



Veterinary Medical College
Application Service (VMCAS)
**COLLEGE APPLICATION
CYCLE TIMELINE**
Launch: **LATE JANUARY**
Deadline: **MID-SEPTEMBER**



**vetmed
pathways**



ABOUT VETMED PATHWAYS

VetMed Pathways, powered by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), highlights the diverse career opportunities within veterinary medicine and inspires the next generation of leaders. It empowers future veterinary professionals of all backgrounds and abilities to turn their passion for animals into meaningful, lifelong careers.



INFO

MORE INFORMATION

VetMed Pathways
vetmedpathways.com

Veterinary Medical School
Admissions Requirements (VMSAR)
applytovetschool.org

Veterinary Medical College
Application Service (VMCAS)
vmcas.cas.myliaison.com

American Association of Veterinary
Medical Colleges (AAVMC)
aavmc.org



A GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR VETERINARY SCHOOL

Maybe you already know that you have a strong interest in veterinary medicine, but you don't know where to start. It's never too early to begin preparing. Below are a few guidelines to help you plan your coursework and get in touch with mentors and other professionals who can help you along the way.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

FIND YOUR WAY TO CARE

Learn about a career as a veterinarian at vetmedpathways.org

TAKE SCIENCE AND MATH CLASSES,

including chemistry, biology, and algebra. If available, take Advanced Placement (AP) coursework.

Note: AP courses may not always satisfy vet college prerequisite coursework, but they will give you the highest level of preparation. Consult with the vet colleges to understand if AP credit in high school will satisfy a prerequisite course requirement.

GAIN ANIMAL EXPERIENCES.

These experiences build your animal-care skills and provide strong references for veterinary internships or volunteer roles, such as helping at a humane society, working in stables, interning at a zoo, volunteering at a wildlife center, or joining 4-H.

VISIT WEBSITES AND CAMPUSES.

Visit veterinary college websites and perhaps make a visit during one of their admissions presentations or during an open house. The more you know early on, the better prepared you will be.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS.

Research preveterinary enrichment programs at schools and colleges of veterinary medicine. Preveterinary enrichment programs can help you decide if a career in veterinary medicine is a good fit and help prepare you for the application process

TALK TO PEOPLE IN THE FIELD.

Call local veterinarians or contact veterinary society in your city or town to find people who can help answer your questions.

FOLLOW SCHOOLS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Follow veterinary schools on social media for updates about their program.

START COLLEGE

COLLEGE YEAR 1

Fall Semester

UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS.

Access the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements at applytovetschool.org and review the veterinary schools' requirements with your advisor.

EXPLOREHEALTHCAREERS.ORG

Access free, unbiased resources and guidance to explore and pursue a health career.

MEET WITH AN ADVISOR.

Take the list of prerequisite courses for planning purposes at applytovetschool.org. Not all vet colleges require the exact same courses, but most will want courses in the areas of biology, chemistry, and physics. That's a good place to start until you narrow down your list of vet colleges to apply to.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK.

Start working on the prerequisite coursework. Most vet colleges require quite a few biology and chemistry courses. Starting out right away in these introductory courses will allow you to move forward quickly.

Spring Semester

BRAINSTORM SUMMER OPTIONS.

Think about summer volunteer or employment opportunities in veterinary medicine, such as shadowing a veterinarian or volunteering in an animal shelter.

CONTINUE COURSEWORK.

Continue working on the introductory courses and register for the fall semester.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS.

Research preveterinary enrichment programs online. Preveterinary enrichment programs can help you decide if a career in veterinary medicine is a good fit and help prepare you for the application process.

Summer

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER.

Complete an internship or volunteer program.

ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL,

if necessary. **Note:** Many vet colleges prefer the prerequisite coursework be taken in a full-time load during the academic year. If possible, take general education or major courses during the summer.

COLLEGE YEAR 2

Fall Semester

MEET WITH AN ADVISOR.

Meet with your advisor to discuss your progress.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS.

Attend preveterinary activities.

JOIN PREVETERINARY SOCIETY.

Join your school's preveterinary society or APVMA.

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK.

Continue working on prerequisite coursework.

DO COMMUNITY SERVICE.

Explore community service opportunities through your school (they don't necessarily need to be animal-related). If possible, continue activities throughout undergraduate career.

Spring Semester

RESEARCH.

Look into paid or volunteer veterinary-related research opportunities.

CONTINUE COURSEWORK.

Complete second semester coursework and register for the fall.

ATTEND PREVET MEETINGS.

Attend preveterinary meetings. Learn about the diverse field of veterinary medicine and network with faculty advisors, admissions officers, and veterinarians.

Summer

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER.

Complete a summer research or volunteer veterinary-related program.

ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL,

if necessary.

ATTEND AAVMC VIRTUAL FAIR.

Meet with admissions representatives and current veterinary students.

VISIT VETERINARY COLLEGES.

Meet with someone from the admissions office or attend an admissions presentation and take a tour.

COLLEGE YEAR 3

Fall Semester

MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR.

Meet with your preveterinary advisor. Discuss veterinary schools. Register for spring semester.

VISIT APPLYTOVETSCHOOL.ORG.

Visit the Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements website at applytovetschool.org to learn more about applying.

RESEARCH.

Continue researching schools.

Spring Semester

PREPARE YOUR APPLICATION

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) opens in mid-January and you can begin your application to veterinary school.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION.

Identify individuals (veterinarian, faculty member or advisor, supervisor of animal experiences, research faculty) to write letters of recommendation.

CONTINUE COURSEWORK.

Register for the fall semester.

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER.

Schedule a volunteer or paid veterinary medicine related activity.

Summer

BUDGET.

Budget time and finances appropriately. Consider the cost of applying and to attend interviews.

INTERN OR VOLUNTEER.

Participate in a volunteer or paid opportunity.

ATTEND SUMMER SCHOOL,

if necessary.

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS.

Work on and submit your applications. Most vet colleges have a supplemental application, so be very careful to meet all deadlines for the VMCAS application, supplemental application, and getting in transcripts and letters of recommendation. **The deadline for the VMCAS application is in mid-September.**

COLLEGE YEAR 4

Fall Semester

MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR.

Attend interviews with schools.

DECEMBER.

Notification of acceptances begins in December.

Spring Semester

APPLY FOR AID.

Apply for federal financial aid.

NOTIFY SCHOOLS OF DECISION.

April 15 deadline to let the vet colleges where you have been admitted know your decision.

Summer

ATTEND ORIENTATION.

Attend school's orientation.

RELOCATE.

Prepare to relocate, if necessary.

START VET MED SCHOOL!!!

