

VETERINARY MEDICINE (D.V.M.) ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Veterinarians help animals and people live longer, healthier lives and serve society by preventing and treating animal diseases, improving the quality of the environment ensuring the safety of food, controlling diseases transmitted from animals, and advancing medical knowledge. Prospective veterinarians must have good manual dexterity, an affinity for animals and the ability to get along with animal owners. The majority of veterinarians are in private practice, although significant numbers are involved in preventive medicine, regulatory veterinary medicine, military veterinary medicine, laboratory animal medicine, research and development in industry, and teaching and research in a variety of basic science and clinical disciplines (AVMA, 2015).

Earnings and Job Outlook: In 2018, the median annual earnings of veterinarians in practice was \$93,830. Employment of veterinarians is expected to grow 18 percent from 2018 to 2028 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018).

TRAINING

There are 30 medical colleges/schools accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in the U.S. Prospective veterinarians must graduate from a 4 year program at an accredited college of veterinary medicine and obtain a license to practice, which is controlled by each state or province.

Veterinary graduates who plan to work with specific types of animals or specialize in a clinical area, such as pathology, surgery, radiology, or laboratory animal medicine, usually complete a 1 year internship. Veterinarians who seek board certification in a specialty must also complete a 2 to 3 year residency program that provides intensive training in specialties, such as Internal Medicine, Oncology, Radiology, Surgery, Dermatology, Anesthesiology, Neurology, Cardiology, Ophthalmology, and Exotic Small Animal Medicine.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

Any major is appropriate as long as applicants take the required prerequisite courses. The prerequisites for admission vary by veterinary medical college. Most schools require two years of chemistry (one year general, one year organic), a year of biology and physics, and a course in biochemistry, genetics, physiology, and statistics. Courses in English and the humanities are often recommended or required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CSULB courses which fulfill admission requirements for [Western University of Health Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine](#):

Students maintain responsibility for verifying course selection with individual programs.

| Coursework | CSULB Courses |
|--|---|
| One year of Organic Chemistry with lab | Chemistry 220A & 220B + 320 L (Chem. & Biochem. majors) OR 220A w/ 223A & 220B w/ 223B |
| One or more courses in Biochemistry | Chemistry 441A OR 441B OR 448 |
| Upper Division Biological & Life Sciences all with Lab | Biology 304, 313, 316, 324, 332, 340 w/ 340L, 342 w/ 342L, 345 w/ 345L, 350, 353, 355 w/ 355L, 411, 421, 423, 425, 430 (no lab), 444 (no lab), 453, 448 (Cannot double count) |
| One course in Statistics | Biology 260 OR STAT 108, OR HDEV 250 |
| One course in Microbiology | Biology 311 |
| Genetics or Molecular Biology | Biology 370 OR 340 |
| One course in Physiology | Biology 342 OR 345 |
| One year General Physics with Labs | Physics 100A & 100B |
| One Year English Composition | English 100, 101, 102, 300 |
| Humanities/Social Sciences | Art, Foreign Language, Political Science, History etc. |

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

STANDARDIZED TEST: Applicants must submit test scores from the [Graduate Record Examination \(GRE\)](#) or the [Medical College Admission Test \(MCAT\)](#), depending on the preference of each college.

CLINICAL EXPOSURE: Veterinary medical colleges weigh heavily a candidate's veterinary and animal experience in admissions decisions. Some schools even require a certain number of hours as a prerequisite. Formal experience, such as work with veterinarians, is particularly advantageous. Less formal experience, such as working with animals at an animal shelter, is also helpful. Students must demonstrate ambition and an eagerness to work with animals. Many schools require experience in more than one type of animal setting.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: 3 letters of recommendation are required, although more may be recommended or required. For most schools, at least one letter must be from a practicing veterinarian and another from a professor.

ADMISSIONS: The [Veterinarian](#)