



Pre-Veterinarian Advising Sheet

Veterinarians are professionals who diagnose medical problems and care for pets and farm animals. They dress wounds, set broken bones, perform surgery, prescribe and administer medicine, and vaccinate animals against disease. Veterinarians also:

- Advise owners about the care and breeding of animals,
- Engage in research, food safety inspection and education,
- Work with physicians and scientist on research to prevent and treat diseases in humans,
- Specialize in epidemiology or animal pathology, thus helping to prevent the outbreak and spread of animal diseases like rabies,
- Play a leading role in government public health efforts by overseeing food production to ensure its safety, and
- Examine slaughtering and processing plants and enforce government food purity and sanitation regulations.

According to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, the majority of veterinarians in the United States are in private practice though there are many others who are involved in preventive medicine, laboratory animal medicine, research and development, and teaching. Some veterinarians choose to specialize in small animal, others in large animals.

Veterinarian Education

The DVM or VMD (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) program typically takes four years to complete. Graduate veterinarians may apply for a license to practice. Each state has its own licensing rules and procedures for practicing within the state. There are 28 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States.

Standardized Tests

Most veterinary schools require students to take at least one standardized test. The majority of schools require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); students need to contact the schools to find out which tests are required for admission. For more information about the GRE, visit their website at: <http://www.gre.org>.

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)

VMCAS is a centralized service which allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to multiple veterinary programs. Three of the veterinarian schools do not participate in VMCAS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out which schools participate and send individual applications to those that do not participate. For more information about VMCAS, visit their web site at: <http://www.aavmc.org/>

Employee Outlook and Earnings

The Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) expects the employment outlook for veterinarians to be very good because they do not expect the number of veterinarians to increase significantly. The employment opportunities for veterinarians are expected to increase.

According to the BLS, the median annual earnings of veterinarians in 2008-2009 was \$71,990. The middle 50 percent earned between \$56,450 and \$94,880. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$43,530, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$133,150.

Refer to the BLS website for more information: <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos076.htm>

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges <http://www.aavmc.org/>
- Veterinary Medical College Application Service <http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm>

Coursework	Citrus College Courses
One year of English	ENGL 101 & 102, 103 or 104
One year of Biology	BIOL 124 & 125
One year of Organic Chemistry	CHEM 210/211 & 220/221
One year of Physics	PHYS 201 & 202 or 203
Additional Coursework	MATH 190, 191

Important Sources of Information

- **AAVMC** (Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges) [aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)
- *Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements*, by the AAVMC is updated yearly and published by the Purdue University Press (www.thepress.purdue.edu/)
- **AVMA** (American Veterinary Medical Association) [www.avma.or](http://www.avma.org)