

# HOW TO PREPARE TO APPLY TO VETERINARY SCHOOL

*Congratulations on your decision to pursue a career in veterinary medicine! The information below will assist you as you embark on the process of applying to veterinary medical school.*

## HOW TO PREPARE IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Gain a solid background in math and science.
- Take part in extracurricular activities (athletics, school clubs, FFA, etc).
- Study and maintain a competitive GPA.
- Acquire experience with animals.
  - Consider volunteering at your local humane society or with a local veterinarian.

## HOW TO PREPARE AS A COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE

- Take a pre-vet or comparable curriculum, that is, one that includes math and several science courses such as biology and chemistry.
- Maintain a competitive GPA.
- Gain as much broad exposure to veterinary medicine as possible. Consider job shadowing with veterinarians, scientists, working on a farm or volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Join a Pre-Vet club.

## RESEARCH SCHOOLS AND ATTEND INFORMATION EVENTS

- [Utilize the Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirement \(VMSAR\) school directory.](#)
  - Review the Prerequisite chart and general information chart for veterinary medical schools.
- [Research cost of schools using the AAVMC Cost Comparison Tool.](#)
- [Review the Admitted Student Statistics.](#)
- [Attend informational webinars](#) and events to help you understand how to prepare and apply.

## WORK WITH AN ADVISOR

- Work with a pre-health or pre-vet advisor at your undergraduate institution.
- Advisors can help you navigate the journey of becoming a competitive applicant and the application process.
- Pre-health advisors provide you with guidance about your different options, so you are able to make informed decisions.

## GAIN EXPERIENCE

- Gain animal experience by job shadowing, working on a farm, or volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Gain veterinary clinical experience under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
- Seek opportunities for research experience (animal and veterinary research as well as other field and/or laboratory-based research).

## AAVMC STATEMENT ON VETERINARY EXPERIENCE HOURS

Most U.S. veterinary schools require applicants to gain veterinary experience before applying for admission. These experiences will help you learn about the profession you wish to enter and will inform your decision to apply to veterinary school. There are many types of opportunities available, both paid and volunteer. Whatever you decide to pursue, your duties should be at an appropriate level that matches your skills and certifications. Each state/jurisdiction/country has its own regulations regarding the practice of veterinary medicine. You should review and discuss these with your supervisor to ensure that what you are expected to do falls within the appropriate scope of practice. If at any time, you are uncomfortable with what you are being asked to do, you should talk to your supervisor, as it is illegal for individuals to practice veterinary medicine without a license. More information can be found at the American Veterinary Medical Association [Model Veterinary Practice Act \(MVPA\) Section 4 – License Requirement](#). Please be aware that this applies not only to experiences within the U.S. but also to other countries and includes programs abroad organized for people who would like international experiences.

