Veterinarians care for a wide range of animals, from the smallest domestic creatures to the largest exotic animals on Earth. Compassion for both people and animals, a respect for life, and a strong interest in science are all important qualities for success. Veterinarians can work in a variety of settings, including private clinics, military units, zoological parks, food safety, or research into the human-animal interface.

Explore Your Options
Pre-veterinary medicine is not an undergraduate degree. The academic prerequisites for admission to a professional school may be combined with any field of study. You are encouraged to pursue any undergraduate major that interests you, and in which you have a desire to succeed.

WSU students majoring in subjects from art to zoology have gone on to earn advanced degrees at professional schools all over the country.

And at WSU you are not locked into a major. If your interests change, we’ll work with you to help you revise your goals and your academic plan.

Programs leading to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) require a core set of science and education courses be completed prior to admission (see reverse for course listing). On average, after earning your bachelor’s degree, you’ll spend another four years completing your DVM studies.

Enrolling as an undergraduate at WSU does not guarantee you admission to the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).* All professional school applicants are evaluated equally on merit.

* A limited early admission program is available to qualified WSU Honors College students.

The Cougar Advantage
Becoming a successful applicant for a professional degree requires more than just completing a series of classes. The Health Professions Student Center provides opportunities and resources to help you discover the path that is best for you.

Your Health Professions specialist can guide you through the nuances of preparing for a career in veterinary medicine:
- Course selection
- Essay writing workshops
- Resume reviews
- Mock interviews
- GRE review and practice
- Requesting recommendation letters
- Networking, volunteering, and shadowing
- Gaining industry experience
- Reviewing application criteria
- Selecting professional schools

Meeting with both your HPSC specialist and your academic advisor at least once a semester will maximize the combined support and expertise available to you.

Peer Support
With more than 300 active student clubs on campus, you’re bound to find one that fits your style.

The WSU Pre-Vet Club provides you with an academic and social support system, and opportunities to connect with highly motivated students whose goals are similar to your own. Find study partners, get involved in community service projects, gain leadership experience, and attend special presentations on careers and entrance requirements for various veterinary schools.

Learn more at facebook.com/wsu.ovf.
Preparing to Apply

The veterinary medicine school application process is very competitive. Long before you begin to fill out the paperwork, you will need to work diligently to build a portfolio showcasing your academic success, personal achievements, industry experience, career goals, and your compassionate character.

GPA requirements vary from program to program. The WSU CVM program uses a tiered system that considers your overall GPA, your science course GPA, your GPA in your last 45 credits, and your GRE score. You must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.20 to be considered for admission.

Veterinary schools often look for:
- Motivation—a strong desire to be a veterinarian and an understanding of the profession
- Compassion and empathy for both people and animals, and a respect for life
- Personal integrity and high ethical standards
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Curiosity—strong problem-solving and critical-thinking skills
- Commitment to the betterment of one’s community, society, and profession
- A well-rounded understanding of the world and its cultures
- Diverse interests and activities
- Documented academic success and ability in the sciences
- Willingness to challenge yourself outside of your comfort zone
- A love of learning and commitment to life-long learning
- Ability to meet technical standards
- A significant number of quality hours spent working or volunteering in a veterinary, animal, or research setting
- Evidence of personal leadership, either with organizations or through life experiences
- Volunteer participation that involves compassion for your fellow human beings, such as coaching, teaching, working in a soup kitchen, food bank, or on charity fundraisers, and many other choices
- Completion of a bachelor’s degree (can be waived if academic prerequisites are met)

WSU CVM Prerequisite Courses

These courses may be taken concurrently with classes required for your chosen major at WSU.

Biology (12)
- BIOL 106 Introductory Biology (organismal)
- BIOL 107 Introductory Biology (cell biology and genetics)
- BIOL/MBIOS 301 General Genetics

Chemistry* (12)
- CHEM 105 Principles of Chemistry I
- CHEM 106 Principles of Chemistry II
- CHEM 345 Organic Chemistry I

Mathematics* (7)
- MATH 106 College Algebra
  (may substitute with a higher-level course, such as MATH 107 Precalculus, MATH 140 Calculus for Life Scientists, or MATH 171 Calculus I)
- MATH 212 Introduction to Statistical Methods
  (alternate options: PSYCH 311 Elementary Statistics in Psychology or STAT 412 Statistical Methods in Research)

Molecular Biosciences (4)
- MBIOS 303 Introductory Biochemistry

Physics* (4)
- PHYSICS 101 General Physics

If you have not completed a bachelor’s degree, there is an additional requirement of 27 credits, including

Arts, humanities, social science, history (21)
- English composition (3)

* Students must meet WSU math standards to enroll.