



Health Professions Student Center

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE

SUMMARY

The preparatory program at Washington State University is one of the most comprehensive in the nation and offers many opportunities for students. Your health professions specialist can help you explore opportunities for research, leadership, and industry experience. Your pre-vet specialist will assist you in preparation for your professional exams and help you produce and submit a complete application to the veterinary programs of your choice.

Pre-Veterinary study is not a major in itself. It is a preparatory track that can be incorporated into any major. As an undergraduate student, you may choose any major that you are passionate about and still fulfill the prerequisites necessary to qualify for a four-year veterinary medicine program after you graduate.

PRE-REQUISITES

Subject	WSU Courses
Biology (8 credits)	BIOL 106, BIOL 107
Chemistry (8 credits)	CHEM 105, CHEM 106
Organic Chemistry (4 credits)	CHEM 345
Biochemistry (3-4 credits)	MBIOS 303 OR CHEM 370
Physics (4 credits)	PHYS 101 OR PHYS 201
Mathematics (3 Credits)	MATH 106 (MATH 108 is a Pre-Req for Physics)
Statistics (3 credits)	STAT 212, STAT 412, STAT 423, MATH 212, OR PSYCH 311
Genetics (3-4 credits)	BIOL/MBIOS 301

□ All courses listed are Washington State University specific and are subject to change as requirements are updated and/or course codes are shifted. Please check with your pre-health specialist or advisor (health.professions@wsu.edu or 509-335-4549) for the most accurate information regarding pre-requisite courses. Up-to-date course requirements are also available on our website

www.healthprofessions.wsu.edu.

WSU Transfer Clearinghouse provides resources to help you understand how your credits will transfer to WSU. Please visit: www.transfercredit.wsu.edu and select the ‘Transfer Course Search Tool’ to view course equivalencies. All coursework (from WSU & other institutions) will be taken into consideration on your application.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE/VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- Depending on which veterinary school you are interested in attending, the requirement for gaining experience and community service varies.
- There is not a set number of required hours for clinical experience, but it is common to try to get at least **200-500 hours** before applying to veterinary school. Focus on the type of experience and benefits for you and the patients rather than the number of hours – quality over quantity!
 - It is recommended to look up clinical/volunteer experience requirements for specific veterinary schools before applying.
- Non-animal volunteer service is also important; veterinary schools like to see that you are driven and have a desire to help others.

GRADE POINT AVERAGES (GPA)

- GPA requirement depends on which veterinary school you are interested in attending.
- (Note: Please check the requirements of prospective veterinary school.)
- On average, a competitive applicant would have a **cumulative GPA of 3.6**.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

- GRE (Graduate Record Examination)
 - As of 2023, only two schools still require the GRE. Some recommend.
 - Some schools will consider the GRE, while most will not look at it at all. Please visit each school's website for more information.
 - More information can be found at <http://www.ets.org/gre>
- Casper
 - Many schools are moving towards the Casper, an online, open response situational judgment test.
 - More information can be found at <https://acuityinsights.app/casper/>

SHORT ANSWER & SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

- Veterinary schools require answers to supplemental and short answer questions. A Statement of Purpose is required for students applying through VMCAS.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- The amount and format of letters of recommendation that you must send will depend on which veterinary school you are interested in attending; most require at least **THREE** letters (max six through VMCAS).
- Recommendation letters carry the potential for admissions committees to accept you into veterinary school by showing them your diverse attributes and personal qualities.
- The best letters of recommendation come from professors, veterinarians that you shadowed/know personally, employees/employers, your pre-veterinary advisor, research directors, or representatives from volunteer programs who have seen you perform in a school or professional setting.
- It is not recommended to get letters from family members, friends, or high school faculty/advisors.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

- Interviews will be decided by the admissions committee of the prospective veterinary schools.
- Each veterinary school varies on how and when their interview processes take place.
- Interviews are essential to your admission status; they make a difference.
- Mock interviews are a great way to prepare yourself for the real thing. Ask your pre-veterinary advisor about the Mock Interview Program for Pre-Vets at WSU.

APPLICATION PORTAL

- When applying for veterinary school, the use of application portals depends on the school that you are interested in.
- Most veterinary schools use VMCAS (Veterinary Medical College Application Service)
- Students will also need to fill out a supplemental application. The supplemental app may be found on each Veterinary Medicine School website.
- More information on the VMCAS:
 - <http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx>