

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-VETERINARY CAREER PREPARATION

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The requirements listed for the major are subject to change without notice. It is the student's responsibility to check for the most recent information with a Cerritos College counselor or by consulting ASSIST at www.assist.org. **NOTE:** Courses listed may require prerequisite coursework.

The following curriculum does not lead to an Associate in Arts Degree in Pre-Veterinary. However, students may fulfill requirements for a Natural Sciences degree by completing a minimum of 18 units of science and math 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 a math course beyond Intermediate Algebra. Please refer to the Cerritos College catalog for more information.

Veterinary medicine is the broadest and most comprehensive of all the health professions. Academic preparation for veterinary school takes place at the undergraduate level, consisting of both lower division AND upper division coursework with a special emphasis in the sciences. In order to succeed academically, in the rigorous veterinary school curriculum, veterinary schools are looking for individuals with a highly developed science background. The more competitive veterinary schools are looking for grade point averages in the range of 3.5 – 4.0 GPA. Many, but not all veterinary schools require a Bachelor's degree. In most instances, a Bachelor's degree makes an applicant more competitive in the admission process. Most veterinary schools require a standardized graduate admissions test (e.g. GRE, MCAT, and VCAT). Extracurricular activities such as community service activities, and leadership are essential. Animal related activities and/or animal related work experience is mandatory. Most colleges are looking for a strong demonstrated commitment to working with animals. Some schools actually require employment by a Veterinarian. Many veterinary schools require that you apply through the Veterinary Medical Colleges Applications Service (VCMAS). This is a central application, distribution, collection and processing service at VMCAS, 655 K Street NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 2002. Phone (617) 612-2884.

COMMON LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR VETERINARY SCHOOLS

			UNITS
BIOL	200	Principles of Biology	5
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
CHEM	111	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	112	General Chemistry	5
CHEM	211	Organic Chemistry	5
CHEM	212	Organic Chemistry	5
MATH	112	Elementary Statistics	4
PHYS	101	General Physics	4
PHYS	102	General Physics	4

ADDITIONAL LOWER DIVISION PREPARATION FOR SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONS

University of California, Davis – School of Veterinary Medicine

<https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-process-timeline>

CERRITOS COLLEGE PRE-VETERINARY CAREER PREPARATION

University of California, Davis (cont.)

Students are admitted to this school in the fall semester only. Majority of the required science courses must be completed at the time of application. **A Bachelor's degree is required prior to matriculation.** An applicant may study in any major provided the prerequisite courses are taken. The life/health sciences: Biology, Animal Science, Zoology, and Chemistry are the most common and popular majors. Academic performance is the major factor in admission selection for the UC Davis Veterinary School. A minimum grade point average of 2.50 (on a 4-point scale, A=4) is required for all completed science courses and cumulative college coursework at time of application. However, most successful applicants have completed their undergraduate coursework with a grade point average of 3.6 – 4.0. Two GPAs are used to calculate an applicant's initial ranking: overall science GPA and most recent 45 semester/68 quarter units GPA. Admission is very competitive, and grades are 27% in the evaluation process. The GRE is the graduate record exam, which is required by this veterinary school and also weights 23% in the evaluation process. If the GRE has been taken more than once, the highest score in every section will be used. All GRE score reports must be sent directly from ETS and *delivered to VMCAS electronically by September 15.*

The school believe the best predictors of how successful an applicant will be in completing the veterinary curriculum are the grade point average and GRE. Extracurricular activities and substantial experience with animals (weighs 20%), which should include working or volunteer experience with veterinarians, a minimum of 180 veterinary experience hours is required. The interview weighs approximately 20%.

Successful applicants to the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, are selected based on academic, personal, and extracurricular dimensions. The School admits qualified individuals who demonstrate leadership and an ability to become excellent veterinarians. Therefore, applicants must have the intellectual, physical, and emotional capacities to meet the requirements of this professional degree without a change in the fundamental program requirements of the curriculum, without posing a direct threat to the health or safety of people or animals and without creating an undue burden for the school. Furthermore, admitted students must meet these requirements within a reasonable period of time.

Annual cost to attend including tuition, enrollment fees, books etc. will be approximately \$61,379

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

Three (3) strong letters of evaluation (with one letter of recommendation from a veterinarian), a personal statement, and an interview.

Two to three English courses should total a minimum of 8 semester units or 12 quarter units. The following **required** upper division courses are not offered at the lower division level and must be taken at the university: Biochemistry, Genetics, and Systemic Physiology.

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University of California, Davis (cont.)

The following are the application statistics for the class of 2023: From an applicant pool of 979, only 191 students were accepted. The average cumulative science GPA was 3.70. The average GRE scores were 71% on Quantitative. The accepted applicants represented the following university systems the UC system (32), specifically UC Davis (50), out-of-state (41), CSU system (17), and other California schools (9).

