

## Pre-Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary medicine deals with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, disorder and injury in animals. The scope of veterinary medicine is wide, covering all animal species, both domesticated and wild. In the United States, there are 28 universities that award the advanced professional degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD). Although there is not a specific major for pre-veterinary students, most students choose one of the following majors:

- Biology standard major with a minor in chemistry OR a minor in pre-professional health science
- Biochemistry/Molecular Biology Comprehensive Major
- Biology comprehensive major in Organismal Biology OR in Microbiology
- Chemistry Comprehensive Major

### Admission Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution (any major) (not required by some programs)
- Completion of all prerequisite courses
- Competitive cumulative and prerequisite GPAs (3.5-3.8 average for those accepted)
- Competitive Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score (MCAT accepted by some programs)
- Veterinarian shadowing hours (required by most programs)
- Letters of recommendation (most programs require at least one from a veterinarian)
- Completed application with Veterinary Medicine Centralized Application Service (VMCAS) (for most programs)
- Face-to-face interview

**Required Pre-Veterinary Medicine Courses:** (Admission requirements and prerequisites may differ from school to school so it is important to check with schools for specific requirements.)

| Courses              | Required Credits<br>UW Madison | Required Credits<br>University of MN | Suggested UWEC Courses   |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| English              | 3-6                            | 8                                    | WRIT 116 (5cr) + an addl ENGL course                                     |
| Mathematics          | -                              | 3                                    | MATH 109 [+ MATH 112 or 113 & 114 to complete BS/Biol requirement (4+cr) |
| Inorganic chemistry  | 8                              | 8                                    | CHEM 103 & 104 (8cr) or CHEM 115* & CHEM 213 (10cr)                      |
| Organic chemistry    | 3                              | 6                                    | CHEM 325 & 326 (8cr)   |
| Biochemistry         | 3                              | 3                                    | CHEM 352 (4cr) or CHEM 452 (3cr)   |
| Physics              | 6                              | 8-12                                 | PHYS 211 & 212 (9cr) or PHYS 231 & 232 (10cr)                            |
| Biology              | 5                              | 8-10                                 | BIOL 221 & 222 & 223 (9cr)   |
| Genetics             | 3                              | 3                                    | BIOL 300 (4cr)   |
| Microbiology (w/lab) | -                              | 4                                    | BIOL 361 (5cr)   |
| Statistics           | 3-5                            | -                                    | MATH 246 (4cr)   |

\*CHEM 115 requires a strong background in high school math and chemistry

**Recommended Courses:** Many students find the following courses to be helpful in veterinary school courses:

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Biol 306 Infectious Disease Ecology | Biol 402 Topics in Virology & Immunology |
| Biol 317 Animal Physiology          | Business courses                         |
| Biol 354 Advanced Nutrition         | Economics courses                        |
| Biol 361 Biology of Microorganisms  |  |

**Graduate Record Exam (GRE):** This standardized exam is required for admission to most veterinary schools. The exam consists of 3 sections, Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing. It is often taken in the spring semester or summer following the junior year. Go to: <http://www.ets.org/gre> for more information on the GRE.

**Non-Academic Considerations:** Applicants are required to obtain experience in the veterinary medical profession and in the care and handling of animals. This should include experience with both small animals and food-producing animals and is typically done through practicing veterinarians. Seek out animal care related experiences, job shadowing and volunteering opportunities early!

**Suggested Pre-Veterinary Curriculum:** The following program is suggested for a student with a biology major. It is important that students work with a pre-vet advisor each semester.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Freshman year – Fall</b><br>Biol 221<br>Chem 103 or 115 *<br>Math 109, 112, 113, or 114 **<br>GE course or Writing 116                                 | <b>Freshman year – Spring</b><br>Biol 222/223<br>Chem 104 or 213 *<br>Math 112, 113, or 114**  |
| <b>Sophomore year – Fall</b><br>Biol 300-level<br>Chem 325<br>GE course or additional math<br>Writing 116 or GE   | <b>Sophomore year – Spring</b><br>Biol 300-level<br>Chem 326<br>GE course<br>GE course   |
| <b>Junior year – Fall</b><br>Biol 300- level<br>Biol 300-level<br>Physics 211   | <b>Junior year – Spring</b><br>Biol 300- level<br>Chem 352<br>Physics 212<br>GE course (Take GRE In Spring and complete VMCAS application in summer) |
| <b>Senior year – Fall</b><br>Complete Major/Minor/GE<br>Additional recommended courses #<br>(October 1 <sup>st</sup> is the last opportunity to take GRE) | <b>Senior year– Spring</b><br>Complete Major/Minor/GE<br>Additional recommended courses #  |

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\*\* Beginning course in mathematics depends on UWEC Mathematics Placement Exam score

## UWEC Pre-Veterinary Advisors:

Dr. Julie Anderson ([anderju@uwec.edu](mailto:anderju@uwec.edu))

Dr. Sasha Showsh ([showsha@uwec.edu](mailto:showsha@uwec.edu))

## More Information:

UW Madison School of Veterinary Medicine

[aaa@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:aaa@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu)

[www.vetmed.wisc.edu](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu)

U of MN College of Veterinary Medicine

[dvminfo@umn.edu](mailto:dvminfo@umn.edu)

[www.cvm.umn.edu](http://www.cvm.umn.edu)

For a complete list of veterinary programs [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)

Visit the *Health Careers Center* in Schofield Hall 30 or at [www.uwec.edu/health-careers-center/index.htm](http://www.uwec.edu/health-careers-center/index.htm) and join the *Pre-Professional Health Club* to learn more about healthcare, professional school applications, and medical schools.