

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 college and 4 years of veterinary school.

Degree: In order to compete for admission to Veterinary Medical School, students will need to complete a Bachelor Degree in a field of science such as Animal Science, Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry or Zoology at an undergraduate institution **with a reputation for academic excellence**. Prospective veterinarians must graduate from an accredited college of veterinary medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M. or V.M.D) degree and obtain licensure.

Criteria for Admission to Veterinarian Schools may include the following:

- Undergraduate cumulative GPA, required science course GPA (3.5 and higher)
- Coursework rigor: Highly competitive Veterinary Programs prefer students taking many of the pre-vet courses at selective 4-year institutions
- 2-3 Letters of recommendation/personal evaluations
- 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 English Composition; 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. For college specific requirements please visit http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/college_requirement.htm.

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

The Only Veterinary Medicine Program in NY State is offered at Cornell University.

Admissions link: www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/prep.htm

Additional Veterinary Medicine Programs: www.aavmc.org

Please 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 Center and to contact transfer institutions for specific course requirements and the most up-to-date information.