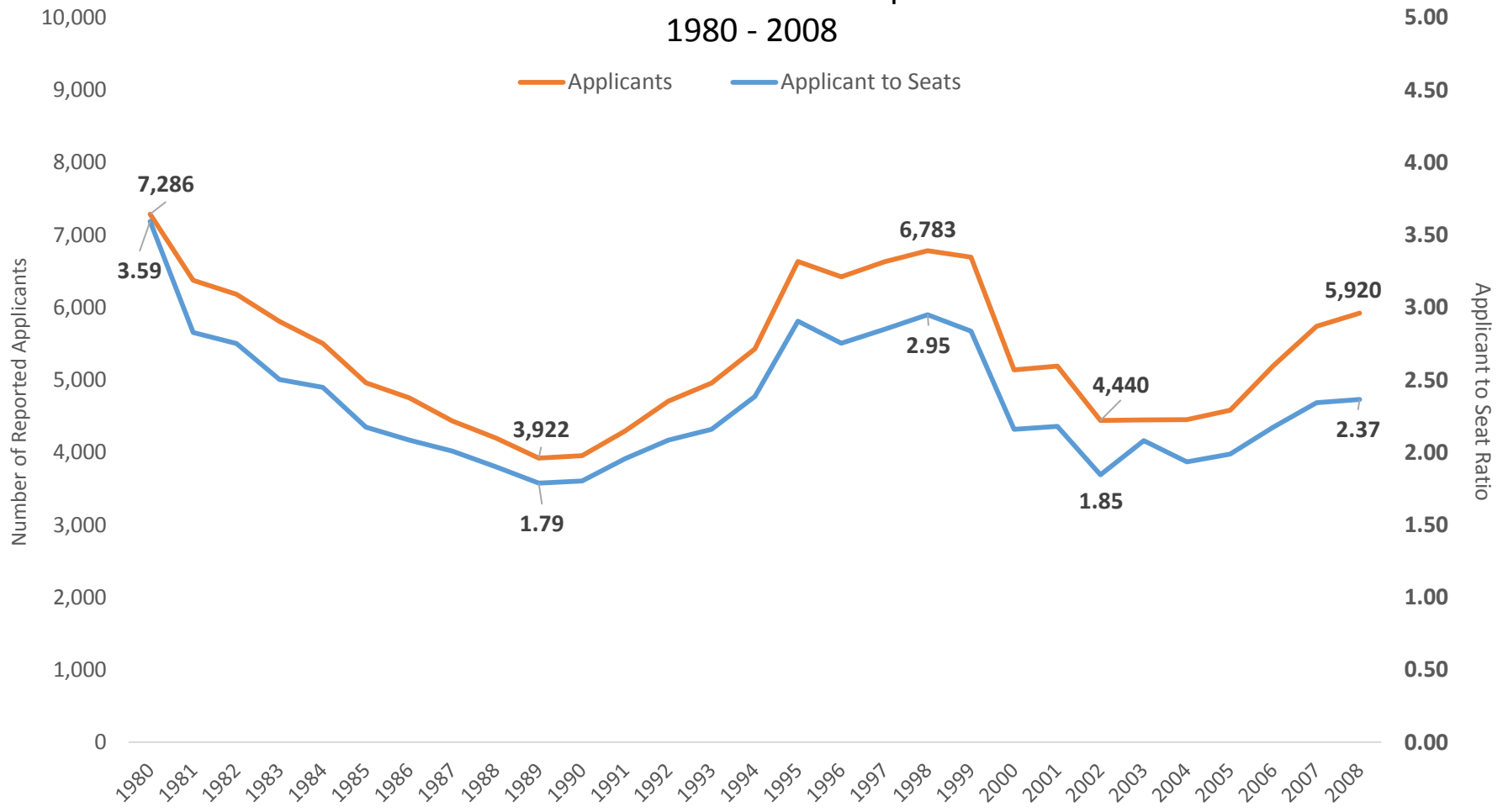Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

