



# Cornell University

## College of Veterinary Medicine

### Pre-Veterinary Newsletter

#### *Guidelines for Pre-Vet Advisors*

#### Admissions Formula

The Admissions Formula is an excellent tool to review in preparing for a future application cycle. The formula gives you a sense of how your application will be evaluated and you can then concentrate on areas that you feel may need strengthening.

- 25% Overall Grade Point Average (all grades from all colleges)
- 25% GRE (verbal and quantitative scores and percentiles)
- 5% Quality of Academic Program
- 20% Animal/Veterinary/  
Biomedical Research Experience  
(supported with Letters of  
Evaluation)
- 10% Non-Cognitive Skills
- 10% All Other Achievements
- 5% Personal Statement (Essay)

#### Standardized Tests

Results from the **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)** *Verbal and Quantitative* sections are required. If you take the GRE more than once we will take the highest verbal and highest quantitative scores; they need not be on the same test date.

We also accept the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

- For more information about the GRE's go to [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).
- For more information about the MCAT's go to: [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)



#### Inside This Issue

- Admissions Formula
- Standardized Tests
- Prerequisite Courses
- Animal/Veterinary/Biomedical Research Experience
- International Applicants
- Early Acceptance Program
- Information for Dual Degree Applicants
- The Application Process
- DVM Admissions Presentations and Tours

## Prerequisite Courses

The following are prerequisite courses you will need to accomplish before entering into the DVM degree program. All prerequisite course work needs to be for the designated credits and a grade of C- or better in the regular application cycle. These courses cannot be taken pass/fail and must be completed by the end of the spring term before enrolling.

### English Composition and Literature

- Full year
- Minimally 6 credits or 9 quarter credits
- 650 or higher on the GRE verbal will satisfy this requirement

### General Biology with labs

- Full year
- Minimally 6 credits or 9 quarter credits
- Note, if you were waived out of General Biology for any reason, you will need to take a full year of upper level biology with labs; these courses cannot be already established prerequisite courses

### General or Inorganic Chemistry with labs

- Full year
- Minimally 6 credits or 9 quarter credits
- AP score of 4 or higher will satisfy this requirement. If waived out of General/Inorganic Chemistry for any *other* reason, this requirement can be satisfied by a full year of upper level chemistry with labs provided the courses are not already meeting a prerequisite (for example biochemistry)

### Organic Chemistry with labs

- Full year
- Minimally 6 credits or 9 quarter credits

### Biochemistry

- One semester
- Minimally 4 credits or 6 quarter credits
- A lab is not required, but recommended
- Biochemistry II is also recommended

### Physics with labs

- Full year
- Minimally 6 credits or 9 quarter credits
- AP score of 4 or higher will satisfy this requirement. If waived out of physics for any *other* reason, this requirement can be satisfied by a full year of upper level physics with labs

### Microbiology with lab

- One semester
- Minimally 3 credits or 4.5 quarter credits

Students can apply lacking up to 12 credits of prerequisite course work. This course work would need to be completed by the end of the spring term before enrolling. It is recommended prerequisite course work not be older than 10 years.



### **Animal/Veterinary/Biomedical Research Experience**

An understanding of the veterinary medical profession and of proper animal care and husbandry are important considerations for admission. Veterinary medical experience is highly recommended, and the Admissions Committee looks for both breadth and depth. Non-veterinary animal experience is also valued. All experiences listed on one's supplemental application must be supported by a letter of evaluation. At least one letter should be from a veterinarian who is able to assess your understanding of the profession.

### **Veterinary Experience**

Experiences in veterinary practice, veterinary or biomedical research, public health, or other areas of the profession under the supervision of a veterinarian or research scientist are highly desirable, and should be listed as *Veterinary Experience*. Competitive applicants normally have engaged in two or more areas (small animal, large animal, research, food animal production, exotic, aquatic, wildlife, zoological medicine, etc.) with substantial depth of experience in at least one area. Successful applicants typically bring 400 or more total hours of 'veterinary' experience minimally.

### **Animal Experience**

Related animal experiences are also positively considered in the evaluation. This may include working with livestock, breeding or showing various species, working at a zoo, aquarium or pet shop, or volunteering at an animal shelter. Time spent performing animal care, such as cleaning stalls or cages in a kennel, veterinary practice, or animal shelter should be listed as *Animal Experience*.



