



PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences - Advising Center
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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

Veterinarians are dedicated women and men whose profession is caring for the health and well-being of animals. Their work is widely varied and may include such activities as biomedical research, clinical practice, and safeguarding our nation's food supply. Whatever their specialty, veterinarians are dedicated to maintaining and promoting animal health. They understand the importance of animal welfare and the interdependent relationships between animals and humans.

Applicants for admission to **Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine** should have at least **97 acceptable quarter credits** or 64 semester credits from an accredited college or university. No specific undergraduate program is preferred at Oregon State University, but students must complete the prerequisite courses listed below. Many students choose an animal science or biological science major because these bachelor's degree programs generally include most of the pre-veterinary requirements. Also, many of these programs allow students accepted into the DVM program after their junior year to apply credits earned in their first year of veterinary study toward completing a bachelor's degree. A bachelor's degree is not required for admission to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. **However, the vast majority of students admitted to OSU's veterinary medicine program have earned a bachelor's degree.**

At some point, students must meet PSU's University Studies requirements *or* OSU's Baccalaureate Core Requirements for a bachelor's degree. Thus, if the applicant does not have a B.S. or B.A., when preparing for admission, students must include courses that will meet in part requirements for graduation from PSU or OSU. If a student chooses to work towards OSU's Baccalaureate Core, it is his or her responsibility to work with OSU on completing this requirement. Students may transfer back to PSU up to 48 credits of the first year's work in the professional phase to complete the PSU requirements for a bachelor's degree with a major in biology or science. Otherwise, students will need to meet OSU's Baccalaureate Core Requirements.

Prerequisite Courses Required by Most Veterinary Medical Schools:

- One year of General Biology
- One year of General (Inorganic) Chemistry
- One year of Organic Chemistry
- One year of General Physics
- College math and/or calculus and/or statistics
- Biochemistry

NOTE: Science courses should be those designed for science majors

Additional Prerequisite Courses Required by Some Veterinary Medical Schools:

- Additional upper division course work in Biology (Genetics, Microbiology, Cell Biology, Histology, etc.)
- Physiology
- College English
- Minimum credit requirements in the humanities and/or social sciences

The above lists are not exhaustive. Check individual schools for requirements. Note that most professional schools require that an **A, B, or C** be earned in all required preparatory courses. **Admission to veterinary medical school is limited and extremely competitive.** In 2007, students who matriculated to OSU College of Veterinary Medicine had an average GPA of 3.6. Although OSU does not have a minimum GPA in order to apply, students with below a 3.2 are rarely admitted.

GRE:

OSU requires students to take the GRE. The **GRE General Test** measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. The General Test is offered year-round at computer-based test centers. For more information and to locate a test center visit: www.ets.org. The GRE must be taken within a five-year period prior to applying to veterinary school.

Requirements for Admission to Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine

The following is an outline of OSU prerequisite courses and other admissions requirements (subject to change at any time).

