

PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE

Many students interested in veterinary medicine attend UC Davis as undergraduates. Most of these students visit Health Sciences Advising (HSA) and/or the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Student Programs office, which provide career and educational planning. The professional and student advisers in either office can provide information about prerequisites, application procedures and curricula for the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. The Student Programs office also has information concerning special programs such as the Veterinary Medical Opportunity Program (VMOP), while HSA has information on other U.S. and foreign veterinary schools. Below are answers to students' most frequently asked questions.

WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE IN HIGH SCHOOL TO PREPARE FOR VETERINARY SCHOOL?

In addition to meeting your UC "a-g" requirements, take as many mathematics and science courses as possible. This will best prepare you for the science requirements you will have in college. It is also important for you to explore your interest in veterinary medicine from a practical standpoint through animal-related experiences, particularly working with a veterinarian. Currently the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine requires a minimum of 180 hours of animal experience, although most applicants have considerably more than the minimum.

SHOULD I MAJOR IN PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE AT UC DAVIS?

Many students have the misconception that "pre-vet" is an academic major. Pre-veterinary students are free to choose any major. Usually they will choose majors like animal biology, animal science, biological science, or wildlife, fish and conservation biology, where there is a great deal of overlap between courses required for their major and the School of Veterinary Medicine's prerequisites, e.g., chemistry, biology and physics. The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine looks for students who are well-rounded individuals who have taken courses in the humanities and social sciences and who have participated in college activities.

WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET FOR ADMISSION TO THE UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE?

To be considered for admission, applicants must have a minimum 2.50 GPA both in the required science courses and in cumulative undergraduate coursework. Applicants not meeting this minimum 2.50 GPA requirement can qualify for consideration by scoring in the top 30th percentile on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The majority of required science coursework must be completed at the time of application. Pending courses must be completed prior to matriculation.

Required science courses: General biology with lab (one year), general chemistry with lab (one year), organic chemistry (two or three quarters), biochemistry (one course), physics (two quarters), systemic physiology (one course), genetics (one course)

Other required courses: Humanities and social sciences (12 units), English (one year, including one course in English composition), general statistics (one course)

Additional application requirements: GRE general test (must be taken by October 1), veterinary experience (at least 180 hours at time of application), three letters of evaluation, personal statement and interview

Admissions applications to the UC Davis Veterinary School are due October 1st. Electronic applications are usually available in June at www.vmcas.org. The selection process is usually completed by April 1st of the following year.

ARE MY CHANCES FOR ADMISSION TO UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IMPROVED IF I COMPLETE MY UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE AT UC DAVIS?

There is usually no direct correlation between attendance at any undergraduate school and acceptance into professional school at the same institution. At UC Davis, the School of Veterinary Medicine does not have quotas to accept or limit acceptance for UC Davis undergraduate students. The most important consideration when choosing a college should be to attend a college where you will do your best academically and socially.

WHAT ARE MY CAREER OPTIONS WITHIN VETERINARY MEDICINE?

The following is a partial list of the various career options available within veterinary medicine:

- private practice (small, large, mixed)
- federal government
- state government
- research (private or public)
- teaching
- food animal production
- zoo medicine
- avian medicine/science
- wildlife health
- private industry (such as pet food or animal pharmaceutical companies)

QUESTIONS?

Office of Associate Dean Student Programs, School of Veterinary Medicine, 125 Surge IV, University of California, One Shields Ave. Davis, California 95616, (530) 752-1383. Download a brochure and FAQ with comprehensive information regarding veterinary school admissions at www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/studentprograms.

UC Davis Health Sciences Advising Services, 160 South Silo, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, California 95616-8508, (530) 752-4475, advisingservices.ucdavis.edu.

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