

Overview of Preparing for a Career in Veterinary Medicine

First Step: Exploring a Career in Veterinary Medicine

- What experiences have you had that make you interested in being a veterinarian?
- What are your goals and expectations for a major?
- What skills do you associate with a good veterinarian? What activities/experiences would help you develop these skills?
- What can you do to learn more about careers in veterinary medicine?

Second Step: Getting Involved

- What are your goals and expectations for volunteer experiences? What have you learned or could you learn about yourself and other people by serving others?
- How will you get a broad range of experience working with animals? What kinds of animals will you work with and in what settings?
- Keep track of your experiences through college (volunteering, research, paid employment, shadowing, hobbies, student organizations, study abroad). Regularly reflect on and write about the competencies (skills and personal attributes) you develop and the ways you learn and grow in the course of each experience.

Third Step: Preparing Your Application

- Do you hope to apply after your junior year, or will you be a stronger applicant after taking a gap year (or two)?
- Develop meaningful relationships with faculty and supervisors by talking with them about their work and career paths, your coursework, and your interest in veterinary medicine.
- Talk with an advisor at CPHA about steps of the application process the summer before you apply.

Fourth Step: Taking a Gap Year

- What would your goals and expectations be for a gap year?
- What area of your application might you strengthen during a gap year? How could you do this?

Planning Table

Fall	Spring	Summer

Pre-Veterinary Medicine Planning Guide

Keep in mind that course preparation varies from school to school. This is a summary of the most common requirements. The shaded courses are recommended but not required for most schools.

Course	Options at UW – Madison
Math	Math 112 (or a higher-level math course)
General Chemistry	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry 103 (lecture + lab) and Chemistry 104 (lecture + lab) • Chemistry 109 (lecture + lab)
Organic Chemistry	Chemistry 343 (lecture), Chemistry 344 (lab), and Chemistry 345 (lecture)
Biochemistry	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry 501 (lecture) • Biochemistry 507 (lecture)
Introductory Biology	Three options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoology 101 (lecture) + Zoology 102 (lab) and an additional bioscience course (such as Genetics, Microbiology, Cell Biology, Kinesiology, or Immunology) • Biology 151 (lecture + lab) and Biology 152 (lecture + lab) • Biocore
Microbiology	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microbiology 101 (lecture) and Microbiology 102 (lab) • Microbiology 303 (lecture) and Microbiology 304 (lab)
Genetics	Two options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetics 160 • Genetics 466
Physics	Four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics 103-104 (not calculus-based; lecture + lab) • Physics 207-208 (calculus-based; lecture + lab) • Physics 201-202 (for engineering students; lecture + lab) • EMA 201 and Physics 202 (for BME students; lecture + lab)
Introductory Statistics	Four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics 371 • Biostatistics 541 • Statistics 301 • Statistics course in your major, such as Psychology 210
English, Literature, or Communications	6 credits: many options; look for literature and composition courses

(Other prerequisite courses may include Animal Nutrition, Calculus I, or Physiology.)

Resources

Tutoring resources available on UW campus

- Greater University Tutoring Services (GUTS) <http://guts.wisc.edu>
- Peer Learning Association (PLA) <https://win.wisc.edu/organization/pla>
- Chemistry Learning Center (CLC) <https://www.chem.wisc.edu/areas/clc>
- Physics Learning Center (PLC) <https://www.physics.wisc.edu/plc>
- Math Lab <https://www.math.wisc.edu/undergraduate/mathlab>
- Statistics Lab https://www.stat.wisc.edu/courses/Tutorial_Schedule
- Writing Center <http://www.writing.wisc.edu>

Professional organizations

- American Veterinary Medical Association <https://www.avma.org>
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges <http://www.aavmc.org>