Prerequisite Coursework

Oregon State University Science Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
Science courses should be taken within the last seven years.	
Biological Sciences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology – a course sequence of biology (at least 12 quarter or 8 semester credits). • Genetics – a course in upper division genetics (at least 4 quarter or 3 semester credits). • Physiology – a course in animal or human physiology (at least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits). • Biological Sciences – a minimum of at least 6 additional quarter credits or 4 semester credits of upper division biological science courses with at least one laboratory. Recommended courses include additional biochemistry, additional physiology and/or anatomy, animal reproduction, cell biology, cell physiology, epidemiology, histology, immunology, microbiology, parasitology, virology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 251, 252, 253 (15) – Principles of Biology (recommend CH 221 be complete prior to or concurrent w/ BI 251) • BI 341 (4) – Genetics (recommended prerequisite one year of biological science) <p>Physiology options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 417 (4) – Mammalian Physiology – (recommended prerequisite upper-division physiology course) • BI 418 (4) – Comparative Animal Physiology (recommended prerequisite upper division physiology course) <p>Biological Sciences recommended courses: (please check prerequisites for these courses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI 336 (4) – Cell Biology & BI 337 (2) (Lab) • BI 480 (4) – Microbiology & BI 488 (2) (Lab) • BI 301, 302, 303 (12) – Human Anatomy & Physiology
Chemistry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry – a course sequence of inorganic chemistry with laboratories (at least 15 quarter or 8 semester credits). • Organic Chemistry – a course sequence of organic chemistry sufficient to meet requirements for upper division biochemistry (at least 8 quarter or 6 semester credits). • Biochemistry – a course sequence in upper division biochemistry (at least 6 quarter or 4 semester credits). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH 221, 222, 223 (12) w/ lab CH 227, 228, 229 (3) – General Chemistry (MTH 111 is the recommended prerequisite) • CH 334, 335, 336 (12) - Organic Chemistry (CH 221-223 with lab is the recommended prerequisite for either sequence) *or* CH 331, 332 (8) - Elements of Organic Chemistry (Elements of Organic Chemistry is only offered at PSU in an accelerated format over the summer quarter) <i>Note: O-chem labs are not required but will be viewed favorably by the admission committee. Labs for CH 331/332 are CH 327 (2) and CH 328 (2). Labs for CH 334/335/336 are (CH 337, winter & 338, spring)</i> • CH 350 (4) - Biochemistry (CH 223 & 332 or 336 are the recommended prerequisites) • CH 490 (4) – Biochemistry: Structure & Function (CH 336 is the recommended prerequisite and the recommended pre- or co-requisites are CH 416 or 440, CH 320/321, and BI 253)
General Physics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics – a course sequence in physics for science majors (at least 12 quarter or 8 semester credits). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PH 201, 202, 203 (12) – General Physics (MTH 112 is the recommended prerequisite) <i>Note: Labs are not required by OSU but are viewed favorably and are required by many other vet med programs. Labs are PH 214/215/216.</i>

Mathematics	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mathematics – a course in calculus (at least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits). • Statistics – a course in statistics (at least 4 quarter or 3 semester credits). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTH 251 (4) - Calculus I (MTH 112 is the recommended prerequisite) • STAT 243 (4) – Introduction to Probability and Statistics (prerequisite – second year high school algebra or equivalent). <i>Note:</i> Recommend the non-business version of stats.
Animal Nutrition	
Animal Nutrition – one quarter or one semester of a general animal nutrition course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not offered at PSU • OSU offers ANS 311 – Animal Nutrition online – it may be taken by students not attending OSU. <p>Since most colleges, including PSU, do not offer such a course, OSU advises students that they may take this as a correspondence course up to the time of admission, or even during the first two years of the professional program.</p>
Oregon State University Non-Science Prerequisite Courses	Equivalent PSU Courses
These requirements are a portion of OSU's Baccalaureate Core. Students who already have a bachelor's degree or intend to earn one from PSU need not complete these courses.	
English/Writing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 6 quarter or 4 semester credits of English writing (e.g. English composition, technical writing). 	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WR 121 (4) – College Writing • WR 227 (4) – Introductory Technical Writing • WR 323 (4) – Writing as Critical Inquiry <p><i>Note:</i> Freshman Inquiry may count for WR 121 (3 credits). Check with the pre-vet med adviser.</p>
Public Speaking	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits of public speaking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP 220 (4) – Public Speaking
Humanities/Social Sciences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 12 quarter or 8 semester credits of humanities or social sciences courses. 	Recommended: Anthropology, Art, English, Economics, Foreign Language, Geography, History, Philosophy, Psychology Sociology, or Women's Studies

Additional OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Program Admissions Requirements:

- Minimum 97 quarter credit hours to include the prerequisites complete before matriculation to OSU.
- Students must complete prerequisite courses by July 1 of the year in which they are accepted into the program.
- **GRE scores** (the GRE must be taken within a five-year period prior to applying). **GRE scores must be received by OSU CVM by the application deadline, October 2nd.** Applicants should send their GRE scores directly to the College of Veterinary Medicine. **The GRE code for the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University is 4565.**
- **Application deadline: October 2nd,** for both the primary application (VMCAS) & OSU's supplemental application. **However, applying early is strongly recommended (one can submit starting in early June).**
- In addition to the prerequisite courses, applicants are encouraged to take elective courses to better prepare them for the veterinary curriculum and profession. Suggested elective courses include: animal science courses, business related courses, computer science, embryology and microbiology.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam credits for lower division prerequisite courses are accepted.

