WHAT DOES A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (D.V.M.) DO?

- Diagnose and control animal diseases
- Treat sick and injured animals
- Prevent the transmission of animal diseases to people
- Advise owners on proper care of pets and livestock
- Ensure a safe food supply by maintaining the health of food animals
- Is involved in wildlife preservation and conservation

WHAT DEGREE DO I NEED TO BE A VETERINARIAN?

You must earn a D.V.M. from a college that meets accreditation standards set by the Council on Education of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and also obtain a license.

WHAT CLASSES DO I NEED TO TAKE TO GET INTO VETERINARY SCHOOL?*

There is no particular major required for veterinary medical school, just the prerequisite of certain science classes. Some typical prerequisite courses include:

- 6-8 credits of general biology with lab
- 6-8 credits of inorganic chemistry with lab
- 4-8 credits of organic chemistry with lab
- 3-4 credits of biochemistry with lab
- 6-8 credits of physics with lab
- 3-4 credits of genetics
- 3-5 credits of microbiology with lab
- 6 credits of English
- 6-15 credits of humanities & social sciences
- 3-6 credits of mathematics; some programs also require statistics

*Prerequisites for admission vary by school. For specific college requirements, visit the Association of American Veterinary College’s (AAVMC) prerequisite chart or college descriptor pages.

WHAT TEST DO I NEED TO TAKE FOR ADMISSION?

In addition to satisfying pre-veterinary course requirements, applicants must submit test scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), depending on the preference of the college to which they are applying.

WHAT DOES A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT LOOK LIKE?

There are only 28 veterinary medical colleges and 9 departments of veterinary science in the U.S., so the admissions standards are quite competitive. Among the 20 schools that reported their statistics, the average GPA of admitted students in 2012 was 3.61. In addition, most schools prefer applicants to have some experience working with animals and many programs recommend at least 500 hours of either direct veterinary work or research experience.

HOW DO I APPLY?*

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) is a centralized application service sponsored by the AAVMC. Access it here. The VMCAS reviews the applicant’s application form for completion, processes payment of application fees, and then electronically transmits the applicant’s data to the colleges selected by the applicant.

While VMCAS has application requirements, there may be other requirements for admission, including additional application forms, personal statements, and a personal interview. Be sure to check with the individual schools to determine what supplemental materials are required.

*It is important to note that not all veterinary medical colleges participate in VMCAS and require that their application be sent directly to the school.

WHEN DO I APPLY?

The VMCAS application opens in early June and it is important to read all of the information on their website, to ensure proper transmission of your applications either through VMCAS or the individual institutions. The VMCAS application deadline is in early October, but applicants are advised to submit their applications by the end of August to ensure time for verification and processing.

WHAT SITES DO I NEED TO CHECK OUT?

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC): www.aavmc.org
American Veterinary Medical Association: www.avma.org
Veterinary Medical College Application Service: www.vmcas.org