Veterinary Medicine Preparation (DVM) at the University of Oregon

Did You Know?

- Veterinarians provide healthcare to companion animals, livestock, zoo animals, and laboratory animals.
- Although veterinarians focus mainly on animal health and wellness, many use their expertise to protect humans against diseases carried by animals.
- Veterinarians have many career options outside of private practice, including the federal government and US Army. Organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and National Institutes of Health (NIH) all employ veterinarians.
- There are 32 veterinary medicine programs in the United States with Oregon State University being the only Vet Med program in the state of Oregon. A general veterinarian degree takes 4 years to complete.

Veterinary Medicine Application Preparation

- Completing the prerequisite courses is just one aspect of the process. You must also have a well-rounded application consisting of experience (shadowing, volunteer work, experience with animals, life experience, etc.), letters of recommendation, GRE scores, a strong admissions essay, and interview.
- Some veterinary medicine programs allow applicants to apply without a bachelor’s degree, but applicants who have a bachelor’s degree are more competitive.
- Most veterinary schools are public schools, so state residency is an important factor to consider when choosing programs. The likelihood of acceptance is greatest at the public institution in the state where you are a resident.
- Applying to veterinary medical school is a year-long process. Students applying in their final year at UO will have a gap year before starting medical school. Students can work, take courses, travel, etc. during the year.

Online Resources

- UO Pre-Health Advising Website: healthprofessions.uoregon.edu
- American Veterinary Medical Association: avma.org
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges: aavmc.org
- Veterinary Medical College Application Service: vmcas.liaisoncas.com
- Exploring Health Careers: explorehealthcareers.org

Campus Resources

- Student Organizations
- Undergrad Research & Distinguished Scholars
- Tykeson College and Career Advising
- Duck Nest
- Global Education Oregon
- TAEC study support
- Holden Center
- UO Pre-Health Advising Workshops
- University Career Center

Advising

Schedule an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor by following one of the options listed here:
https://healthprofessions.uoregon.edu/contact/
# Sample 4-Year Plan

The chart below illustrates one-way Veterinary Medicine prerequisites can fit into a 4-year plan. Keep in mind a graduation plan is as unique as the student following it. Math placement, major, transfer credits, application timeline, and other factors will help shape your graduation plan and timeline. Pre-Health Advisors are here to help you create a graduation plan that works best for you!

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<th>First Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Classes</td>
<td>CH 221 &amp; 227</td>
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<td>CH 462 Metabolism</td>
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<td>Classes</td>
<td>BI 320</td>
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<td>BI 330 &amp; 331</td>
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*Prerequisites vary by school.* While some schools require this course, others may not.

*These courses are prerequisites for UO’s anatomy & physiology sequence. They are not typically prerequisites for DVM programs.*

*This course meets DVM programs Physiology requirement.* OSU DVM Program also accepts **BI 353** and **BI 358** for the Physiology requirement. Please connect with other programs to determine if these alternative options meet their physiology requirement.

**Note:** This advising handout lists all the common prerequisites for programs. Please research programs to identify additional courses you may need to include and work with your pre-health advisors for any alternate course options.

**Questions?** Email pre-health advisors at **health@uoregon.edu**.

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