

- Veterinarians play a vital role in the healthcare of pets, livestock, zoo animals, and laboratory animals. They also protect humans against diseases carried by animals and research human and animal health problems.
- Veterinarians take health histories of animals, perform and interpret tests, diagnose problems, prescribe medications, develop treatment plans, and perform surgeries. They specialize their care in a number of areas including large, small, food animal, laboratory animal, and exotic animal care.
- Areas in need of more veterinarians include food animal safety and laboratory animal health.
- Veterinarians help pet owners through difficult times, keep our food supply safe, and study diseases that often impact human populations.
- Some veterinarians are also involved in homeland security issues to help prevent bioterrorist attacks and to protect our populations if one occurs.

Education & Licensure

- Veterinary programs are competitive as there are relatively few programs in the country. Competitive applicants are well-rounded students with leadership skills, research experience, and volunteer 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 while not supervised by a veterinarian.
- 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. A national licensure exam is also required.

Preparation

- Significant animal experience is expected including time supervised by a veterinarian in both small and large animal settings (vet supervised experience) and time spent in other contact with animals (animal experience). Keep a log of your time and experiences.
- Participate in undergraduate research.
- Prerequisite courses vary slightly between programs—research this early to be sure you have what you need for schools at which you want to apply. Veterinary programs appreciate rigor in undergraduate coursework. They expect to see you taking difficult courses.
- Some schools will require a minimum grade of a C in required courses.
- A Careers in Veterinary Medicine course should be taken if available. Purdue undergraduate students should plan on taking this course.

Common Prerequisite Courses (required courses determined by each vet school but similar to this list)

Requirements	Purdue Equivalents (specific courses may vary by major)
Biology with labs	BIOL 11000-11100 or BIOL 13100 & BIOL 23100 & 23200 (lab) or BIOL 23100 & ABE 22600* & upper-level biology (with lab) or BME 29500* & lab (BME 24300* or BME 32001* or BME 35400*) & upper-level biology (with lab) BIOL 23000
Microbiology with lab	BIOL 22100 or BIOL 43800 & 43900
Genetics (lab req. at some schools)	BIOL 24100 (BIOL 24200 lab) or AGRY 32000 (AGRY 32100 lab) Some schools insist on higher number lab (300 level). Check with schools if this is a requirement.
General Chemistry with labs	CHM 11510-11610 with labs or CHM 12500-12600 or CHM 12901 (CHM 11500 credit exam recommended along with CHM 12901, some students will earn 115 credit if taking the 12901, 25500-25600, 33900 sequence)* or CHM 13600
Organic Chemistry with labs	CHM 25500-25600 or CHM 26100-26200 or CHM 26505-26605 or PHSC 20400-20500
Biochemistry (no lab required)	BCHM 30700 or BCHM 56100 or CHM 33900 or CHM 43300 or PHSC 20800 (CHM 33300, CHM 53300)
Physics with labs	PHYS 22000-22100 or PHYS 23300-23400 or PHYS 17200 & 27200 or PHYS 17200 & 24100 (plus additional lab such as PHYS 25200) or ENGR 16100-16200*
Statistics	STAT 30100 or STAT 50300 or PSY 20100* or SOC 38200*
Communication	SCLA 10200* or COM 11400 or COM 21200 or COM 21400 or COM 21700
Humanities & Social Sciences	Courses from Foreign Language, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology
English Composition	ENGL 10600 or ENGL 10800 or SCLA 10100*; plus upper level writing or literature for some programs
Careers in Vet Med	VM 10200
Required at Some Programs	Algebra, Calculus, Animal Science, Animal Nutrition (ANSC 22100), Zoology, Psychology, Technical Writing
Pre-Med Planning Seminar (optional)	BIOL 39600-0 credit 10 week class covering how to apply to medical school and other health professions programs
*Ask individual veterinary schools if they will accept these courses toward their requirements. Courses no longer available.	

Student Organization: Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (Pre-Vet Club)

Program Information

- [Prerequisite chart](https://www.aavmc.org/assets/site_18/files/vmcas/vmcasprereqchart.pdf) https://www.aavmc.org/assets/site_18/files/vmcas/vmcasprereqchart.pdf
- [Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements](https://applytovetschool.org/) (VMSAR) <https://applytovetschool.org/>

Applying

- Application is made through an online service called VMCAS the [Veterinary Medical College Application Service](https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) sponsored by the AAVMC (the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges). <https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- Texas A&M uses a separate application, [TMDSAS](https://tmdsas.com/) (Texas Medical and Dental School Application Service). <https://tmdsas.com/>
- Take the [Graduate Record Exam](https://www.ets.org/gre) (GRE) aptitude test for the 2 schools still requiring it (not required at Purdue). <https://www.ets.org/gre>
- Competitive applicants have:
 - Strong academic performance including a grade point average of 3.5 or better
 - Leadership, teamwork, and communication skills
 - Undergraduate research experience
 - Volunteer and shadowing/observation experiences as well as significant animal experience
 - Strong positive letters of recommendation (mostly from faculty and veterinarians)
- Early application is key. Although VMCAS has an absolute deadline, problems can occur ahead of this. The application opens in January and you have full access in May. You should submit within a month of it fully opening.

Fee Assistance

- [VMCAS Fee Reimbursement Program](https://www.aavmc.org/applicant-responsibilities/fees.aspx) <https://www.aavmc.org/applicant-responsibilities/fees.aspx>
- [GRE Fee Reduction Program](https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register.html) <https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register.html>

Employment Outlook

- The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm) anticipates a growth of 19% in veterinary jobs through 2033. The median salary for veterinarians in 2024 was \$125,510. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm>

Programs in the Region

- [Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine](https://vet.purdue.edu/dvm/ready-to-apply.php) West Lafayette, IN | <https://vet.purdue.edu/dvm/ready-to-apply.php>
- [University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine](https://vetmed.illinois.edu/prospective-students/admissions/) Urbana, IL | <https://vetmed.illinois.edu/prospective-students/admissions/>
- [Ohio State University](https://vet.osu.edu/education/dvm-admissions) Columbus, OH | <https://vet.osu.edu/education/dvm-admissions>
- [Midwestern University](https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-veterinary-medicine-program/doctor-veterinary-medicine-college-veterinary-medicine-illinois-downers-grove-campus) Downers Grove, IL | <https://www.midwestern.edu/academics/degrees-programs/doctor-veterinary-medicine-program/doctor-veterinary-medicine-college-veterinary-medicine-illinois-downers-grove-campus> (Admitting first class Fall 2027)

More Information

- [American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges](https://www.aavmc.org/) (AAVMC) <https://www.aavmc.org/>
- [VMCAS](https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login) <https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
- [TMDSAS \(for applications to Texas A&M\)](https://www.tmdsas.com/) <https://www.tmdsas.com/>

Other Careers to Consider

Physician · Public Health (including veterinary public health) · Veterinary Nurse (Veterinary Technology) · Dentistry · Chiropractic Medicine · Physical Therapy · Orthotics & Prosthetics

If trained in dentistry, chiropractic medicine, orthotics/prosthetics, or physical therapy, you can often complete additional training and apply these skills to animal health.

Preparing for your Giant Leap

purdue.edu/preprofessional