### Other Achievements

A well rounded candidate demonstrates achievement outside of academic and animal related activities. The Committee values research experience, community involvement, and any significant non-academic interests and abilities, as well as desirable personality characteristics such as reliability, honesty, and dedication to service.

### International Applicants

International students may compete for our non-resident positions. In addition to fulfilling all other requirements:

- Those students whose undergraduate studies were not taught in English must have completed at least one year of undergraduate studies at an accredited college or university in the U.S. in order to be eligible.
- International applicants must also submit a TOEFL score of at least 550 or higher if educated in a country where English is not the first, official language.
- Students who take college courses in another country must have a course-by-course analysis for equivalent US grades and credits. Contact the Admissions Office for a list of organizations who perform this (fee-based) service.



### Early Acceptance Program

This program gives exceptionally well qualified applicants the opportunity to obtain admission to veterinary school after the completion of the sophomore year. With admission to the *Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine* secured, the successful applicant may use the time between acceptance and matriculation to pursue experience in areas of personal interest. Applicants to this program apply and are accepted or denied upon completion of their sophomore year. Entry into the professional curriculum is expected after completion of the junior year. Admission to the program is based on outstanding academic performance in the first two years of college and the applicant's plan for their intended use of the third year in college. Completion of a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculation is not required.

Criteria for admission to this program are rigorous. Generally, applicants for this program have a GPA of 3.7 or better and GRE Verbal and Quantitative scores above the 80% percentile. It is expected that the GRE's will be taken by April 1<sup>st</sup> of the application year to ensure the scores will be delivered from ETS by the application deadline. Applicants must have also completed at least one semester of organic chemistry **and** one semester of an upper level biology, biochemistry, or physics course.

Additionally, applicants must submit a written plan describing how the time between acceptance and matriculation will be used. Examples of how the time may be spent include study in

challenging courses in areas of interest, initiation or completion of a research project, or time spent in a unique life experience. This program is not intended to delay matriculation for reasons of economics, illness, or other personal hardship.

### **Dual Degree Applicants**

The goal of the Dual DVM/PhD Program is to train students to become clinician-scientists. By integrating Cornell's veterinary and graduate curricula in a single Program, we prepare students to become leaders in science, medicine, and society, able to excel in basic research, cutting-edge medicine, and teaching.

Admission to the Dual DVM/PhD Program is highly competitive. Students complete the DVM application as well as an additional section required for dual degree applicants only.

More information about the Dual Degree Program can be found at the following link:

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/OGE/DualDegree/>



### **The Application Process**

- Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) - deadline October 2, 12:00pm EDT; [vmcas@aavmc.org](mailto:vmcas@aavmc.org)
- Cornell Supplemental Application - Deadline October 15; [www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions)
- 3 electronic evaluations (eLOR's) minimally to VMCAS (they will accept up to 5 evaluations)
- All animal/ veterinary/ biomedical research experiences listed on the Cornell Supplemental Application will need to have evaluations. These can be done through the VMCAS eLOR's or Cornell's electronic evaluations
- Official transcripts sent directly from each college(s) Registrar's Office
- Official GRE scores from ETS
- Official AP Scores for Chemistry and Physics only
- TOEFL (if education is taught in a language other than English)
- International transcripts need to be evaluated through a credential service to convert credits and grades to US system. This does not apply to study abroad courses if they appear on the student's home college transcript and are not prerequisite courses.

*For more information about applying to the College of Veterinary Medicine visit our web site at the following link:*

[www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions)

## **Presentations & Tours**

### ***On-Campus Programs***

Presentations and Tours are given on campus one Friday afternoon a month from March-November. The dates, times and registration form can be found at the following link:  
<https://secure.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/application/refgform.asp>

### ***Off-Campus Programs***

Off-campus Admissions Presentations will also be listed at the above link. Check often to see if we will be in your area.

### ***Pre-Vet Clubs Visit Campus***

Each semester we host two Pre-Vet Clubs on campus for an Admissions Presentation & Tour, typically on a Saturday. If your Club is interested in coming as a group to Cornell for a visit, please contact us at [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu).

### ***Video Conference Presentations***

We will be offering Admissions Presentations through our College Video Conference facility in the future. This is an opportunity for your Club to meet as a group on your home campus and interact with the Director of Admissions and DVM students during an Admissions Presentation given at Cornell. If you have a video conference facility on your campus and would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact us at: [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu).



*Please visit our web site regularly for advice on how to prepare for a future application as well as the most up to date information about the admissions application process. You can also register for the electronic Pre-Vet Newsletter.*

[www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions)