PREVET INFORMATION SUMMARY

PreProfessional Advising Information

Email: ppa@advising.utah.edu (For Quick Questions)

Office Location: Building 44 (Second Floor)

Website: ppa.utah.edu

Make an appt!

Vet School Basics

Veterinary School
- Year 1 & 2: Didactic Years (Class Instruction)
- Year 3 & 4: Clinical Rotations

Optional Residency (After Vet School): 2-3 Years

Degree Conferred:
DVM (Doctor of Medicine)

Get involved in activities (in- and outside the classroom) to help you develop the below competencies valued by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC):

Clinical Reasoning & Decision Making • Individual Animal Care & Management
Animal Population Care & Management • Public Health • Communication • Collaboration
Professionalism and Professional Identity • Financial and Practice Management • Scholarship

Academic Preparation

Ensure you're academically prepared for the rigor of vet school.

- Complete a bachelor's degree and prerequisites (last page)
- Competitive applicants have high GPAs, so build and strengthen your time management skills
- Any major is appropriate; make sure to pick the right fit for you, and study what you love!

Interpersonal Skills

Becoming a vet is not a career working solely with animals. You must have strong interpersonal communication skills to be able to effectively communicate with the owner/carer.

The University of Utah offers a variety of communication courses to help you refine your skills and abilities.

Animal/Veterinary Experience

All vet schools require experience with **animal care** *and substantial first-hand observation/work experience with a* **practicing veterinarian.**

Many vet schools recommend experience with a range of animal species; large/small, domestic/exotic. All schools require an LOR from a practicing vet with whom you have spent a significant amount of time.

Competitive Applicants Complete:
- Minimum: 500 hours
- Average: 1000-2000 hours

Demonstrate your knowledge, skills and preparation

Service to the Community

Demonstrate a commitment to humanity by selflessly serving others.

It is suggested that this be ongoing throughout your college years prior to applying to vet schools.

Competitive Applicants Complete:
- Minimum: 500 hours
- Average: 1000-2000 hours

Bennion Center
(bennioncenter.utah.edu)

Leadership and Teamwork

Vets are both leaders and team members with patients, colleagues, staff, and community.

Demonstrate your leadership skills in a variety of ways. (Ex: coach, teacher, tutor, mentor, TA/LA, supervisor, officer role in a club, student advisory board, and many more.)

Research

Veterinary medicine depends on professional literature to remain current in their field.

Most vet schools highly recommend participation in research. It's good to participate in independent, hypothesis-based research. Your research experience does not have to be medically related or in a lab.

Office of Undergraduate Research:
our.utah.edu

APPLICATION PROCESS AND INFORMATION

Start Saving NOW!

Applying to vet school is very expensive. The application fee for VMCAS is over $225, which includes applying to one school; each additional school is $124. **These fees will increase each year.** Secondary applications carry their own fees, commonly ranging between $50-$100 each. Factoring in application fees, GRE prep and registration, the cost of traveling for in-person interviews, and more, we recommend students to prepare to spend about $4,000 for the application process. VMCAS offers the Fee Assistance Program for those who qualify.

APPLICATION DETAILS

There are currently **32 accredited vet schools in the US**. State schools give priority to residents but accept some non-resident applicants. All vet schools participate in VMCAS. Standardized application, links to vet schools, and much more are available on the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges: aavmc.org.

Most vet programs admit students once a year, most commonly for fall matriculation. Your VMCAS application becomes available in January each year; you can begin filling it out then. In mid-May, you will be able to select your schools and submit your application. The deadline for most schools is **early October**, but VMCAS deadline for all materials is typically in **mid-September** to ensure meeting the deadline. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply well before the deadline.

Do your research!

It is your responsibility to ensure you are meeting all requirements for the schools you are interested in. When selecting vet programs, we recommend that you look at schools that align with your interests: location, size, student/faculty ratio, representation, etc.

VMCAS (Veterinary Medicine College Application Service)

All US vet schools utilize VMCAS.

- Application requirements include transcripts, extracurricular experiences, a personal statement, and fees
- Many schools use a rolling admissions process (meaning they begin reviewing applications and admitting before the deadlines). It will benefit you greatly to *submit your application early,* regardless of when you take the GRE.
- The application will take most students several weeks to complete. Ensure you have plenty of time to fill out the application.

GRE

Some programs require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). The GRE is offered throughout the year, and taking the exam by the spring of the year before you wish to enter vet school will enable you to apply earlier. The exam may be repeated, but it's always best to prepare thoroughly and take the GRE once. It has three sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. Additional information, including registration, can be found at ets.org/gre.

COST and PREP: The exam costs over $200. There are a variety of ways to prepare for taking the GRE. You can purchase a test prep book, utilize free resources online, or purchase a study course (for example, through the University of Utah Continuing Education).

Helpful Resources

- **Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (VMCAS): apta.org**
- **Utah State University College of Veterinary Medicine: vetmed.usu.edu**
- **Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah (WIMU): dvm.vetmed.wsu.edu/wimu-program**
- **Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements (VMSAR)**
- **University of Utah PreVet Club: uofuprevetclub@gmail.com**

APPLICATION TIMELINE

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Register, Study, Take the GRE															
Request and Gather LORs															
VMCAS opens in January					**Apply**	**Deadline Sept 15**									
						Supplemental Apps									
									Interviews						
	Ideal										**Acceptances**				
	Possible														

APPLICATION DETAILS

Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

PLAN AHEAD: Vet schools require LORs as part of your application. Get to know the people you interact with (professors, supervisors, etc.) You're not looking for good letters; you need excellent letters. Get these by building and maintaining your relationships. Letters must be current, signed, dated, and on letterhead. To facilitate this process, use the free VMCAS 'Letters by Liaison' letter service.

LETTER TYPES: VMCAS allows students to submit a maximum of six letters; at least three are required. The following are common types of letters required by most veterinary schools. However, requirements vary by school, so *do your research*.

- **Veterinarian** with whom you've worked or volunteered with
- **College Professor** who has taught you in a classroom setting and given you a letter grade
- **Employer/Supervisor**

Supplemental Applications

In addition to VMCAS, most schools require supplemental applications materials and fees. Some vet schools will first review your VMCAS application and will then notify candidates who have been selected to complete the supplemental application. Deadlines for supplemental applications vary, but some schools may have a October 2 deadline. Bottom line: **follow the instructions provided by each vet school**.

WIMU: Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine

WIMU is the Washington-Idaho-Montana-Utah regional program in vet medicine. It's a partnership between the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Idaho Department of Animal and Veterinary Science, Montana State University, and Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

POLICIES and CONSIDERATIONS

AP/IB CREDIT	Depends on program. If accepted, coursework beyond AP/IB usually required.
REPEATS	VMCAS will count all grades in your GPA including repeated courses.
WITHDRAWALS	Although W's will not affect your GPA, W's should be used sparingly. Work with your advisor.

Volunteer Opportunities *(Just a sample)*

- **Salt Lake Animal Services:** slco.org/animal-services/get-involved/volunteer
- **Best Friends Animal Society:** utah.bestfriends.org/volunteer
- **Humane Society of Utah:** utahhumane.org/volunteer
- **Hogle Zoo:** hoglezoo.org/jobs_volunteers/volunteers
- **Tracy Aviary:** tracyaviary.org/volunteer
- **Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah:** wrcnu.org/volunteer
- **Ching Farm Rescue & Sanctuary:** chingsanctuary.org/help-out/volunteer

PreVet Prerequisite Course Guide

Requirements vary by school. **It is your responsibility to do your own research on each vet school you wish to apply to.** AP coursework may or not be accepted. If accepted, coursework beyond AP is often required.

Shaded boxes indicate the most common requirements.
Bolded classes may be taken at a community college. However, not all vet schools will accept community college prereqs.

MATH

MATH 1050 (4) **College Algebra** *PreReq: MATH 1010*	**MATH 1060 (3)** **Trigonometry**	*NOTE:* *MATH 1050/60 can be substituted with higher math*	**MATH 1210 (4)** **Calculus I**	**MATH 1070 (3)** **Statistics** *May be substituted with other statistics.*

Please note: Consult both your advisor to determine appropriate placement and course selection.

BIOLOGY

BIOL 1610 (4) **BIOL 1615 (1)** **Fundamentals of Biology I and Lab** *PreReq: MATH 1010*	BIOL 2020 (3) Cellular Biology **OR** BIOL 1620 (3) Fund. of Biology II *PreReq for 2020: BIOL 1610 and CHEM 1210*	BIOL 2030 (3) Genetics *PreReq: BIOL 2020*	**BIOL 2325 (4)** **Human Anatomy**	**BIOL 2420 (4)** **Human Physiology** **OR** BIOL 3320 (3) Comparative Physiology *PreReqs: depends on class*	BIOL 3210 (3) BIOL 3205 (1) Microbiology and Lab *PreReq: BIOL 2020*

Most vet schools require two biology labs. BIOL 2325 (Human Anatomy) or BIOL 2425 (Human Physiology lab) can count for one lab at most schools. The ssecond lab can be fulfilled by any other biology lab; BIOL 1615 is one recommended option.

Optional Biology Courses (check each vet school for specifics): BIOL 3325, 3360, 5030, 5370, 5385, 5395, 5401

CHEMISTRY

CHEM 1210 (4) **CHEM 1215 (1)** **General Chemistry I and Lab** *Recom: MATH 1050*	**CHEM 1220 (4)** **CHEM 1225 (1)** **General Chemistry II and Lab** *PreReq: CHEM 1210*	CHEM 2310 (4) CHEM 2315 (2) Organic Chemistry I and Lab *PreReq: CHEM 1220*	CHEM 2320 (4) CHEM 2325 (2) Organic Chemistry II and Lab *PreReq: CHEM 2310*	CHEM/BIOL 3510 (3) Biochemistry *PreReq: CHEM 2310* *Recommended: CHEM 2320 and BIOL 2020*

Optional Chemistry Prep Course: CHEM 1200 (4) Prep for College Chemistry

PHYSICS

PHYS 2010 (4) PHYS 2015 (1) General Physics I and Lab *PreReq: MATH 1060*	PHYS 2020 (4) PHYS 2025 (1) General Physics II and Lab *PreReq: PHYS 2010*	**OR**	PHYS 2210 (4) PHYS 2215 (1) Physics for Scientists & Engineers I and Lab *PreReq: MATH 1210*	PHYS 2220 (4) PHYS 2225 (1) Physics for Scientists & Engineers II and Lab *PreReq: MATH 1220, PHYS 2210*

Please note: Consult both your major advisor and a PPA advisor for the correct lecture and lab sequence.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Two Semesters Writing **WRTG 1010 & 2010** & CW if WRTG 1010 not taken	***At least* two Behavioral Science, Arts and Humanities Courses (BF, FF, HF)** *Check with each program for specifics*	**Animal Science** or **Nutrition Course**	**At least one:** **Public Speaking, Speech, or other COMM course (interpersonal recommended)**

Updated: April 2025