

Pre-veterinary Medicine

Departments
and Programs
in the College
of Science

Biochemistry &
Biophysics

Biology

Botany & Plant
Pathology

Chemistry

Environmental
Sciences

Geosciences

Mathematics

Microbiology

Molecular &
Cellular Biology*

Physics

Pre-professional
Programs in the
Health Sciences

Professional
Science Masters*

Science &
Mathematics
Education*

Statistics*

Zoology

*graduate program only

... a pre-professional option within a General Science bachelor's degree. Veterinary medicine is the art and science of preventing, diagnosing, and treating disease and injury in animals. Veterinarians safeguard the health and productivity of livestock, and they also care for zoo animals and pets. Through research, they contribute to the conquest of major human health problems. While most veterinarians are engaged in private practice, some are Extension veterinarians, meat and poultry inspectors, teachers and researchers for universities and for pharmaceutical companies.

Career Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Labor predicts very good job opportunities in veterinary medicine, in part because of the limited number of veterinary school graduates. Most veterinarians practice in animal hospitals or clinics and care primarily for companion animals. The number of jobs for large-animal veterinarians is likely to grow more slowly. Veterinarians also have opportunities in public health and food safety, national disease control programs, homeland security, and biomedical research, some of which are with the Federal Government.

U.S. Department of Labor,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.
*Occupational Handbook
2006-07*

Practicing veterinarians are in a service-oriented career. They work with people as well as animals protecting the health and welfare of both. Students who are interested in a career in veterinary medicine should have a solid background in science and a proven capacity for hard work, as well as some practical experience with animals.

Preparing for Veterinary Medicine

The College of Science offers a pre-professional program for students who wish to pursue careers in veterinary medicine. This program, especially tailored to the OSU School of Veterinary Medicine, also meets admission requirements for most schools of veterinary medicine in the country.

Pre-veterinary students may select a major in general science with an option in pre-veterinary medicine or any other discipline while completing the admission requirements for veterinary school. Scientific disciplines such as biology, zoology, microbiology, or animal science (in the College of Agricultural Sciences) are most frequently chosen,

but areas outside of science are also acceptable. Students who are accepted into a veterinary school after three years of pre-professional work can apply up to 48 credits of their first year of professional study toward the completion of a bachelor's degree in general science from OSU. Completion of a bachelor's degree is required before one can receive a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

Admission to schools of veterinary medicine is competitive. Completion of the pre-veterinary requirements facilitates but does not guarantee acceptance.

Veterinary school admission committees look for a combination of academic ability and personal characteristics. Academic ability is judged by grades received in college courses and test scores achieved in the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or, for some schools, the Veterinary College Aptitude Test (VCAT).

Personal characteristics, which are more subjectively judged, include motivation, seriousness of purpose, and determination. Additional

requirements are significant exposure to veterinary medicine and experience with animals, such as breeding, rearing, feeding, and showing of animals, or experience in biomedical research laboratories as well as work in veterinary clinics and hospitals.



General Science/ Pre-veterinary Medicine

What to know about Oregon State University

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College of Science
128 Kidder Hall
541-737-4811

OSU Admissions
104 Kerr Administration
541-737-4411
800-291-4192

OSU Financial Aid
Student Employment
Loans & Scholarships
College Work Study
218 Kerr Administration
541-737-2241

OSU Registrar
102 Kerr Administration
541-737-4331

OSU Housing
102 Buxton Hall
541-737-4771

OSU Website
<http://oregonstate.edu>

For more information, please contact:

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<http://www.oregonstate.edu/vetmed/>

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Course of Study

While fulfilling the requirements for a bachelor's degree, a pre-veterinary student will take courses necessary for admission to veterinary school. These courses include mathematics, at least through calculus; year-long courses, which include laboratory, in general chemistry, organic chemistry, and biology; and courses in physics, biochemistry, and genetics. Pre-veterinary orientation, animal science, informative communication, as well as an occupational internship, are recommended.

Graduation requirements also include 48 credits of baccalaureate core (BC) courses, consisting of writing/speech (9 cr.); mathematics (3cr.); fitness (3 cr.); perspectives, including courses in physical and biological sciences (12 cr.), western culture/cultural diversity/literature and arts/social processes and institutions/ difference, power and discrimination (15 cr.); and synthesis courses on contemporary global issues/science, technology and society (6 cr.).

Sample Curriculum

An official graduation checklist may be obtained from an advisor.

Freshman Year			credits		
Biology	BI 211, 212, 213	12	General Chemistry	CH 221, 222, 223 or CH 121, 122, 123	15
Mathematics*		12	Pre-veterinary Medicine†	VM 110	1
BC courses and electives		2	BC: Writing I	WR 121	3

Sophomore Year			credits		
Cell and Molecular Biology	BI 314	4	Intro. to Animal Science†	ANS 121	4
Organic Chemistry	CH 331, 332, 337	12	BC: Writing II, III		6
Occupational Internship	Z 410†	1			
BC courses and electives		18			

Junior Year			credits		
General Biochemistry	BB 450 & 451	7	Genetics	BI 311	4
Physics	PH 201, 202, 203	15	Animal Nutrition	ANS 311	3
				Z 331 or Z 430 or Z 431	3-4
History of Science (approved WIC course)		3	Physiology		
BC courses and electives		3-4	Additional upper division science courses¶		6

Senior Year

Students not enrolling in veterinary school will complete the courses required for students who wish to complete a bachelor's degree in general science with a pre-veterinary medicine option. Courses in microbiology, genetics, anatomy & physiology, embryology, and comparative animal behavior are recommended. A minimum of 38 credits in upper division science courses is required.

*Mathematics through MTH 251 (Differential Calculus) and 4 credits of statistics are required. Additional math or computer science may be used to fulfill the 12-credit College of Science mathematical sciences requirement.

†Recommended.

¶Must include one lab course.

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