

HEALTH PROFESSIONS OFFICE**VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Veterinary medicine is the health profession that applies the biomedical sciences to understanding health and disease in animals and contributes to the improvement of human health through research. The effects of veterinary medicine on human health are both direct and indirect. Research that enlarges the knowledge about animal disease helps protect and improve the productivity of food-producing livestock, while research on heart disease and cancer in animals augments what is being learned about these diseases in humans. Veterinarians care for both companion animals and wildlife and zoo animals. They also try to protect humans from animal diseases transmissible to humans.

While 70% of all veterinarians are engaged in private practice, there are many other careers open to those with a DVM degree. Veterinarians work in public preventive medical programs of federal, state and municipal governments. They also hold important positions with the U.S. Army and the Department of Energy. Teaching and research opportunities exist at veterinary schools, medical schools, colleges, and in biological science and medical research programs. Additionally, veterinarians work in the private sector for industries that manufacture drugs, vaccines, biological products, and animal feeds. They also work for industry in the fields of pathology and toxicology.

If you are a California resident and wish to become a veterinarian, you are in a somewhat unique position compared with students seeking other professions. Most UCSB students attend the Veterinary School at UC Davis, previously the only school of veterinary medicine in California. Their application deadline is October 1. Other states, however, have become more open in recent years to accepting out-of-state applicants. Please refer to the website for the Association of American Veterinary Medicine Medical Colleges at www.aavmc.org for additional information regarding admission requirements. Recently, a new Veterinary school was created at Western University in Pomona, CA.

VETERINARY MEDICINE AT UC DAVIS

The degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine is granted after satisfactory completion of a four-year curriculum. At UC Davis, the first three years involve a core curriculum of all general knowledge necessary to the practice of veterinary medicine. Clinical instruction begins as early as the first quarter and is carried out through the entire four-year curriculum.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

No particular major is required for admissions to UC Davis. You may select any major that you are interested in and which reflects your abilities. The following UCSB courses are requirements for admission to UC Davis Veterinary School, effective during the 06-07 academic year:

General Chemistry	Chemistry 1A-B-C, 1AL-BL-CL (or Chem 2 equivalent)
Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 109A-B and Chemistry 6A
Biological Sciences	MCDB 1A, MCDB 1B/BL or EEMB 3
Statistics	PSTAT 5A (or equivalent)
Physics	Physics 6A-B
Genetics	MCDB 101A or 101B or EEMB 129
Biochemistry	MCDB 108B (*Chem 109C, MCDB 108A act as pre-requisite courses and must be completed)
Physiology	MCDB 111 (preferred) or EEMB 154
English	12 quarter units (One course must be in English Composition; Subject A may not be used to satisfy)
Humanities/Social Sciences	12 quarter units

At Western University, Course Requirements include:

All of the above, plus:	Nutrition	ESS 3
	Macroeconomics	Econ 2
	Public Speaking	
	Technical Writing	

REQUIRED TESTS

UC Davis requires the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Only the General Test is required. It contains sections designed to test verbal, quantitative and analytic ability. The GRE is offered five times a year and must be taken before October 1, one year before you hope to enter. Visit www.ets.org for more details on the GRE. The VMAT is no longer administered but some schools still accept VMAT scores, if you have already taken the test. Visit <http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmschool.htm>.

APPLYING TO VETERINARY SCHOOL

Apply through VMCAS. Your letters of reference should be sent to VMCAS, as well as your official transcripts and standardized test scores. It is important to note that VMCAS has an electronic letters of reference service (eLOR); be sure you are familiar with it. Check the AAVMC web site to see if the schools you are applying to require more than just the VMCAS application (i.e., a secondary application). If they do, you must contact the school for the additional application materials. Be sure to check admission requirements for each program.

Application deadline: October 1 **make sure the GRE has been taken prior to applying!

FINAL NOTES

The admissions committee at Davis looks for applicants that have strong academic records and GRE scores. According to the Davis announcement: the academic record shall include the **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION** and consists of the GPA in the required science courses, the overall undergraduate GPA, the GPA for the last two years of undergraduate studies (minimum of 72 quarter units), and the GPA of any graduate courses taken, and GRE scores. In the last several years, the average overall grade point average of admitted students has been around 3.5.

Strong letters of evaluation are also very important. In addition, the committee looks for strong motivation for veterinary medicine, maturity and good judgment, and volunteer experience.

According to the UC Davis Announcement:

“Substantial experience with animals, which should include working with veterinarians, is required. This experience should contain more than having had family pets. The requirement for animal experience can be fulfilled with 4.5-week equivalents (180 hours) if it includes relevant experience with types of activities that give an applicant an appreciation and understanding of the professions of veterinary medicine. This should include experience with several animal species so that the applicant understands the breadth of the profession. **THE EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT MUST BE MET IN ORDER TO HAVE AN APPLICATION EVALUATED BY THE ADMISSION COMMITTEE.**”

**Other schools require 300-500 hours of veterinary medical exposure – many successful applicants have 2500+ hours.