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Did you know a veterinary medicine degree can open a world of possibilities?

Veterinarians make a difference every day. Veterinary medicine offers opportunities to work with animals, people, and the environment.

Typical Careers Include:
- Private practice - small, large, or exotic animal medicine
- Zoo/conservation/wildlife medicine
- Shelter medicine
- Corporate veterinary medicine
- Biomedical research
- Local or federal government – biosecurity, regulatory medicine, food inspection and safety, or research
- Agriculture – animal health
- Military – biomedical research, or care for working dogs
- Academic careers - teaching and research
- Public & global health
- Work with nonprofit organizations

COMMON QUESTIONS

What specializations exist in the field of veterinary medicine?
Currently, there are 22 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recognized veterinary specialty organizations representing 40 individual specialties. These specialties range from anesthesiology and cardiology to pathology, surgery, and zoological medicine. To see the full list of recognized specialties, visit www.avma.org/education/veterinary-specialties

What is the best way to get experience in veterinary medicine?
Job shadowing and volunteering are excellent ways to gain experience in veterinary medicine. At UTCVM, we encourage you to gain varied animal experience, both with and without veterinarians. It is important to log the time you spend gaining experience. Make sure to note the hours, the species involved, the veterinarians you worked/volunteered with, and any unique opportunities.

What high school classes would help better prepare me for college (such as biology or chemistry, agriculture classes or even a general nursing or anatomy class)?
Focus on math and science classes. If available, consider taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate® (IB), or dual enrollment courses.

Where can I gain the most experience while I am in high school?
Consider volunteer or internship programs at veterinary clinics, animal shelters, farms, or zoos, or through experience with Eagle Scouts, 4-H, or FFA programs.

What can I do, aside from academics, to set myself up for the best chances to get into vet school?
While the selection process is rigorous, UTCVM looks for well-rounded individuals who are more than just a GPA. Animal experiences, leadership in clubs and organizations, volunteer positions, research projects, community involvement, and other talents may provide the right combination of skills that make a successful veterinary student and veterinarian.

How important are the first years of college to your GPA?
Begin taking prerequisite courses early in your collegiate career - biology, chemistry, physics, etc. Don't wait until the last semester of college to take all your most difficult classes. Doing so can reflect poorly on your vet school application and can skew your final GPA. Visit college websites or the VMSAR (Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements) for lists of prerequisite courses.

What are the requirements to get into veterinary school as far as GPA is concerned?
Non-Tennessee applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale for applications to be considered. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all applicants applying for admission. All three GRE General Sections (Verbal, Quantitative, and Writing) are required. Prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Prerequisite courses include English composition, humanities/social sciences, general chemistry with lab, organic chemistry with lab, biochemistry (exclusive of lab), physics with lab, general biology/zoology with lab, cellular biology, and genetics.

How does UTCVM select students for veterinary school?
UTCVM's selection process consists of evaluations of academic scores, reviews of each applicant's file, and interviews of selected applicants. Interviews are conducted in October for Tennessee residents and in January for out-of-state residents. Complete details about the current admission requirements and procedures are available at tiny.utk.edu/vetmedadmissions.

How many people get into UTCVM each year?
85 students are selected for each class at UTCVM. While priority is given to qualified Tennessee residents, a limited number of highly qualified non-resident applicants will be admitted each year.

How much does it cost to go to veterinary school?
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Check out the Road Map inside!
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**Talk to your guidance counselor**

**Talk to people in the field**
- local veterinarians
- local veterinary societies
- animal shelters

**Participate in extracurricular activities**
- 4H, FFA, clubs, athletics
- vet schools look for individuals with a diversity of skills & experience

**Take challenging courses**
- * math & science
- * English
- * Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate® (IB), or dual enrollment courses

**Visit colleges that offer pre-veterinary or animal science programs**

**Colleges**
- * Halfway there! You can do it!
- Meet with your advisor often
- * they can help make sure you stay on track towards your goals

**Get experience with animals**
- * volunteer with animal shelters or veterinary clinics, etc.

**Enroll in AAVMC Pathways Newsletter**
- * VetSchool Student Engagement System (VSES) [aavmc.org](http://aavmc.org)

**College research projects**
- * use Summer internships or volunteer work for large animal or small animal experience
- * participate in student research projects

**Take note of deadlines & standardized testing requirements**
- * time to get all final requirements checked off for admission to vet school

**TIME TO APPLY FOR VET SCHOOL!**
- * applications are usually due in the Fall of the year before you would start vet school - check with each school for specific dates

**Visit veterinary colleges and consider possible careers**
- * compare vet schools at aavmc.org
- * check prerequisites for the school you plan to apply to
- * Don’t wait until last semester to take most difficult classes

**Get recommendation letters**
- * need 3-5 letters
- * you’ve got this!

**Good Luck!**

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