

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS

Veterinary Medicine

Every professional degree program has specific admissions requirements including prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed. The courses listed below are **common prerequisites** for this pre-professional pathway. They are **subject to change**. It is the student's responsibility to check the specific school for prerequisite details.

The following courses **do not lead to an associate degree specific to Veterinary Medicine**; however, the courses overlap with major requirements for the **Associate of Arts in Natural Sciences**, which requires a minimum of 18 units of science and mathematics courses to include at least 4 units in the Physical Sciences, at least 4 units in the Biological Sciences, and at least 3 units in Mathematics. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Admission to **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.)** programs is very competitive. Competitive applicants will have completed the equivalent of a bachelor's degree, which may be in any major. Common majors include biology, animal science, zoology, and chemistry. In addition to a bachelor's degree, college grades (GPA) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) scores are used in preliminary screening. The GRE evaluates knowledge in analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning. The MCAT evaluates knowledge in biology, chemistry, physics, critical analysis and reasoning, psychology, and sociology. Note that the DVM program at UC Davis specifically requires completion of a bachelor's degree, but does not require the GRE or MCAT.

Hands-on veterinary and animal experience, particularly formal experience working with a veterinarian, is usually required in preparation for veterinary school. This experience is helpful to you as a prospective veterinarian as it allows you to gain valuable insight into your decision whether veterinary medicine is the career path for you. In addition, it may provide an opportunity to receive a letter of support from a professional in the field, which is a vital element of your application.

Common Lower Division Preparation for Schools of Veterinary Medicine

Prefix	Number	Title	Units
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	202	Molecular Biology/Genetics	4
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
COMM	C1000	Public Speaking	3
ENGL	C1000	Academic Reading and Writing	4
or ENGL	C1000E	Academic Reading and Writing	(4.5)
ENGL	C1001	Critical Thinking and Writing	4

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Prefix	Number	Title	Units
or ENGL	C1002	Introduction to Literature	(3)
MICR	200	Principles and Applications of Microbiology	5
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
PHYS	102	General Physics	4
STAT	C1000	Introduction to Statistics	4
or STAT	C1000E	Introduction to Statistics	(4.5)

Most veterinary schools require at least one year of college mathematics courses, often including one or more calculus courses (e.g., MATH 170 and 190). Doctor of Veterinary Medicine programs also commonly require upper division biochemistry, physiology, and genetics or molecular biology courses, which are not offered at Cerritos College. Additionally, students following a pre-veterinary pathway are advised to take introductory social/behavioral sciences and humanities courses.

California Veterinary Medicine Schools

- University of California, Davis
 - [Admissions info](https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-process-timeline) (https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-process-timeline)
 - [Admissions statistics](https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-statistics) (https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-statistics)
- Western University of Health Sciences
 - [Admissions info](https://www.westernu.edu/veterinary/programs/doctor-of-veterinary-medicine) (https://www.westernu.edu/veterinary/programs/doctor-of-veterinary-medicine)
 - [Competitive Class Stats](https://www.westernu.edu/veterinary/programs/doctor-of-veterinary-medicine/competitive) (https://www.westernu.edu/veterinary/programs/doctor-of-veterinary-medicine/competitive)

Additional Resources

- [American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges](https://www.aavmc.org) (https://www.aavmc.org)
- [American Veterinary Medical Association](https://www.avma.org) (https://www.avma.org)
- [So, You Want to be a Veterinarian](https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/so-you-want-be-veterinarian) (https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/so-you-want-be-veterinarian)
- [Explore Health Careers](https://explorehealthcareers.org) (https://explorehealthcareers.org)
- [CSULB Health Professions Advising Office](https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao) (https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/hpao)