**Veterinary School Applicant Figures**
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980 - 2008

Applicants

7,286
3,922
6,783
4,440
5,920

Number of Reported Applicants

10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0

1980 1981 1982 1983 1984 1985 1986 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008
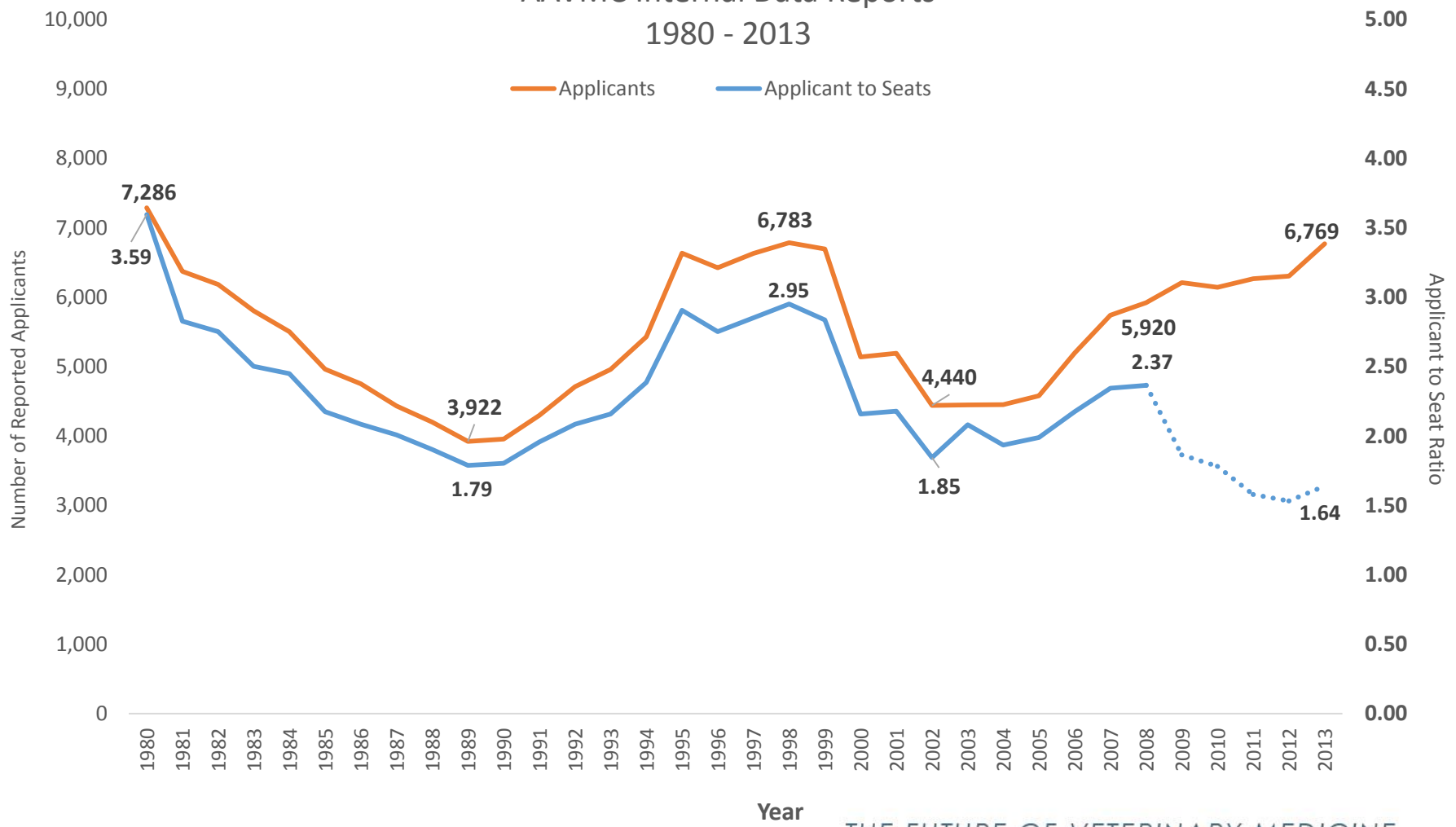
Year

Veterinary School Applicant Figures
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980 - 2008