OSU Selection Criteria

The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions Committee strives to select applicants who: 1) have a high probability of successfully completing the professional program, 2) possess the qualities deemed valuable in a veterinarian, 3) have knowledge of the veterinary profession, and 4) contribute to cultural, geographic, professional, and economic diversity of the student body and the profession. *For detailed information on the selection criteria, please visit OSU's website.*

OSU Veterinary Experience & Other Admissions Criteria:

Applicants should have exposure to and an understanding of the veterinary profession. OSU assesses the following areas:

- Veterinary experience (volunteer or paid positions): Veterinary experience may include working or volunteering in a research laboratory, clinical practice, animal shelter, zoo, animal rehabilitation facility or public health, regulatory, or industrial setting. The quantity, quality, and diversity of the experiences are important.
- Other animal-related experiences are also evaluated, including raising and caring for different species of animals.
- Recommendations from those who know the applicant in an educational or work environment.
- Knowledge of the varied roles of veterinarians in the scientific community and in society.
- The applicant's potential to contribute in a unique or diverse fashion to the profession is also considered.

Oregon State University Program Contact:

College of Veterinary Medicine
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4801
Patrick Kamins, Student Services Coordinator
Email: Patrick.Kamins@oregonstate.edu or
cvmproginfo@oregonstate.edu
Phone: 541.737.8221
Web: <http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/>

Applying to Veterinary Medical School

Application Process in Brief:

Students typically apply to veterinary medical school about a year and a half before they expect to matriculate to veterinary medical school (e.g. in the spring before their last academic year in college).

Students apply to veterinary medical school by completing and submitting a **primary application** through a central application service (VMCAS). This service sends your application to the schools of your choice. Some veterinary medical schools also require a **supplemental application**. OSU requires a supplemental application and a \$50 application fee in addition to the VMCAS application. All materials must be received by OSU by October 2nd.

Each applicant must arrange to have **three letters of evaluation** sent to VMCAS. The evaluation letters aid the Admissions Committee in assessing personal characteristics. Individuals selected to submit evaluations should know the applicant well enough to provide meaningful comments.

At least one letter of evaluation must be from a veterinarian with whom the applicant has had significant contact. Students currently in a graduate program should include a letter of evaluation from their program adviser.

Central Application Service:

Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS www.vmcas.org)

VMCAS

Toll Free: 877.862.2740

Fax: 202.682.1122

1101 Vermont Ave, NW Suite 301

Washington, DC 20005

Email: vmcas@aavmc.org.

Application Tips:

- **Apply Early.** If you wait until the night before a program deadline to submit your application, your application may not be received by VMCAS in time. Ideally you should apply at least four weeks before the deadline of the program(s) that you are applying to. This will allow the necessary time to verify and process your application and send it to your designated programs in a timely manner.
- **Review your application carefully.** Print your completed application for your records before submitting it to VMCAS. Do not send the printed copy to VMCAS.
- **Send Transcripts & Test Scores directly to the designated colleges prior to their deadlines.**
- **Enter all Institutions Attended.** Enter all undergraduate, graduate, professional, and foreign institutions that you have attended even if it was only for a single course or college credit awarded while you were in high school. Official transcripts will be necessary for all undergraduate and graduate coursework. Foreign coursework will need to be evaluated for U.S. equivalency if it is not in English.

Additional Recommendations:

- **Personally read the admission brochure and Web site** of each of the veterinary programs to which you plan to apply to obtain information on admissions requirements and to determine if the school is a good fit for you.
- **Participate in volunteer, and/or shadowing experience** in the veterinary medical field and in the community at large early on in your college experience. It is important that you understand the realities of the veterinary medical field and illustrate through action your commitment to the field of veterinary medicine.
- **Get involved with other pre-health students on campus** – joining the Pre-Veterinary Medical Group (<http://www.prevet.groups.pdx.edu/>) is a great way to start. Email: vetmed@pdx.edu.
- **Check periodically with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements to meet, and application procedures.
- **Begin the application process early** in the spring before your last academic year at PSU. Submit your application as early as possible without compromising the quality of your application. Visit the pre-vet adviser at PSU to discuss the application process.
- **Utilize free university resources** such as the pre-vet adviser, Writing Center, and Career Center for help with your personal narrative and interview preparation.
- **Begin completing financial aid forms in January; the priority filing deadline is March 1.**

Additional Resources:

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges – <http://www.aavmc.org/>

Veterinary Medical College Application Service VMCAS – www.vmcas.org

American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association – <http://www.apvma.us/>

PSU Pre-Veterinary Medical Group – <http://www.prevet.groups.pdx.edu/> Email: vetmed@pdx.edu