

ADVISING THE PRE-VETERINARY STUDENT:
HEALTH PROFESSIONS



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I. INTRODUCTION

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) recognizes the role advisors play in supporting, motivating, nurturing, and guiding health professions applicants through the preparation and application process. We want to provide advisors with tools and resources to help them advise students to be well-prepared and successful veterinary school applicants. It is critical that the veterinary workforce reflects a diverse society, and advisors are in a pivotal role to help encourage and support students from underrepresented and minority populations apply to veterinary school.

This guide to advising Pre-Veterinary students is for individuals who advise for the health professions. The guide provides easy-to-read information so you can accurately discuss career opportunities in veterinary medicine and the process for applying. The guide includes information about prerequisite coursework, experiential preparation, the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS), broaching sensitive topics, career options and much more.

of Missouri, and Washington State University). The student should inquire about this before applying to the school, so they understand the requirements for state residency and the process

The Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirement website
(applytovetschool.org)

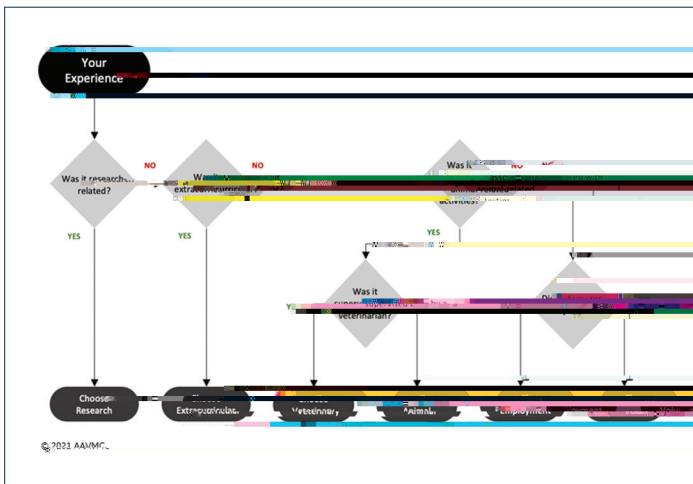
V. EXPERIENTIAL PREPARATION AND

Select Your Most Important Experience

Applicants can select up to 5 experiences to highlight as their most important. Once they have added all of their experiences, they can click the star icon next to an experience in the My Experiences list to mark it as their most important. It helps the admissions committee understand what is important to the student. Encourage the student not to “overthink” their choices or “think from an admissions officer’s perspective.” Students should pick experiences that nurtured and supported them and express who they are and what is important to them.

Figure 5 provides a diagrammatic guide on how to classify experiences.

Figure 5. _____



AAVMC Statement on Veterinary Experience Hours

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maturity. Therefore, it is important to select recommenders who both support the student going to veterinary school, but who have also seen the student behave in a professional and ethical manner. Recommenders are also asked how well they know the applicant: very well, moderately well or minimally well. Make sure students are asking professionals who know them at least moderately well.

Students will have the option of waiving their right to access the evaluation. It is advised that students waive their right to access the evaluation.

Committee Letters – Yes, or No?

Committee letters are not required by veterinary schools. If a student submits a committee letter, it will count only as one of their letters. If the student chooses to submit a committee letter, it is important they check with the school before having it submitted. Overall, advise applicants to request letters from people who know them well.

VII. VMCAS

What is VMCAS?

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) is the centralized application service for Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. Applicants complete one application and send all their required materials through this service to multiple schools. The

Supplemental Essays

While most schools have supplemental essay questions, they

Interviews

Situational Judgement Tests

Some schools are dropping interviews and switching to Casper. It is an on-line situational judgement test. Test-takers are presented with a series of realistic, hypothetical scenarios and are asked what they would do if they were in each situation. It takes 60-90 minutes to complete with an optional 15-minute break halfway through. There are 12 sections, each with a scenario and corresponding set of questions. For each section there is a 60-90 second video-based scenario or a text-based

Preparing to Apply

- Undergraduate and prerequisite tuition (course costs)
 - Cost to take prerequisite courses at a community college or another university
- Paid vs. unpaid experiences
 - Help an applicant understand and embrace the value of their time and work.
- Optional summer program costs
- Optional test preparation programs
 - Costs associated with test preparation and re-testing should be discussed. While only 6 schools require the GRE and 1 school is GRE optional, it's important for applicants to be aware of these additional costs.
 - Does your school offer test-taking resources?

Applying to Veterinary School

- Testing fees and score submission fees
 - GRE fees or Casper fees
- Transcript submission fee
- VMCAS Fee (for the main application)
- `ogr1ir1 1 gs/TT1 1 Tf0 Tc 0 Tw 9477.4687 (o)928 297A p`



XII. CAREERS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

Having an understanding of the many opportunities and careers in veterinary medicine is helpful as you work with Pre-Veterinary students. Below you will find general information about veterinary medicine careers, job outlook, and veterinary specialties.

Every community needs veterinary professionals to provide animal health care, but veterinarians also do many other kinds of jobs. They make sure the nation's food supply is safe; they work to control the spread of diseases; and they conduct research that helps both animals and humans.

Specialties

The AVMA recognizes many specialties within veterinary medicine. These include anesthesia, animal welfare, behavior, dentistry, dermatology, emergency and critical care, internal medicine cardiology, internal medicine neurology, internal medicine oncology, laboratory animal medicine, microbiology, nutrition, ophthalmology, pathology, pharmacology, poultry veterinarians, preventive medicine, radiology, sports medicine and rehabilitation, surgery orthopedics, surgery soft tissue, theriogenology, toxicology, veterinary practitioners (including avian, equine, beef cattle, feline, canine/feline, exotic companion mammal, food animal, dairy, reptile and amphibian, and swine health management), and zoological medicine. You can find out more about these specialties at the AVMA website (<https://www.avma.org/education/veterinary-specialties>). To become a specialist, additional training is required beyond that of the veterinary medicine degree, and additional examinations must be passed to confirm skills in the specialty area.

XIII. DO YOU STILL WANT TO GO TO VETERINARY SCHOOL?

Ask the student these reflective questions to get them thinking:

1. Do you love animals?
2. More importantly, do you love science?
 - a. Have you taken two or more lab courses at the same time?
3. Do you like interacting with people?
4. Are you prepared for the academic, emotional, and mental challenges of veterinary school?
5. Do you have a support system in place?
 - a. What support systems are available at the veterinary schools you are interested in?
6. How do you handle stress?

The reality is that more and more veterinary students, eTT0 1 Tsts, eTT0a spedurith]TJCO (e labVID- (/Ac, emoti5 (9 T)-v)5 labe needetal challhy i

Industry: Typically refers to food, medical, and pharmaceutical organizations that do not focus on clinical practice. These organizations may focus on sales, recruitment, education, research, or another area.

Private Practice: Has a veterinarian that treats and/or diagnoses animal patients owned by an individual or a group of individuals.

Public Practice: Entails a veterinarian that treats and/or



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