

Pre-Veterinary Medicine

The William J. and Marian A. Klish
Health Careers Center
Connecting students to possibilities

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire

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 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 UW Madison	Required Credits University of MN	Suggested UWEC Courses
English	3-6	6-10	WRIT 116 (5cr) + an addl ENGL course
Mathematics	-	3-5	MATH 109 [+ MATH 112 or 113 & 114] to complete BS/Biol requirement (4+cr)
General chemistry	8	6-10	CHEM 105 & CHEM 106 & CHEM 109 (8-9cr) or CHEM 115* (6cr)
Organic chemistry	3	3-5	CHEM 325 & 326 (8cr)
Biochemistry	3	3-5	CHEM 352 (4cr) or CHEM 452 (3cr)
Physics	6	6-10	PHYS 211 & 212 (9cr) or PHYS 231 & 232 (10cr)
Biology	4-5	3-5	BIOL 221 & 222 & 223 (9cr)
Genetics	3	3	BIOL 323 (3cr) & BIOL 324 (2cr)
Upper Division Biology	-	3-5	
Statistics	3-5	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.

Freshman year – Fall Biol 221 Chem 105+106 or 115 * Math 109, 112, 113, or 114 ** LE course or Writing 116	Freshman year – Spring Biol 222/223 Chem 109 or 115* Math 112, 113, or 114**
Sophomore year – Fall Biol 300-level Chem 325 LE course or additional math Writing 116 or LE	Sophomore year – Spring Biol 300-level Chem 326 LE course LE course
Junior year – Fall Biol 300- level Biol 300-level Physics 211	Junior year – Spring Biol 300- level Chem 352 Physics 212 LE course (Take GRE In Spring and complete VMCAS application in summer)
Senior year – Fall Complete Major/Minor/LE Additional recommended courses # (October 1 st is the last opportunity to take GRE)	Senior year– Spring Complete Major/Minor/LE 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)

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See a Life & Health Science Advisor in the Advising, Retention and Career Center

More Information:

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www.vetmed.wisc.edu

U of MN College of Veterinary Medicine
dvminfo@umn.edu
www.cvm.umn.edu

For a complete list of veterinary programs www.aavmc.org

Visit the **Health Careers Center** in Schofield Hall 30 or at uwec.ly/hcc and join the **Pre-Professional Health Club** to learn more about healthcare, professional school applications, and medical schools.

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