

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. It usually takes at least 8 years of schooling to become a veterinarian: 4 years of undergraduate work leading to a baccalaureate degree (although a bachelor's degree is not required at most US Veterinary Schools) and 4 years of veterinary school.

Note: Veterinary Technicians perform medical tests under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian to assist in diagnosing the injuries and illnesses of animals. Locally, Genesee Community College, SUNY Alfred State and Medaille College have Vet Tech Associate degree programs. These are two-year programs.

Degree

Veterinarians must graduate with the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from an AVMA accredited college, pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam, and apply for licensure in the state they wish to practice. Admission to Veterinarian Schools is highly competitive. There is 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. Many students major in the sciences (ex. biology, chemistry, animal science, or zoology).

Criteria of importance for acceptance include:

- Undergraduate cumulative GPA; science GPA will also be considered
- Coursework rigor: some programs may prefer students take 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
- Personal statement/essay and interview
- Other achievements/awards, leadership, community involvement

Note: It is advised to take upper division science courses at a competitive 4-year college. 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

- Two semesters of general biology with labs;
- Two semesters of physics with labs
- Four semesters of chemistry with labs, including organic
- One semester of biochemistry
- One semester of microbiology
- Two semesters of English composition

For college specific requirements, visit: [AAVMC website, Student Applicants and Advisors](#)

Additional Requirements May Include

Humanities, Social Sciences, Statistics, Calculus, Animal Nutrition, Public Speaking, and Business Management or Economics courses. Research college specific requirements.

AVMA Accredited Colleges Offering a DVM Degree

(Students complete a bachelor's degree at a different college and then apply to DVM programs)

- Cornell University
- Long Island University
- University of Pennsylvania
- The Ohio State University
- Tufts University (Mass.)
- Iowa State University
- Virginia Tech
- University of Georgia
- University of Michigan
- University of Florida
- Auburn University (Alabama)
- Tuskegee University (Alabama)
- Midwestern University (Arizona)
- University of Arizona
- University of California
- Western University of Health Sciences (CA)
- Colorado State University
- University of Illinois
- Purdue University
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana State University
- University of Minnesota
- Mississippi State University
- University of Missouri - Columbia
- North Carolina State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- University of Tennessee
- Lincoln Memorial University (Tenn.)
- Texas A&M University
- Texas Tech University
- Washington State University
- University of Wisconsin – Madison

Additional Information

- USDL, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Veterinarian - www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians
- [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges \(AAVMC\)](http://www.aavmc.org)

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