<https://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/admissions/application-statistics-class-2023>

A minimum of 180 hours of veterinary experience are required to have your application considered for admission; however, admitted applicants have an average of 1,475 hours of quality “hands-on” experience in the veterinary field.

Western University of Health Sciences – College of Veterinary Medicine

<http://www.westernu.edu/veterinary/>

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences provides students with a “college without walls” with many clinical partners in the community and around the world. The CVM also focuses on problem-based learning as a key component of their curriculum. The College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences was founded on August 8, 1998. The college admitted its charter class of 85 students in the fall of 2003. The CVM of Western University of Health Sciences requires that you apply through the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VCMAS). A Secondary Application Checklist must also be submitted by the deadline. The minimum overall GPA is 2.75. However, competitive applicants should possess an overall GPA consistent with recent accepted cohorts. The most recent information is for the fall 2019 class that consisted of 105 students from 835 applicants. The average cumulative grade point was 3.26 for those applicants. All applicants must take either the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) or the General Graduate Record Examination (GRE). GRE scores are to be submitted via VCMAS.

Three letters of recommendation are required (one letter must be from a licensed veterinarian).

In addition, applicants must have at least 500 hours of hands-on animal-related experience that goes beyond observation. Supervisors should be able to assess applicant’s interest in animal well-being, work habits and personal integrity. Appropriate venues include but are not limited to the following: veterinary practices, animal medical environments, commercial animal production operations, regulatory animal control, humane shelters, animal entertainment (zoos etc.) and animal research institutions.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION:

BIOL	202	Molecular Biology/Genetics	4
BIOL	201	Principles of Biology	5
ENGL	100	Freshman Composition	4
ENGL	101	Critical Thinking through Literature	3
ENGL	102	Freshman Composition and Literature	3

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Western University of Health Sciences (cont.)

ENGL	103	Critical and Argumentative Writing	3
ENGL	155	Technical Writing	3
		HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCES	9
MICR	200	Principles and Applications of Microbiology	5

The following **required** courses are not offered at Cerritos College, but **must** be taken at a university: Biochemistry and any two upper division biological sciences (Anatomy, Animal Science, Biology, Botany, Cell Biology, Ecology, Embryology, Endocrinology, Histology, Immunology, Kinesiology, Mammalogy, Parasitology, Reproduction, Toxicology, Pharmacology, Physiology, or Zoology.)

For more school specific information concerning the requirements at individual out of state schools look up the specific veterinary school website. We have provided a few examples of the 28 out of state school sites:

Colorado State University Veterinary School
www.cvmb.colostate.edu

Cornell University Veterinary School
www.vet.cornell.edu

Michigan State Veterinary College
www.cvm.msu.edu

Oregon State Veterinary School
<http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed>

Washington State University Veterinary School
www.vetmed.wsu.edu

For further detailed information about the complexities of veterinary school admissions: American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges, <http://www.aavmc.org/>, California Veterinary Association, <http://www.cvma.net>, American Veterinary Medical Association, <http://avma.org/> and U.S. News Rankings and Ratings, www.usnews.com.

THE REQUIREMENTS FOR VETERINARY SCHOOLS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:

Employment of veterinarians is expected to increase faster than average through the year 2026. Because of this faster than average growth, good job opportunities are expected because the 28 USA schools of veterinary medicine, of which only 2 are in California, even at full capacity, result in a limited number of graduates each year. For the most part veterinarians tend to practice in animal hospitals or clinics and care primarily for companion animals.

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The majority of veterinarians in the United States seek a private practice. Other veterinarians work in a wide range of field relating to public health, animal disease control, environmental protection, the biotechnology industry, higher education or research.

New graduates continue to be attracted to small-animal medicine because they prefer to deal with pets and to live and work near heavily populated areas. Beginning private practice veterinarians may take positions requiring evening or weekend work to accommodate the extended hours of operation that many practices are offering. Some veterinarians take salaried positions in retail stores offering veterinary services. Self-employed veterinarians usually have to work hard and long to build a sufficient client base.

Job prospects may be better for veterinarians who specialize in farm animals than for small animal practitioners because of low earnings in the companion pets specialty. The number of jobs for large-animal veterinarians is likely to grow more slowly than that for veterinarians in private practice that cares for companion animals. Nevertheless, job prospects may be better for veterinarians who specialize in farm animals than for companion-animal practitioners because of low earnings in the former specialty and because many veterinarians do not want to work in rural or isolated areas. Veterinarians with training in food safety, animal health and welfare, and public health and epidemiology should have the best opportunities for a career in the Federal Government.

See Cerritos College Graduation Requirements.
See State University General Education List.