Veterinary School Applicant Figures
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
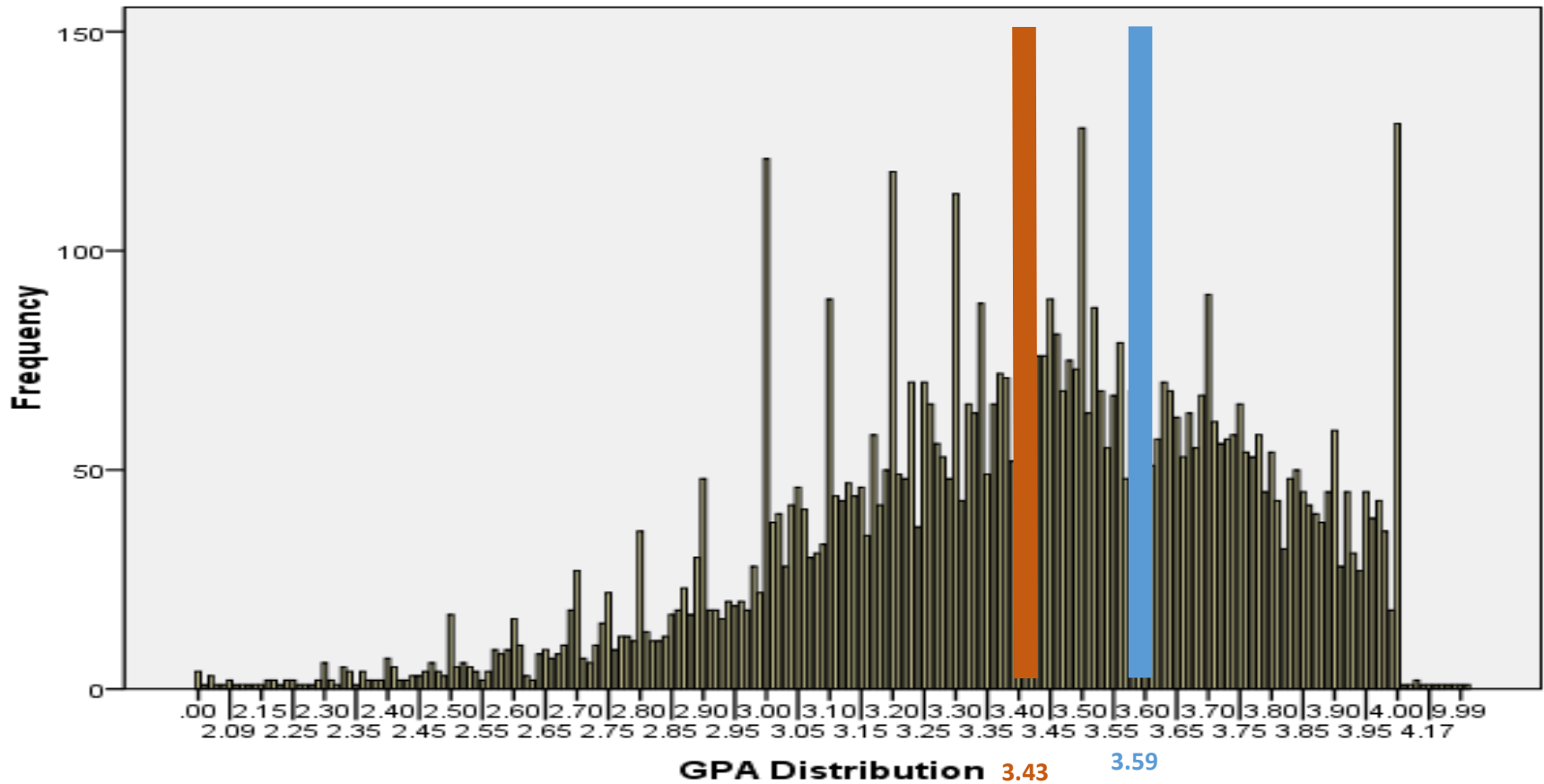1980 - 2013

# Notes on the Trends

- The number of veterinary school applicants has cycled down approximately every 12-13 years since 1977

- VMCAS accounts for more than 94% of seats in the US

- Enrollment in the US has increased an average of 1.6% per year over the last 33 years
    - The rate of annual growth over the last 10 years is 2.0%
    - The number of US citizens studying outside of the US has increased by 113.8% during the last 6 years

- Lack of international college data before the development of VMCAS prevents an accurate ratio for early years; the ratio may be artificially inflated as a result

- The ratio could fall below 1:1 within 5 years given current conditions, and this could threaten the long term viability of some colleges

# The Applicant Pool

- 84% are female
- 83% have a baccalaureate degree
  - 7% have Master or Doctoral degree
- 82% have pets
  - 60% plan to bring their animal(s) with them to vet school
- 80% are working students
  - 30% are working full time
- 60% became interested in the profession before age 10
- 55% grew up in the suburbs
  - 57% want to practice in the suburbs
- 33% are from the South
- 23% are first generation college attendees
- 16% are from underrepresented minorities

# Distribution of Applicants' Overall GPA
## VMCAS Applicants
## 2013



N = 6741, 4.0 Scale
Applicants' Mean GPA – 3.43
First Year Students' Mean Pre-Vet GPA – 3.59

# Quality of the Applicant Pool

- GPAs
    - Steadily increasing over time within the applicant pool.
    - The admitted student GPA has also increased.
    - In 2003, the minimum admitted GPA was 2.8; today it is 3.3.
    - 21% of the pool have GPAs between 3.0 – 3.29.
    - 12% of the pool have less than a 3.0 GPA.

