



PROFESSION OVERVIEW

Veterinarians care for the health of animals and work to improve public health. They diagnose, treat, and research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and other animals.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

- **Veterinary School:** Four Years
- **Internship (Optional):** One Year
- **Residency (Optional):** Two - Three Years



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The most common course prerequisites for students applying to veterinary schools are listed below. However, most programs will require additional coursework. Check individual veterinary school websites or the **Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)**; www.aavmc.org.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the applicant to know the exact requirements and deadlines for each school to which they apply.

- **One year of general biology** BIOL 101/BIOL 102
- **One year of general chemistry** CHEM 201/CHEM 202
- **Organic chemistry** CHEM 311/312
- **One year of physics** PHYS 101/102 or PHYS 105/106
- **One semester of biochemistry** BIOL 317 or BIOL 414
- **Schools may require additional coursework in the humanities, social science and biology (e.g. biochemistry, genetics)**

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Veterinary schools look for well-rounded applicants. The following list identifies criteria considered during the application process. Check the **Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR)** for average grade point average (GPA) & Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) scores for programs of the interest; <http://www.aavmc.org/publications/vmsar.aspx>.

- Overall and science GPA

- Extracurricular activities

- Research experiences

- Leadership experiences

- Interview

- GRE or MCAT scores

- Animal-related experiences

- Community service

- Personal statement

- Letters of evaluation

APPLICATION TIMELINE

The application timeline is unique depending on when you are prepared and ready to pursue veterinary school. If you plan to apply directly after graduating from IWU, you will want to complete the prerequisite courses by the end of your junior year and apply during the summer before senior year. If you choose to take a gap year, you should complete your prerequisites by the end of your senior year and then apply the summer after graduation OR when you are ready.

Students today are often waiting a year or more after graduation before applying to a health professions school. This does not put the applicant at a disadvantage. Many programs look favorably upon applicants who have taken an extra year or two to mature and gain work experience, and who can make a better decision regarding a career in a health profession; see **"Make the Most of Your Gap Year"** (<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/making-most-your-gap-year/>).

APPLICATION SERVICE

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS); aavmc.org/vmcas is the application service for veterinary school and outlines critical dates for the application cycle.

STANDARDIZED TEST

Typically, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required of applicants to veterinary school. The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is also accepted by some schools in place of the GRE. For a listing of each accredited veterinary school's requirements, go to the AAVMC site at www.aavmc.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAMVC); www.aavmc.org
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA); www.avma.org
- Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA); avma.org/about/savma/
- Explore Health Careers; www.explorehealthcareers.org

