SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

A Course of Study for a Major in

Pre-Veterinary

Academic preparation for veterinary school takes place at the undergraduate level through a comprehensive educational experience, with special emphasis in the sciences. In order to succeed academically in the rigorous veterinary school curriculum, veterinary schools are looking for individuals with a highly developed science background. Potential veterinary students should start to think about this early.

"PRE-VETERINARY" IS NOT A MAJOR

It is the term used to identify or describe a certain undergraduate curriculum that students often choose for veterinary school admissions. Please see a counselor during your first semester at Santa Monica College. Your counselor can help you select an appropriate undergraduate major* and classes. There are currently only about 27 veterinary schools in the United States. It is actually easier to get into medical school, than it is to get in to veterinary school! Vet school is a 4 year program.

*No particular major is required for admission to veterinary school, but specific coursework is required.

ADMISSIONS FACTORS

Most veterinary schools give high priority to in-state residents, and may admit few out-of-state students!

Factors to consider when applying to veterinary schools:

1. Undergraduate grade point average - the more competitive veterinary schools are looking for grade point averages in the range of 3.5 or higher.
2. A Bachelor of Arts degree is required by many, but not all veterinary schools. In most instances, a Bachelor of Arts degree will make an applicant more competitive in the admissions process.
3. Score on a standardized graduate admissions test (i.e. GRE, MCAT, VCAT)
4. Strong letters of recommendation - most schools require a minimum of three letters of recommendation. Some schools require one letter from a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.
5. Undergraduate course of study - Veterinary schools are looking for both lower and upper division preparation.
6. Applicant's personal statement or narrative.
7. Extracurricular activities, work experience, community activities, motivation, individual character and personality, and other post-undergraduate experiences
8. Animal related activities and/or animal related work experience - most colleges are looking for a strong commitment to working with animals. Some require employment by a Veterinarian.
9. Personal interview (required by some schools, but not all).
10. Tuition and living expenses range from $20,000 to $40,000 per year.
11. Many veterinary schools require that you apply through the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS). This is a central application, distribution, collection and processing service. VMCAS, P.O. Box 24700, Oakland, CA 94623-1700

Note: VMCAS has changed their application process in 2001. Contact each vet school to see what they require.

SELECTION PROCESS

Admission into veterinary school is extremely competitive. Individual campuses vary widely in terms of selection criteria. Please refer to the chart below.

VETERINARY SCHOOL	'2000 ACCEPTANCE RATE	UNDERGRADUATE GPA
UC Davis	11.0%	3.4+
Colorado State	10.0%	3.6+
Oregon State	3.0%	3.5+
Michigan State	11.0%	3.6+
Washington State University	15.1%	3.6

VETERINARY SCHOOLS/MINIMUM REQUIRED CURRICULUM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFONRIA, DAVIS

- 1 year General Chemistry w/labs: Chemistry 11 **and** 12
- 2 terms Organic Chemistry w/labs: Chemistry 21 **and** 22 **and** 24
- 2 terms Biology w/labs: Biology 21 **and** 22 **and** 23
- 2 terms Physics - trig based or higher: Physics 6 **and** 7 **and** 8 **and** 9
- 1 class Genetics (upper-division)
- 1 class Biochemistry (upper-division)
- 1 class Systemic Physiology (upper-division)
- 1 course Statistics
- 12 quarter/8 semester units English courses
- 12 quarter/8 semester units humanities and social sciences courses
- Completion of 108 quarter (72 semester) units in a regionally accredited college or university
- A minimum of 180 hours animal experience

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

- 1 year general Chemistry w/labs
- 1 year Organic Chemistry w/labs
- 1 year Biology or Zoology
- 1 year Biology
- 1 year Physics w/labs
- 1 class Biochemistry (upper-division)
- College Algebra and Trigonometry
- 3 semester units arts
- 6 semester units arts and humanities
- 6 semester units social sciences

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

- 1 year General Chemistry w/labs
- 1 year Organic Chemistry w/labs
- 1 year Physics
- 1 class Genetics (upper-division)
- 1 class Biochemistry (upper-division)
- Sufficient math to take above courses

REMINDER

This information is subject to change, and should serve as a general guideline only. Requirements do vary between schools. It is the student's responsibility to contact the individual veterinary schools for exact admissions requirements.

SPECIALIZATIONS

Veterinary schools offer different types of education in the field of veterinary medicine. Some schools offer a generalized approach, while others offer specialization. Some of the specializations include large animals, small animals, equine, zoological medicine, and others. It is important that you know which schools offer the type of veterinary medicine in which you are interested.

WORLD WIDE WEB SITE REFERENCES

U.S. News Rankings & Ratings: www.usnews.com
Vet School Search: www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/Bio/PreHealth/Search/
UC Davis Vet School: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ (see also) www.assist.org: UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
Colorado State Vet School: www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/
Washington State University Vet School: www.vetmed.wsu.edu
Cornell University Vet: www.vet.cornell.edu
Oregon State University Vet School: www.vet.orst.edu/admiss/admiss.htm
Michigan State University Vet School: www.cvm.msu.edu