- GRE Scores

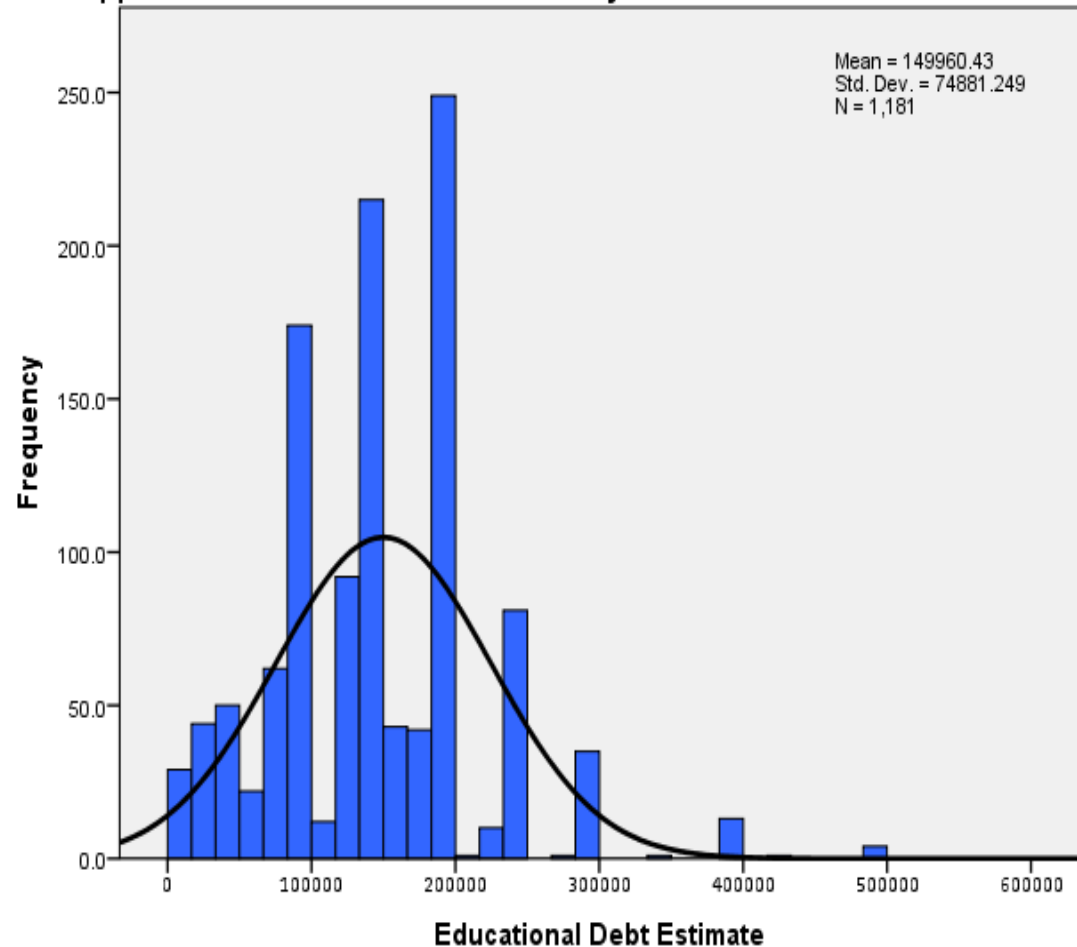| 2013 | Applicant | Admitted |
|---|---|---|
| Verbal Percentile | **53%** | **68%** |
| Quantitative Percentile | **49%** | **61%** |

# Quality of the Applicant Pool

- ## Secondary Admissions Criteria
  - Once the candidates' ability to academically bear the DVM curriculum is determined, the focus increasingly shifts to selecting for professional competencies

