

PRE-VETERINARY ADVISING SHEET

This sheet is designed to give a typical pre-veterinary student a general understanding of the minimum course work generally required for acceptance to doctor of veterinary medicine schools. This document may not be equally suitable for all students and should be used solely as an initial guide since specific pre-requisite course requirements vary between veterinary schools. This variation can include how these schools view credit awarded for AP/IB credit and courses taken online, as well as the types of courses and number of credit hours required in each subject. **Therefore, students are responsible for checking the specific admission prerequisites for each physical therapy school to which they apply.**

Veterinary School Prerequisite Courses: The requirements for DVM programs vary considerably, so it is best to check each program you are interested in well in advance of applying. All programs do share a common theme that, given the number of upper-level electives required, Biology is most likely the best major to choose. A breakdown of courses required at various veterinary programs can be found at

https://www.aavmc.org/assets/Site_18/files/VMCAS/VMCASprereqchart.pdf

In general most programs require:

Biological sciences – two courses with lab (BI210 and BI220)
General Chemistry – two courses with lab (CH105 and CH106)
Organic Chemistry – two courses with lab (CH351 and CH352)
Biochemistry I and II (CH362 and CH462)*
Physics – two courses with lab (PH107 and PH108)
Zoology (BI301)
Psychological Inquiry (SW250-PS)
Statistics (BI250 or MA162)

Other courses required by a significant number of schools:

Microbiology (BI438)
Physiology (BI411)
Vertebrate Anatomy (BI307)

Other coursework that may be beneficial:

Animal Development (BI430)
Animal Behavior (BI320)
Nutrition (ANSC221 through Purdue online)

* Varies by school; some veterinary schools require two semesters of Biochemistry, some may only require one semester (in which case, CH 361 would be sufficient), others may want one semester with a lab – check each individual school's admission requirements to be certain

Veterinary Medicine is a health profession that focuses on treating diseases, disorders, and injuries in animals. A Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM, some schools grant the title of Veterinariae Medicinae Doctoris, or VMD) may commonly work with pets or livestock, but they may also treat exotic animals, working animals, companion or service animals, or research animals. Outside of family pet animal practices, the largest employer of veterinarians in the United States is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, and veterinarians are found in roles where they contribute to public health, the environment, homeland security, research, and public policy. For more information see the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) website at

<https://www.aavmc.org/>

Pre-professional advising:

Pre-veterinary students should contact the Engaged Learning Center (formerly known as CHASE) administrative assistant to ensure that they are included on the pre-vet email listserv. Pre-vet students are also encouraged to find more details on Butler's pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-veterinary/>.

Applying to Veterinary School: Veterinary schools in the United States use a common application service, the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). For more details, please consult the Butler pre-health website at <https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-veterinary/>.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): Many, but not all, doctor of veterinary medicine programs require an applicant to take the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE) general test. This exam is usually taken during the spring semester of the junior year.

Letters of Recommendation: Identify at least two science professors and at least one non-science professor that might be willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Veterinary schools may ask for a letter of recommendation from a licensed veterinarian that you observed or worked with professionally, so it is best to be prepared for this.

Shadowing: With competitive admission because of the limited number of veterinary colleges, schools will place a heavy emphasis on a student's animal experience. It is very important students have significant experience shadowing, volunteering, or work within a veterinary or animal clinic.

Personal statement: A personal statement is a well thought out explanation of why veterinary medicine is right for you based on the experiences that have led you to this conclusion. Experiences from your life, work, research, or shadowing that are pertinent to explaining your call to veterinary medicine need to be included as part of this statement. Journaling is a convenient way of keeping track of formative experiences and their impact on you as they occur.

Application timeline: Applications are submitted approximately one year prior to entrance into veterinary school. Applications are built within and submitted to schools through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). Applications to veterinary programs typically open in mid-May of each year and the deadline for applications is around mid-September.

Pre-health Advising:

Contact: Should you have more questions, please visit the ELC office (JH105) or request to meet with one of the two current faculty pre-health advisors (<https://www.butler.edu/academic-services/pre-health-advising/areas-of-interest/pre-veterinary/>). The advisors are happy and excited to work with you to help ensure you become the best candidate possible for professional school.

Sophomore review: In the spring semester of the sophomore year, each pre-vet student will meet with one of the pre-health advisors for a review of their preparation to date. The student's coursework, overall GPA, volunteering and shadowing experiences, and other extra-curricular activities will be discussed.

Programing: Our programming goal is to provide general information and advice to students, while also providing individualized advising sessions. Programing for pre-veterinary and pre-health professional students starts the first-week students are on campus and extends through their time at Butler and beyond. First-year programming includes an introduction of the advisors and what they do, along with information on what students can do to start building a competitive application. Second-year programming includes our Networking Night with local health professionals, which can lead to shadowing and other opportunities. Our third year programming focuses on helping students understand the application process and timeline. We support alumni up to five years after graduating from Butler.