Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)

What does a veterinarian do?
- Veterinarians take health histories of animals, perform & interpret tests, diagnose problems, prescribe medications, develop treatment plans, and perform surgeries.
- Veterinary medicine is a very large field encompassing many fascinating careers.
- Veterinarians can specialize in large, small, and exotic animal care.
- Areas in need of more veterinarians are food animal safety and laboratory animal health.
- Having a love for animals is important in veterinary medicine, as well as being able to work with people.
- Veterinarians are helping pet owners through difficult times, keeping our food supply safe, and studying diseases that often impact human populations.
- Many veterinarians are also involved in homeland security issues to help prevent bioterrorist attacks and to help protect our populations following one.
- Veterinary medicine is a complex field with many opportunities to work with both animals and people.

How do I become a veterinarian?
- Veterinary school programs are very competitive; there are relatively few programs in the country.
- To earn admission you must have good grades overall (3.5 or better is typical) and in prerequisite courses; high scores on the aptitude test (the Graduate Record Exam or GRE); and significant experience with animals.
- Letters of recommendation and an interview are also required.
- Competitive applicants are well-rounded students with leadership skills and volunteer, research, and shadowing experience.
- Significant animal experience is generally expected including time supervised by a veterinarian in both small and large animal settings and time spent in other contact with animals.
- After completing a bachelor’s degree (which is preferred at most schools), students who have been accepted into a veterinary school program then complete 4 years of veterinary school.
- This may be followed by a residency if a specialization is the goal.

What prerequisite courses do I need?
- Prerequisite courses vary slightly between programs.
- All required courses must have a minimum grade of a C.
- Besides those listed below, a Careers in Veterinary Medicine course should be taken if available.
- Information on each college’s requirements can be found in the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements book published by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

Prerequisites at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Purdue Equivalent (specific courses may vary depending on major)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 year of Biology with labs</td>
<td>BIOL 11000-11100 OR BIOL 13100, 23100/23200</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of General Chemistry with labs</td>
<td>CHM 11500-11600 OR CHM 12500-12600 OR CHM 12300-12400 OR CHM 12901</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of Organic Chemistry with labs</td>
<td>CHM 25500/25501-25600/25601 OR CHM 26100/26300-26200/26400 OR MCMP 20400/20500</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 year of Physics with labs</td>
<td>PHYS 22000-22100 OR PHYS 17200 &amp; 27200 OR PHYS 17200-24100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester Biochemistry</td>
<td>CHM 33300 OR CHM 53300 OR BCHM 56100 OR BCHM 30700</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester Microbiology with lab</td>
<td>BIOL 22100 OR BIOL 43800/43900</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester of Genetics with lab</td>
<td>BIOL 24100/24200 OR AGRY 32000/32100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester animal nutrition</td>
<td>ANSC 22100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester calculus</td>
<td>MA 22300 OR MA 16100 OR MA 16300</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester statistics</td>
<td>STAT 30100 OR 50300</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester communications</td>
<td>COM 11400 OR 21200 OR 21400</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 semesters humanities</td>
<td>For example, courses from foreign language, cognitive science or social science</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 semester of English composition</td>
<td>ENGL 10600 OR ENGL 10800</td>
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What is the job outlook?

- The median salary for veterinarians is $82,040.

How do I apply?

- The primary application is made through an online service called VMCAS the Veterinary Medical College Application Service which is sponsored by the AAVMC (the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges).
- Deadline for application is typically early October.
- If you are applying to schools in Texas, you will also need to complete the TMDSAS.
- Applying to veterinary school is expensive so you should plan ahead for the $1,000-2,000 of application costs.

Where can I get more information?

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
  [http://www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)
- TMDSAS (for applications to schools in Texas)
  [http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas](http://www.utsystem.edu/tmdsas)
- Programs in the state:
  Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine
  [http://www.vet.purdue.edu/education](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/education)

For more information about veterinary medical programs or your interests in the health professions, contact the Center for Pre-Professional Advising at 765-496-2690 or preprofessional@purdue.edu. Students in the College of Agriculture should also make contact with Felix Arnold (Arnoldf@purdue.edu), an advisor in the College of Agriculture for more information.

Information for this career guide came from the above websites and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
[www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm)