

## THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

Veterinarians are best known for healing ill or injured animals as well as maintaining the health and well-being of pets and farm animals. Additionally, as more and more links are found between human and animal diseases, such as SARS, mad cow disease, West Nile virus, and avian flu, veterinarians are working alongside other medical professionals in public health and research. Along with research, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine can apply their degree effectively in all areas: private practice, corporate veterinary medicine, public health, teaching, global medicine, shelters, the US Department of Agriculture, the Centers for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, or even the US Army and US Air Force. There are many avenues for the future veterinarian to explore and pursue to make the world a better, healthier place.

## UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATION

Though some do, most veterinary schools do not require the completion of a bachelor's degree prior to admission to their program. Instead, there are minimum credit hour requirements. Typically, any major is acceptable. The most common undergraduate majors among pre-veterinary students include biology and chemistry. In selecting a college major, consider how you will satisfactorily complete the pre-requisite courses for your desired veterinary program, in addition to Nebraska Wesleyan University's graduation requirements.

## REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED COURSES

Although there is no required undergraduate major for admission to veterinary school, each institution will have a required list of pre-requisite coursework that must be completed. Some programs accept AP/CLEP/other transfer credits, while other programs do not. To the left is a general list of courses and credits needed for veterinary school based on Iowa State University. Students should contact their desired graduate school directly for specific pre-requisite requirements, transfer equivalencies, or other questions.

Courses	Credits
Chemistry & Biochemistry	14
Physics	4
Biological Sciences	14
Biomedical	9
English and Communications	9
Humanities	6
Electives	8

## BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-Veterinary students are encouraged to participate in experiences, such as leadership activities, volunteer opportunities, research, and shadowing of professionals, which will help prepare them for veterinary school and the profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the profession. In particular, shadowing veterinarians will help students learn more about the daily activities of the profession.

At Nebraska Wesleyan University, student organizations that may be interesting or useful to students looking into the veterinary field include Beta Beta Beta (Biology Honorary) and Pre-Health Club.

## VETERINARY EDUCATION

There are around 30 accredited veterinary schools in the United States that offer the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. The total number of credit hours required for degree completion varies from school to school. Some institutions also offer joint degrees. Practical experience is important, so many veterinary programs have dedicated time spent on clinical education and other training opportunities, rather than just focusing on classroom and lab study.

While there are no programs in Nebraska that offer a DVM, Iowa State has a partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) through their Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine (PPVM). In this program, Nebraska residents who are accepted to Iowa State can do their first two years of vet school at UNL and pay in-state tuition. The following two years are at Iowa State.

## APPLICATION & ADMISSION

1. Applications to almost all veterinary programs in the United States are completed through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). This standardized application permits a student to apply to multiple schools and colleges with one application. Applicants select the schools they would like to apply to and send the application directly through the site. The VMCAS application includes additional documents that programs require, such as the applicant's personal statement, course summary, and listing of extracurricular activities. [aavmc.org](http://aavmc.org) has information on which schools participate in the centralized application service.
2. Many schools require applicants to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Consider taking the GRE 12-16 months before you intend to start Veterinary school. More information on the GRE at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org). Some schools accept the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) in place of the GRE. Contact schools to which you intend to apply to find out more about testing requirements.
3. Note that some schools may require additional documents and supplemental applications. Standardized test results, as well as any application fees, should be sent directly to the schools the applicant is applying to. Additionally, some schools may require an interview for admission. Letters of recommendation are typically submitted through the VMCAS.

Regional Schools	Credit Requirement	Avg. GRE Score	Avg. GPA	Length of Program	Degree Offered
Iowa State University	55 hours	Not Required	3.6	4 years	DVM
Purdue University	63 hours	Not Required	3.7	4 years	DVM
Kansas State University	64 hours	Not Required	3.5	4 years	DVM
Ohio State University	65 hours	Not Required	3.6	4 years	DVM

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<http://explorehealthcareers.org> (Explore Health Careers)

<http://apvma.org>

(American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association- APVMA)

<http://www.aavmc.org>

(Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges- AAVMS)

<http://vmcas.liaisoncas.com>

(Veterinary Medical College Application Service- VMCAS)

<http://www.ets.org> (Educational Testing Service)

### How do I connect with NWU alumni in the veterinary profession?

Visit [career.nebrwesleyan.edu](http://career.nebrwesleyan.edu) and scroll down to “**Career Assistance Network**”. Use this database to find alumni in this profession and see their current position titles and employers. Feel free to reach out!