

PRE-VET FAQs

Here are answers to some common questions you may have about your educational journey and the plethora of opportunities you'll have once you become a veterinarian.

Can I apply to veterinary school immediately after high school?

Veterinary school typically requires preparation beyond high school. While some international programs may accept students directly from high school, veterinary school is generally a graduate program. Most students complete three years of undergraduate study before applying.

Who should I talk to for guidance?

Speak with undergraduate pre-vet or pre-health advisors about degree programs that align with your interests. Consider what other career options interest you to have a backup plan. Admission to veterinary medicine can be competitive.

Does attending an undergraduate with a veterinary program give me an advantage?

No. Veterinary schools consider applicants from any accredited undergraduate institution.

Is there a preferred major for admission?

No specific major is required; just complete the necessary coursework (check [VMSAR](#) for admissions requirements). Many students major in Agriculture (e.g. animal science, wildlife science, biochemistry, food science, etc.), Biology, or other sciences, but any major can work as long as it meets the prerequisites.

How does the DVM program differ from the Veterinary Technology program?

The best analogy that clarifies these professions is that the DVM program prepares you to be the doctor and veterinary technology prepares you to be the nurse.

Will veterinary schools consider my high school transcripts?

Veterinary schools primarily assess your college academic record, though high school transcripts may be required for direct-entry programs and some of our international programs that accept students from high school.

How many students are admitted to veterinary schools each year?

Approximately 4,100 students are admitted to veterinary schools each fall.

How long does it take to earn a Veterinary Medicine degree?

Earning a DVM generally takes 4 years, following 3-4 years of undergraduate prerequisites.

What is the applicant-to-seat ratio for the DVM programs?

The ratio is approximately 2:1.

Is a veterinary school's ranking important?

No. All accredited veterinary schools meet AVMA/COE standards, and each offers unique strengths.

What qualifies as animal experience?

Animal experience includes 4-H animal projects, livestock farms, humane societies, zoos, kennel work, racetracks – any activity that allows you to gain hands-on experience in working with animals in general. This does not include family pets. It's recommended that you keep a record of your experiences, including dates, time spent, types of activities, who supervised, etc.

What is included in veterinary experience?

These are activities or tasks supervised by a veterinarian.

Is AP credit accepted?

Generally, veterinary schools will accept AP credit for courses as long as the course is posted to a collegiate academic transcript and clearly indicates for what subject matter credit is received (e.g. “calculus” is specific as to course, “math” is not). Keep in mind that there are some dangers in using AP credit to bypass beginning coursework on campus. You should discuss your particular situation with your academic advisor.

Do I need to complete an undergraduate degree to apply?

Not in all cases. Some veterinary schools require a bachelor's degree, but many allow applications after completing prerequisite coursework. However, most admitted students have completed four years of study.