

# PRE-HEALTH STUDIES

## PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE ADVISING SHEET

This sheet is designed to give the typical pre-veterinary medicine student an understanding of course work requirements and the process of applying to veterinary school. *It is heavily recommended that you major in **biology** if you plan to pursue a DVM upon graduation from Butler University.*

**Typical Veterinary Medicine School Prerequisite Courses:** Listed below are typical course requirements, but pre-vet students should carefully check the individual websites of the veterinary schools to which they intend to apply. A helpful overview of veterinary school requirements for all schools that use the VMCAS system is available online at <http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchart.pdf>

General chemistry with lab (CH 105 and CH 106, or CH 107<sup>a</sup>)

Biological sciences with lab (BI 210, 220, 230, 301 and BI411, 438, and 320)

Organic chemistry with lab (CH 351 and CH 352)

Physics with lab (PH 107 and PH 108)

Biochemistry (CH 361 and CH 462)

Mathematics (MA 106 and MA 162)

Nutrition (ANCS 221 to be completed online through Purdue University)

**Course Work:** Required courses are shown below and categorized by semester. The number of credit hours for each course is given in parentheses. Non-required courses that pre-veterinary medicine students have found useful are in brackets.

<b><u>Fall Semester, Freshman Year</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Semester, Freshman Year</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Chemistry: CH 105<sup>b</sup> (5) or CH107<sup>a</sup> (6)</li> <li>• Genetics: BI210 (4)</li> <li>• Statistical Methods: MA 162 (4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cellular and Molecular Biology: BI220 (4)</li> <li>• General Chemistry: CH 106 (5)</li> <li>• Calculus and Analytic Geometry I: MA 106 (5)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Fall Semester, Sophomore Year</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Semester, Sophomore Year</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Chemistry I: CH 351 (5)</li> <li>• Ecology and Evolution: BI230 (5)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organic Chemistry II: CH 352 (5)</li> <li>• Zoology: BI301 (4)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Fall Semester, Junior Year</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Semester, Junior Year</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary Physics: PH 107 (4)</li> <li>• Biochemistry I: CH 361 (4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elementary Physics: PH 108 (4)</li> <li>• Biochemistry II: CH 462 (4)</li> </ul>
<b><u>Fall Semester, Senior Year</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Semester, Senior Year</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microbiology: BI 438 (4)</li> <li>• Animal Behavior: BI 320 (4)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principles of Physiology: BI 411 (4)</li> </ul>

<sup>a</sup>CH 107 should be taken in place of CH 105 and CH 106 if the student had a significant chemistry experience in high school.

**Applying to Veterinary School:** There are currently 30 colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. that will train aspiring veterinarians. As a result, competition can be fierce. Earning a DVM (or VMD in Pennsylvania) will require extensive preparation at the undergraduate level. Most veterinary schools use Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) for the application process. Students are encouraged to visit their website and review the admissions criteria for each school they are considering and to familiarize themselves with the application process. Complete application materials, GRE results, and letters of recommendation are typically due by mid-September of the senior year. For more information visit the websites of the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges](#) and [Veterinary Medical College Application Service](#).

**Graduate Record Examination (GRE):** Veterinary Medicine programs generally require an applicant to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE) general test. GRE preparation is typically started at the beginning of the junior year using study materials and guides available for purchase online. This exam is usually taken during the spring semester of the junior year, though students have successfully completed this requirement earlier in their college career. The GRE is similar in format to the SAT and includes verbal and quantitative sections. GRE scores are sent directly to the school and are not submitted through VMCAS. (There used to be a separate veterinary-specific entrance exam called the VCAT, but it has been phased out)

**Practical Experience:** Because of the competitive nature of veterinary medicine programs it is essential that you have lots of experiences with animals. These experiences include animal experience (such as work on a farm), employment experiences (such as work at a vet clinic), research experiences (of any kind), volunteer experiences (such as volunteer work at a zoo or animal shelter), and veterinary experience (any experience supervised by a vet). It is necessary to keep track of the amount of time you spend doing these activities.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Students will require submission of individual letters of recommendation from professors. Each school has specific numbers of letters that they will accept and has rules about how many must be from science faculty, non-science faculty, and professional veterinarians. Check with the specific school's website to determine which letters need to be sent to which school.

#### Pre-health Advising:

**Contact:** Should you have more questions, please visit the **CHASE office (JH153)** or request to meet with one of the two current faculty pre-health advisors (<https://www.butler.edu/pre-health-advising/advisors>). The advisors are happy and excited to work with you to help ensure you become the best candidate possible for professional school. Good Luck!

**Sophomore review:** In the spring semester of the sophomore year, each pre-veterinary student will meet with the junior pre-health advisor for a performance review. The student's overall GPA, volunteering and shadowing experiences, and other extra-curricular activities will be examined and discussed.