Demand for Veterinary Medical Education:  
The Veterinary School Applicant Pool

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Veterinary School Applicant Figures
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980 - 2008

Number of Reported Applicants

Year


7,286 3,922 6,783 4,440 5,920
Veterinary School Applicant Figures
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980 - 2008

Number of Reported Applicants

Applicant to Seats

Year

THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Veterinary School Applicant Figures
AAVMC Internal Data Reports
1980 - 2013

Applicants

Applicant to Seats

Year


Number of Reported Applicants

Applicant to Seat Ratio

THE FUTURE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2013 Applicant</th>
<th>2013 Admitted</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Percentile</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Percentile</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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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.
Total Number of Graduates from Reporting AAVMC Member Institutions
AAVMC Internal Data Reports 2007-2017

Number of Graduates

Graduates from US CVMs
Anticipated American Graduates from AAVMC Member Institutions

Academic Year
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.