PROFESSION OVERVIEW

Veterinarians are licensed medical professionals who diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases and injuries in animals. They examine patients, interpret diagnostic tests, prescribe treatments, and support public health through animal welfare and disease prevention.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM (depending on specialty)

- **Veterinary School**: Four Years
- **Internship (Optional)**: One Year
- **Residency (Optional):** Two – Three Years

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The courses listed below represent common prerequisites for admission to veterinary schools; however, specific requirements vary by program. Most veterinary schools require additional coursework beyond the core subjects. Applicants are encouraged to consult individual school websites and refer to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) at **www.aavmc.org** for the most current and detailed admissions information.

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify all prerequisite courses, requirements, and application deadlines for each school they plan to apply to.

One year of general biology*	BIOL 101/BIOL 102 or BIOL 107/108
One year of general chemistry	CHEM 201/CHEM 202
One year of organic chemistry	CHEM 311/ CHEM 312
One year of physics	PHYS 101/ PHYS 102 or PHYS 105/ PHYS 106
One semester of biochemistry	CHEM 317 or CHEM 414
One year of English	Gateway + a writing intensive course

Schools may require additional coursework in the humanities, statistics, social science and biology (microbio, genetics, cell bio)

*ALL first year Biology students are required to complete Biol 101/102 instead of Biol 107/108

KEY COMPONETS OF A COMPETITIVE VETERINARY SCHOOL APPLICATION

Veterinary schools look for well-rounded applicants. The following list identifies criteria considered during the application process. Check the **Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR)** for average grade point average (GPA) & Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores for programs of the interest; http://www.aavmc.org/publications/vmsar.aspx.

- Overall and science GPA
- Extracurricular activities
- Research experiences
- Leadership experiences
- Interview

- GRE or MCAT scores
- Animal-related experiences
- Community service
- Personal statement
- Letters of reccomendation

APPLICATION TIMELINE

Your timeline for applying to Veterinary school should reflect your readiness: academically, personally, and professionally. While some students apply in the summer before senior year to start Veterinary school right after graduation, others benefit from a more flexible timeline.

For students who need additional time to build a strong foundation in the sciences or adjust to college-level coursework, starting General Chemistry in the sophomore year and applying after senior year is an alternative timeline.

This extended timeline can support stronger academic performance and a more confident Test preparation. Taking a gap year vend applying during their senior year does not put students at a disadvantage. Applicants may use that time to gain clinical exposure, develop professional skills, clarify their goals, and shore up weaker areas on their application.
For more guidance, visit Make the Most of Your Gap Year.

VETERINARY AND ANIMAL EXPERIENCE EXPECTATIONS

Veterinary schools look for applicants with hands-on experience in animal care and clinical settings. Gaining exposure to the profession through work with licensed veterinarians helps demonstrate readiness and commitment to the field. Experience with animals that you own not applicable.

- **Veterinary Experience- Supervised by a licensed Veterinarian**
  - **Clinical - Large, Small, Rural**
  - **Zoological - Wildlife, Exotic, Endangered**

- **Animal Experience- Not under the supervision of a Veterinarian**
  - **Shelters**
  - **Pet Stores**
  - **Farms**

APPLICATION SERVICE

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) is the centralized application platform used by most U.S. veterinary schools. Applicants submit one primary application through VMCAS, which is then distributed to participating programs.

Please note that deadlines and additional requirements vary by school. Visit aavmc.org/vmcas for critical application dates and verify details with each veterinary program.

STANDARDIZED TEST

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is no longer required by most veterinary schools, though some programs still accept or recommend it. Students who choose to take the GRE typically do so after completing a bachelor's degree and core science prerequisites. The exam is computer-based, offered year-round, and takes approximately 4 hours to complete. Official scores are typically available 10–15 days after the exam date.
Applicants should consult the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR) at www.aavmc.org/vmcas and individual school websites for up-to-date policies.
For test dates, registration, and preparation resources, visit www.ets.org/gre.
The GRE consists of the following three sections:

- **VERBAL REASONING (130–170)**
- **QUANTITATIVE REASONING (130–170)**
- **ANALYTICAL WRITING (0–6)**

The following resources can provide you with more information regarding the GRE

- **Educational Testing Service (ETS):** Official test information, registration, and preparation materials – www.ets.org/gre
- **Magoosh GRE**: Free and paid video lessons, practice questions, and study schedules – www.magoosh.com/gre
- **Khan Academy (non-GRE-specific)**: Helpful for reviewing math, reading, and analytical writing concepts – www.khanacademy.org
- **Manhattan Prep & Kaplan:** Full-length practice tests and paid prep books/courses
- **ETS POWERPREP Practice Tests:** Official fee-based practice tests that simulate the real exam environment

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAMVC); www.aavmc.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); www.avma.org
- Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA); avma.org/about/savma/
- Explore Health Careers; www.explorehealthcareers.org

handshake
Don't forget to check out **Handshake**!

Handshake is your one-stop source for internship and job postings, campus recruiting, career fairs, and career center resources. Once you're on the login page, enter your iwu.edu email address and click next. If you are already in the system, then you can just select "IWU Single Sign-on" and enter your IWU net-ID and password.

Please visit **www.iwu.edu/career-center/handshake** for more information on Handshake.