    - Critical thinking & problem solving skills
    - Emotional intelligence
    - Communication skills
    - Multicultural acuity
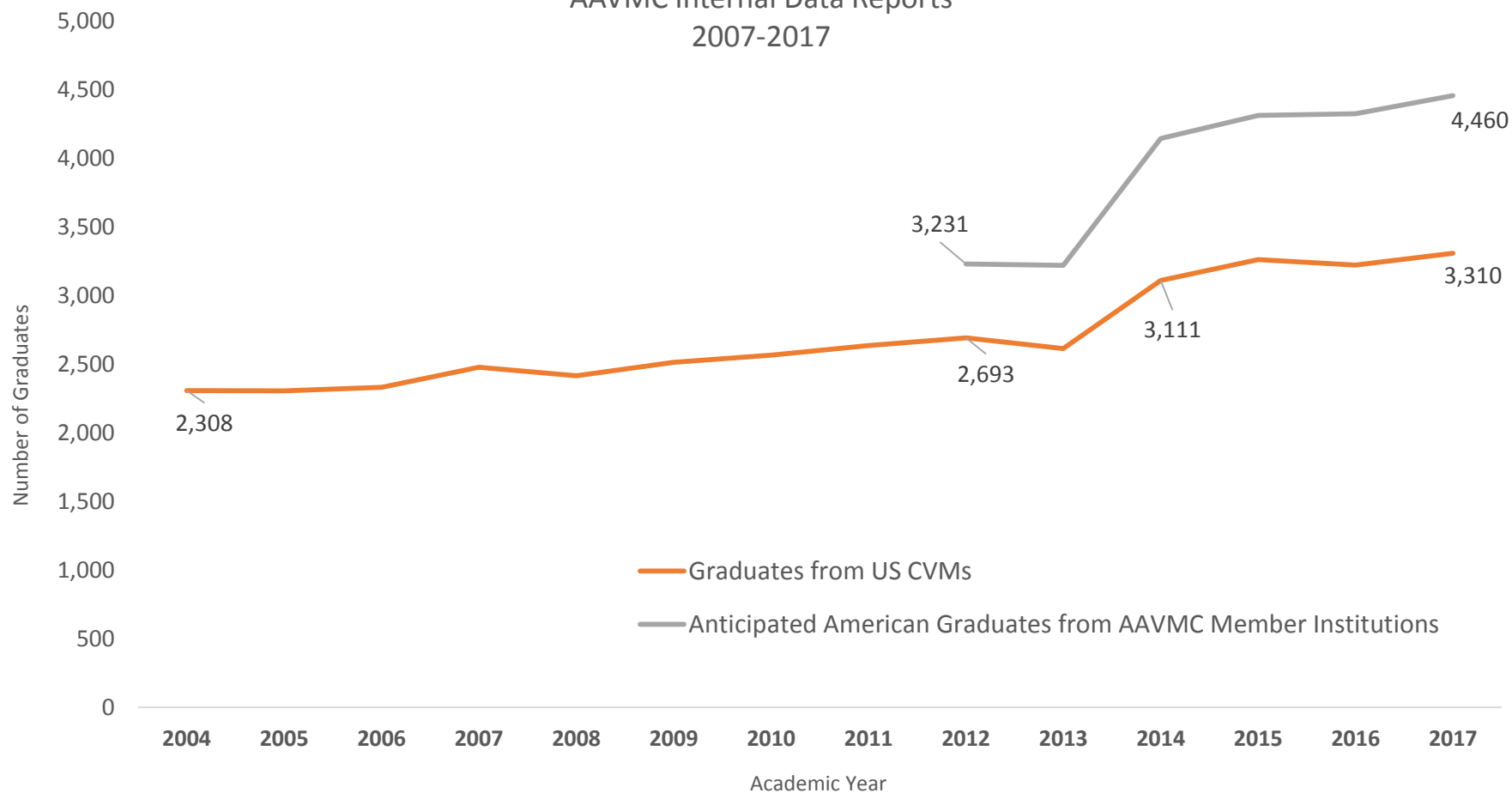    - Leadership capacity
    - Resiliency

## Applicant Debt

- 84.3% of applicants have no more than $30K in undergraduate debt.
  - 52% have $10K or less in undergraduate debt.

- Applicants reported a mean of $150K as 2013 graduating DVM deb.

  - 32.3% of applicants estimated DVM graduate debt of less than $100K in 2013

  - 26% of DVM graduates have less than $100K in educational debt.



Applicant's Estimates of 2013 Veterinary Graduates Educational Debt

Mean = 149960.43
Std. Dev. = 74881.249
N = 1,181

Frequency

Educational Debt Estimate

**Total Number of Graduates from Reporting AAVMC Member Institutions**
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
2007-2017

## Conclusions

- A cyclical decline in the number of applicants should be expected.

- The seat to applicant ratio has likely been lower than previously reported because of international enrollment of US students.

- Academically, the applicant pool remains quite competitive.

Please Direct Inquiries to:

Lisa Greenhill

Associate Executive Director

for Institutional Research & Diversity

lgreenhill@aavmc.org

This report should be cited as:

Demand for Veterinary Medical Education: The Veterinary School Applicant Pool [Internet].

Washington, DC: Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. 20 November, 2014

p. 1 – 13. Available from: http://aavmc.org/data/files/data/demand for veterinary education.pdf

THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE