

Veterinary School Preparation Guidelines

Each path to veterinary school is different. This guide is to help you navigate your own path.

Every Semester you should plan to:

1. Successfully complete pre-professional coursework
2. Maintain excellent grades (3.5 and above to be competitive). Math and science coursework is especially critical
3. Keep your legal and student behavior records clean! These records can impact both admissions and professional licensure
4. Explore and participate in meaningful activities and experiences – both human and animal volunteer experience is valued
5. Get to know your faculty and instructors and meet with a Pre-Health Advisor

Freshman Year – Year 1

School Year

- Focus on your academics and successful transition to college
- Join the Pre-Vet Club and participate fully every year
- Start a resume - track activities and experiences; journal observations
- Be active. go to fairs and events and join the Pre-Vet Club student organization
- Explore service opportunities in the Fall and participate in the Spring
- Explore majors based on interests; all majors are equal to veterinary school admissions
- Explore veterinary-related employment and/ or research opportunities for summer (Spring)
- Register for PHLC 200 for your sophomore year (Spring)

Summer

Of listed, choose what works for you

- Participate in animal-related volunteering
- Seek vet-related employment if possible
- Participate in a Summer program exploring the veterinary profession – see AAVMC Summer
- Seek shadowing opportunities with vets
- Find experiences for next year
- Explore summer research opportunities

TIP: Volunteer in your Freshman year – both human/animal experience is valued!

Sophomore Year – Year 2

School Year

- Choose a major based on your interests
- Continue participation in meaningful activities and experiences
- Participate in PHLC 200 Pre-Health Learning Community
- Explore the AAVMC resources at www.aavmc.org; research vet school pre-requisites
- Calculate completed Biology, Chemistry, Physics courses GPA (BCP)
- Request to be a Guest in PMED 300 for your Junior year if planning to apply after Junior year (Spring) – attend the sessions that are helpful to you

Summer

- Participate in animal-related volunteering or employment
- Participate in a Summer program exploring the veterinary profession – see AAVMC Summer
- Seek shadowing opportunities with vets
- Find experiences for next year
- Participate in a summer research opportunity

TIP: Focus on shadowing, volunteering, and consider research in your Sophomore year or summer.

Junior Year - Year 3 - IF Applying to Start Veterinary School after Senior Year

School Year

- Talk to a Pre-Health or Faculty Pre-Vet Advisor, review readiness and timeline to apply
- Participate in PMED 300 Pre-Medical Education Seminar as a Guest
- Decide when to take the GRE – Late Spring/Early Summer – plan when you will study
- Research veterinary programs for pre-reqs and other admissions requirements
- Identify who to ask for Letters of Recommendation (Fall)
- Brainstorm your personal statement and write draft by Spring
- By February, ask faculty for letters; follow-up with email and letter requirements for VMCAS
- Review Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)
- If eligible, apply for Fee Reimbursement Program for VMCAS fees (Spring)
- Keep participating in meaningful activities and maintain good grades
- Re-calculate your Sciences GPA
- In May begin entering information into the VMCAS application once it is open

Summer

- Submit Primary Application early – do not wait until September deadlines!
- Order transcripts to submit with Primary Application
- Take the GRE by mid-July
- Check Letters received and upload to VMCAS
- Complete Secondary Applications from individual vet schools by early fall
- Contact schools to check your file is complete – most schools will not interview until it is
- Consider your options if a vet school application is not successful the first time - Explore Gap Year options to be prepared
- Follow up on your application status: Transcripts sent? Letters received? Uploaded to CAS?

TIP: Focus on animal experience, shadowing vets, service, leadership, and research if interested

Senior Year – Year 4 – IF Applying to Start Veterinary School *after* Graduation

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete secondary applications Check your status in the application/admission process Continue to get good grades, pursue meaningful co-curricular and experiential activities Update individual schools on experiences completed after submitting primary application Research financial options for veterinary school Interview at veterinary schools; schedule a practice Interview with the Career Center once you have interviews scheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow rules of application and acceptances; know each school's requirements Make interim and final decisions about vet school choice Notify schools not attending before deadline given Complete and submit IRS and financial aid forms

Junior Year – Year 3 - IF APPLYING AFTER SENIOR YEAR – (TAKING A GAP YEAR)

School Year	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review your timeline with a Pre-Health Advisor; identify areas of your application that can be strengthened over the next four semesters (Fall) Enroll as a Guest Participant in PMED 300 Continue participation in meaningful activities and experiences Explore Gap Year options; volunteer, employment, research, academic, etc. and apply Continue to build faculty relationships Continue successful completion of pre-requisite courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue participation in meaningful activities and experiences TIP: By Year 4; have experience with animals, at least two shadowing experiences and be active in meaningful co-curricular experience If interested, have some research or plan to by the start of vet school- especially explore research related to animals or with vets

Senior Year – Year 4 - IF APPLYING AFTER GRADUATION – (GAP YEAR)

School Year	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to a Pre-Health Advisor, review readiness and timeline to apply Enroll as a Guest in PMED 300 Plan when to study for and take the GRE exam Research selection factors at vet schools; GPA averages, GRE minimums, co-curriculars, requirements for shadowing or animal experience Brainstorm your personal statement; write draft by Spring By February, ask faculty for letters; follow-up with email and letter requirements in VMCAS Review Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) sections Continue participation in meaningful activities Explore and apply for Gap Year experience: employment, research, services, academic, etc. In May begin entering information into the VMCAS application once it is open 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit Primary Application early – do not wait until September deadlines! Order transcripts to submit with Primary Application Take the GRE by mid-July Check Letters received and upload to VMCAS Complete Secondary Applications from individual vet schools by early fall Contact schools to check your file is complete – most schools will not interview until it is Follow up on your application status: Transcripts sent? Letters received? Uploaded to VMCAS? Potentially, begin Gap Year experience after graduation, or prepare for a program in fall

GAP YEAR Following Graduation

Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin post-baccalaureate or Special Master's program immediately following graduation, if pursuing academic enrichment Complete secondary applications; check your file is complete at each vet school Check your status in the application/admission process If you are in an academic program, get good grades Continue meaningful experiential activities; you can often UPDATE individual vet schools on additional experience after submitting your primary application Interview at vet schools; schedule a practice interview with the Career Center once your interviews are scheduled at a vet school Research financial options for vet school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow rules of application and acceptances; know each school's requirements Make interim and final decisions about vet school choice Notify schools not attending before deadline given Complete and submit IRS and financial aid forms

Summer before veterinary school matriculation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for vet school enrollment – purchase books, make living arrangements, and attend orientation programs Follow-up on all financial aid forms and deadlines Take time to Relax. Congratulations!
