

VETERINARIAN

Building 3, Room 108, Brighton Campus • www.monroecc.edu/go/careercenter • 585.292.2248

Veterinarians play a major role in the healthcare of pets, livestock, zoo, sporting, and laboratory animals. Some veterinarians use their skills to protect humans against diseases carried by animals and conduct clinical research on human and animal health problems. Others work in basic research, broadening the scope of fundamental theoretical knowledge and, in applied research, developing new ways to use knowledge. Most veterinarians perform clinical work in private practices. It usually takes 8 years of schooling to become a veterinarian: 4 years of undergraduate work leading to a baccalaureate degree and 4 years of veterinary school.

Degree: There is also no required undergraduate major for admission to vet school. Students should study in an area they enjoy and will do well in AND can take the required lab science courses under. Many students do study a major in the sciences (biology, chemistry, animal science, or zoology), but it is not required. To obtain a license students must graduate with the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from an AVMA accredited college, pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam, and apply in the state they wish to practice.

Criteria for Admission to Veterinarian Schools may include the following:

- Undergraduate cumulative GPA; science GPA will also be considered at many Vet Colleges
- Coursework rigor: Highly competitive Veterinary Programs prefer students taking many of the pre-vet courses at selective 4-year institutions
- A minimum of 3 letters of evaluation, at least one from a veterinarian and one academic evaluation
- Related work or volunteer experience with a diverse species of animals (this does not include pet ownership)
- Related research and veterinary experience
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (www.gre.org)
- Personal statement/essay and interview
- Other achievements/awards, leadership, community involvement

Please Note: Some Admissions Representatives from Veterinary Schools across the country suggest that students spend a maximum of 1 year at a community college as they prefer the pre-vet courses to be completed at a competitive 4-year institution. Please contact the Admissions Office at the Veterinary School that you are interested in attending early on to discuss your academic planning, attending MCC and transfer.

Typical Minimum Prerequisite Courses for Veterinary Medicine: One year of General Biology with laboratories; One year of Physics with laboratories; Two years of chemistry with laboratories, including Organic; One semester of Biochemistry; One semester of Microbiology; One year of English Composition. It is strongly recommended for students **not to complete** Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Organic Chemistry at the community college. For college specific requirements please visit www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx.

Additional Requirements: Humanities, Social Sciences, Statistics, Calculus, Animal Nutrition, Public Speaking, and Business Management or Economics courses are highly desirable.

Partial List of Colleges Offering a Degree in Veterinary Medicine:

Cornell University University of Pennsylvania The Ohio State University Tufts University

Additional Information:

USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Veterinarian - www.bls.gov/oco/ocos076.htm

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) - www.aavmc.org

Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine - <http://vetmed.iastate.edu/academics/prospective-students>

Veterinary Colleges Accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) - www.avma.org/education/cvea/colleges_accruited/colleges_accruited.asp

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Note: While every effort is made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, students are advised to meet with a counselor in the MCC Career and Transfer Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.