



# TOP TEN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSION TO THE STUDY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## 1. How difficult is it to get admitted to the study of veterinary medicine?

There are **only 29 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States**. Several thousand applicants vie for the approximately 2500+ seats available each year. Successful applicants demonstrate academic competency (especially in science course work), good problem solving skills, able decision making skills, capable interpersonal communication skills, skillful teamwork ability, experience with a broad spectrum of animal species and experience with veterinarians and/or scientists engaged in research.

## 2. What undergraduate major should someone pursue to prepare for the study of veterinary medicine?

A large percentage of veterinary students have undergraduate majors in biology or animal science. But such a major is **not required**. Students who applied, and were accepted, have pursued majors in diverse areas of study including fine arts, English, business, etc. All competitive applicants, however, must demonstrate solid achievement in the mandatory science prerequisite courses. **Put a link here to prerequisites???**

## 3. Is there an advantage in taking more science courses than the minimum prerequisites?

The first two years of study in veterinary medicine consist of challenging science course work. A student will find it beneficial to have had as much science course work in their undergraduate studies as possible, especially biological sciences.

## 4. What types of veterinary experiences are expected?\*\*\*

It is expected that a student will make every possible attempt to at least *observe* veterinarians in a variety of settings (large animal practice, small animal practice, research, wildlife/conservation work, etc.) to acquire an overview of what the profession is all about. There is no minimum hour amount of experience designated, but the Admissions Committee definitely wants to see a student **articulate the learning** they acquired in these experiences.

## 5. How much animal experience is necessary?\*\*\*

We don't indicate a requirement for animal experience in a specific number of hours. Students are encouraged to seek opportunities with as broad a spectrum of species as possible. It is **the learning** that comes from veterinary and animal experience that will be important to the Admissions Committee.

**6. Are graduates of the University of Illinois favored for admission?**

We encourage students to attend college at a fully accredited institution that provides a challenging curriculum in a setting where they are comfortable enough to become highly successful. Those who attend the University of Illinois are given no preferential treatment in the application process.

**7. Do you really only need a 2.75 GPA to be admitted?**

We accept applications from students who have a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative and science GPA in their undergraduate studies. We have generally had about 500+ students in the application pool with grade point averages of a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) and above so it is unlikely someone with less than a 3.0 will receive serious consideration at this time.

**8. Do Illinois residents have a better chance of being admitted?**

Of the seats available through the admission process each year, 80 – 85% of those accepted are Illinois residents. 20 – 25% of those accepted are, obviously, non-residents and may come from a nearby state or from the far corners of the world.

**9. Should I be sure to complete a set out “pre-veterinary curriculum” in order to be a more attractive applicant?**

A “pre-veterinary curriculum” is usually designed to simply provide the courses that are the required minimum prerequisites for admission. This may be very useful, but really is not mandated in any way. Following the required prerequisites ([link to prerequisites from here again](#)) can provide the same guide for undergraduate choices as a student moves toward admission.

**10: What if I am not admitted after I apply? Can I apply again?**

We offer every unsuccessful applicant the opportunity to review their application with the Assistant Dean/Academic Advisor in order to learn what elements of the application could be strengthened. These meetings usually are useful in submitting a more competitive future application. At this time, there is no limit on the times one may apply for admission.

***\*\*Those interested in becoming research veterinarians are encouraged to have some veterinary practice and animal experience as well. Ultimately, your studies for a DVM cover the breadth of biomedical education. Likewise, research experiences from all applicants are highly regarded.***

**For additional information:**

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