

Pre-Veterinary Medicine Information Sheet

Prerequisites can vary on a school by school basis. Please check the prerequisites for schools to which you hope to apply

A summary of course prerequisites can be found at the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges Member Institutions](#). [AAVMC College Descriptor Pages](#) can also be found online.

The following courses are required by many veterinary schools in the United States as the minimum background needed for acceptance.

Prerequisites	Mason Courses
Biology, 2 semesters with a lab	BIOL 213 Cell Biology BIOL 311 Genetics
General Chemistry, 2 semesters	CHEM 211 and 213 CHEM 212 and 214
Biochemistry, 1 semester	BIOL 483/CHEM 463
Organic Chemistry, 2 semesters with a lab	CHEM 311 and 315 CHEM 314 and 318
College Physics, 2 semesters	PHYS 243 and 244 PHYS 245 and 246
Mathematics, 2 semesters - varies by school	MATH 113 STAT 250/BIOL 214
English	ENGH 101 ENGH 302
Humanities/Social Sciences, 2 semesters	Varies by school

Additionally, some schools may be looking for one, or more, of the following: Microbiology, Physiology, Comparative Anatomy, Nutrition and Speech Communication. See the [AAVMC Summary of Course Prerequisites](#) for further information.

Admission to veterinary schools is highly competitive. According to the [Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine](#), a competitive grade point average is 3.5. A competitive GRE general aptitude score, a wide variety of experience with both large and small animals, experience working for a veterinarian for 400-600 hours, experience working in a research laboratory or in commercial or industrial settings related to veterinary medicine are also expected.

Veterinarians

The [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges](#) has identified a variety of veterinary settings that include private practice, corporate veterinary medicine, the federal government, the U.S. Army Corps and U.S. Air Force, research, teaching, public health, food supply medicine, global veterinary medicine, public policy and shelter medicine.

Veterinarian Education

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), “Veterinarians must complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D.) degree at an accredited college of veterinary medicine. There are currently 28 colleges with accredited programs. A veterinary medicine program generally takes 4 years to complete and includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical components...All states and the District of Columbia require veterinarians to have a license. Licensing requirements vary by state, but all states require prospective veterinarians to complete an accredited veterinary program and to pass the [North American Veterinary Licensing Exam.](#)”

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)

[VMCAS](#) is a centralized service which allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to veterinary programs. It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out which schools participate and send individual applications to those that do not participate.

Standardized Tests

Most veterinary schools require students to take at least one standardized test. The [majority of schools](#) require the [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#). Students need to understand [which the schools require](#) which tests and how the scores are reported.

Letters of Recommendation

[Veterinary schools](#) vary with regard to the letters of recommendation required of applicants. According to VMCAS, letters of recommendation are accepted electronically (eLOR). No paper letters are accepted.

Employee Outlook and Earnings

The current [Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook for Veterinarians](#) can be found online.

Pre-Veterinarian Advising

The information contained in this information sheet should be discussed with [the Health Professions Advisor](#). The availability of health professions advising opportunities is announced through the [HEALTHPROFESSIONS-L listserv](#) for Mason students.

Students must still be advised in their department regarding their major.