WHAT IS A VETERINARIAN?

Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM’s) are dedicated to animal welfare. Veterinarians diagnose and treat diseases and injuries in animals. They also prevent the spread of disease from animals to humans.

PRE-REQUISITES:

NOTE: EACH VETERINARY SCHOOL ESTABLISHES ITS OWN SET OF PREREQUISITES. CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED IN TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Biology*</td>
<td>BSC 114/115 and BSC 116/117 or honors equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry*</td>
<td>BSC 450</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Chemistry*</td>
<td>CH 101 and 102 or honors equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organic Chemistry*</td>
<td>CH 231, CH 232, and CH 237 (lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics*</td>
<td>MATH 115</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Physics*</td>
<td>PH 101 and PH 102 or honors equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Nutrition*</td>
<td>Taken online through other universities: ASI 318 (Kansas State University) ASC 378 (University of Kentucky) ANSI 3543E (Oklahoma State University) ANSC 221P (Purdue University) <strong>contact the individual university for more information about registration and fees</strong></td>
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HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: BSC 300 (Cell Biology) BSC 315 (Genetics)

*All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of “C-” or higher.

EXAM AND GPA:

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is a standardized examination that consists of four multiple-choice
sections that cover basic mathematics and reading comprehension skills. The GRE is designed to measure general academic ability. It is required by most Veterinary schools. Typically, students take the GRE about one calendar year prior to their intended date of matriculation to professional school. The GRE is a nationally standardized test, similar to the ACT and SAT. A GRE score is good for three years at most schools, so taking the test in the spring of junior year does not necessarily mean that you must enter PA school right after college graduation.

Grade Point Average (GPA): Veterinary Schools expect academic excellence. Good grades; typically an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or better is required to be competitive.

TIMELINE:

Freshman Year:
- Connect with the Health Professions Advising Office
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above)
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love)
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community)
- Start shadowing
- Join some student organizations (Pre-Veterinary Society)

Sophomore Year:
- Continue with next sequence of courses
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (shadowing, volunteer, etc)
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations
- Visit Health Professions Office to begin to assess competitiveness
- BOTTOM LINE: Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

Junior Year:
- Identify Veterinary programs you are interested in (Fall semester)
- Talk to Health Professions Advising Office about competitiveness (Fall semester)
- Register for VMCAS (Fall Semester)
- Study for GRE and take GRE (Spring Semester)
- Identify 3 individuals to write letters of recommendation: 1 from veterinarian, 1 from an employer, which can be a second veterinarian, and one from a faculty member (Spring Semester)
- Complete and Submit Application (VMCAS) (Spring Semester-Summer)
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far

Senior Year:
- Wait to be contacted for interview
- Finish degree requirements
- Continue with activities
- Talk with HPAO about Plan B if necessary
- Graduate

RESOURCES:

Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges http://www.aavmc.org/
UA Health Professions Website: www.prehealth.ua.edu
GRE information: www.ets.org