

Veterinarians care for the health of pets, livestock, and animals in zoos, racetracks, and laboratories. Some veterinarians use their skills to protect humans against diseases carried by animals and conduct clinical research on human and animal health problems. Others work in basic research, broadening our knowledge of animals and medical science, and in applied research, developing new ways to use knowledge.

Most veterinarians diagnose animal health problems; vaccinate against diseases, such as distemper and rabies; medicate animals suffering from infections or illnesses; treat and dress wounds; set fractures; perform surgery; and advise owners about animal feeding, behavior, and breeding.

Most pre-vet students are interested in applying to the veterinary school at UC Davis. However, each year an increasing number of students apply out of state, and many will be interested in the new, private vet school in southern California (Western University of the Health Sciences in Pomona). Required course work varies from school to school and, consequently, you should be certain that you are meeting the requirements for each individual school where you wish to apply.

### Required Coursework

Specific course prerequisites vary somewhat for each school, but the following courses are generally required. Additional courses may be required of some schools. It is the students' responsibility to review required courses of the schools in which they are interested.

One Year of General Chemistry w/lab	CHEM 2 – General Chemistry I (includes lab) <b>and</b> CHEM 10 – General Chemistry II (includes lab)
One Year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 8/L – Principles of Organic Chemistry with lab <b>and</b> CHEM 100 – Organic Synthesis and Mechanism with CHEM 100L – Organic Chemistry Lab
One Year of Biology with lab	BIO 1/L – Contemporary Biology <b>and</b> BIO 2/L – Introduction to Molecular Biology
One Year of Physics	PHYS 8 – Principles of Physics I <b>or</b> ICP 1B – Integrated Calculus and Physics: Physics <b>or</b> PHYS 18 – Principles of Physics I for Biological Sciences <b>and</b> PHYS 9 – Introductory Physics II <b>or</b> PHYS 19 – Introductory Physics II for Biological Sciences
One Semester of Biochemistry	BIO 101 or CHEM 111 – Biochemistry I

One Semester of Physiology	BIO 161 – Human Physiology
One Semester of Genetics	BIO 140 – Genetics
One Semester of Statistics	MATH 18 – Statistical Analysis of Scientific Data <b>or</b> MATH 32 – Statistics <b>or</b> PSY 10 – Analysis of Psychological Data
One Year of English	WRI 10 – College Reading and Composition <b>and</b> WRI 100 – Advanced Writing <b>or</b> WRI 116 – Science Writing in Natural Sciences
One Year of Humanities and Social Sciences	Additional courses in the humanities and social sciences are required

## Major

There is no inherent advantage in the choice of one particular major over another. Any major is acceptable as long as the required pre-veterinary courses (science and non-science) have been completed.

## Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

This is only standardized examination required for entrance to US veterinary schools, including UC Davis I and Western U. (Note: different schools have different testing requirements and may accept other exams) Only the General Test is required. It involves seven 30-minute tests (three and one-half hours of testing), and can be taken by computer any time.

GRE Information can be found on the GRE website. For UC Davis, the GRE must be taken no later than September 30th of the year you apply to veterinary school. If you feel that your GRE scores do not reflect your true ability, you may take the exam again. Only the best score for each section will be considered by the admissions committee at UC Davis when reviewing your application. This policy, however, varies from school to school. WU will accept either the GRE or the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test).

## Experience

One hundred and eighty (180) hours of veterinary, animal and health-related experience is the required minimum amount to apply to UC Davis; however, most successful applicants have more than this amount (2,500+ hours on average). Western U requires at least 500 hours of hands-on experience. Other schools have varied requirements. Diverse work experience will aid you in deciding which veterinary track to pursue and will strengthen your vet school application as well. Start your preparation as early as possible.

## Application Format

UC Davis now uses the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS). This is the centralized application process for applications for most of the U.S. veterinary medical colleges. VMCAS organizes the distribution, collection and processing for applications but is not involved with setting application, admissions, or deadline requirement, or with making admission decisions; questions concerning these matters should be directed separately to each school of veterinary medicine. Applicants to WU may apply through VMCAS or directly to the university. You are encouraged to speak with an HSA pre-vet advisor if you have questions.

## **Application Process**

A student applying to veterinary school has the option of doing so after two years of college have been completed and the minimum requirements (see above) have been met, but most successful applicants complete a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation into vet school.

The Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS) is now available only online. Applications need to be submitted one year prior to the year of matriculation with an October 1st deadline for most schools. Applications usually become available on the website in late May. Contact any non-VMCAS schools you would like to apply to directly to request an application.

You must also request that the Educational Testing Service mail copies of your GRE scores to VMCAS (UC Davis institutional code = 4975). This can be done when registering to take the examination.

Personal interviews for admission are usually part of the admissions process.

## **California Schools**

UC Davis – School of Veterinary Medicine

Western University of Health Sciences – College of Veterinary Medicine