

# Pre-Vet Quick Facts



**Pre-Health Advising**  
Pre-Professional Advising Office  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

Students prepare for a career as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) by building credentials in scholarship, leadership, humanitarian/community service, and shadowing in the various settings of the profession. “Pre-Vet” is not a major at the UGA, but there are specific majors you should consider from colleges such as CAES, WARNELL as well as Biomedical Physiology major. Remember to consult with your undergraduate advisor about your individual plan and major.

## (CAES)

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (CAES) Animal Health majors have the opportunity to apply to the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine after their third year of studies or continue on the traditional four-year track and earn a bachelor's degree in Animal Science, Avian Biology, Biological Science, Dairy Science, or Poultry Science and then apply to vet school or pursue other career opportunities.

## GRE

Most veterinary schools require that applicants take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). The GRE consists of three sections: Quantitative, Verbal, and Essay section. The Analytical Writing test is required for most schools. There are no specific courses that students need to take prior to the GRE, but students should plan to dedicate roughly six to eight weeks for exam preparation. While students can opt for a commercial prep course for the GRE, self-study is often sufficient. Students usually sit for the exam in January-April as they head into the application cycle in May. The GRE is offered by scheduling through <https://www.ets.org/>

## Required Courses & GPA Expectations

### Typical Vet Pre-Requisites

**Biology:** BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L  
**General Chemistry:** CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L  
**Organic Chemistry:** CHEM 2211/L & CHEM 2212/L  
**Physics:** PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212  
**Physiology:** VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710  
**Genetics:** GENE 3200  
**Biochemistry:** BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4020  
**Microbiology:** MIBO 3500 or 3000/L or 2500/L  
**Psychology:** PSYC 1101  
**Cell Biology:** CBIO 3400  
**Anatomy:** CBIO 3010/L or CBIO 4200  
**Immunology:** CBIO 4100  
**English:** ENGL 1101, ENGL 1102 or ENGL 1103  
**Statistics:** STAT 2000, BIOS 2010  
**Calculus:** MATH 2250

**DISCLAIMER:** This is not a definitive list of the classes you will need for every school. Always check with the individual schools to see their specific requirements.

## Average Matriculant Numbers

- **Overall GPA:** 3.60
- **Science GPA:** 3.50
- **GRE:** ~308 combined score & ~4.0 writing (scores above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile)

## General Information

- There are **32** schools or colleges of veterinary medicine (CVM) in the United States that are accredited or have accreditation pending and all of them are members of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).
- 3,000 seats available each year
- DVM: Four-year degree program
- Only one accredited institution in the state of Georgia:
  - University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

### ❖ Do grade trends matter?

Students who wish to enter a veterinary program will require strong science and overall GPAs as admission is competitive. Admissions committees look not only at raw numbers, but also at grade trends on a student's transcript—so all is not lost if a student stumbles in their first semester or two, but then shows substantial improvement each subsequent year. However, they will also notice negative trends such as if a student is consistently withdrawing from or performing poorly in hard sciences or is completing courses away from their home institution. While an instance or two is not a deal-breaker, a pattern of behavior should be avoided. Students must demonstrate the ability to handle difficult scientific content as this will translate directly to their ability to perform in a veterinary program.

**prehealth.uga.edu**

## Shadowing Experience

Generally, veterinary schools require that applicants have experience observing or shadowing a veterinarian in action. Shadowing requirements for admissions can vary in a few aspects between schools including hours required, number of environments, and types of environments. While most programs require 250 hours **minimum**, more is certainly recommended. It is also important to try to get a well-rounded experience in each environment since shadowing is regularly discussed during admissions interviews. If you've been in 4-H, FFA, or a similar group, that's great experience and should go on your veterinary school admissions form. Similarly, working with animals in any way can be valuable such as volunteering in shelters or rescues, and even personal pet care which can provide animal handling experience that will help make you a better candidate.

## Undergraduate Research & Volunteering

Extracurricular activities, such as club affiliations and volunteering, are a large portion of the application that should not be neglected. Veterinary schools are looking for students who not only demonstrate that they can manage rigorous courses while staying busy, but also those who are compassionate, enjoy working with both people and animals, and are dedicated to serving the community. Students should keep in mind that depth of commitment and leadership experience are also considered. As a result, it is best to focus on strong engagement in few activities rather than to spread oneself too thin.

While there are many benefits to getting involved in undergraduate research, it is not required for admission into most veterinary schools. However, if you have the opportunity to work in a research lab that experience can make you more appealing to a veterinary schools admissions committee. If you are not interested in research, you would be better served dedicating that time to other activities such as volunteering or shadowing. If you are interested in research, you should plan to dedicate at least a year to a specific project or research lab.

## Letters of Evaluation

Most veterinary schools require three letters of evaluation. Requirements can vary between schools, and it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have collected the correct letters for their program of interest. Generally, programs expect students to provide one letter from a veterinarian, one from a science faculty member, and one other of the student's choosing. This can come from another veterinarian, a research mentor, volunteer coordinator, employer, etc. Students should select what they believe will be the most compelling letter.

## Vet School Application Timeline

Freshman & Sophomore Year	
Build credentials for veterinary school: shadow, volunteer, do research, build relationships with faculty, etc. Do <b>not</b> wait until junior year to begin!	
Junior Year	
Fall	Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc. Study for GRE
January	VMCAS opens, works on 3 essays, study and take the GRE Ask for Letters of Evaluation (give letter-writers at least a month to compose)
Feb/April/May	Take GRE, send out letter of recommendation requests
Summer	
May	Complete and submit VMCAS application
June/July/August	Prepare for and complete secondary applications (look online for previous year's questions)
September	VMCAS application deadline
Senior Year	
Fall	Interview – schools requiring interviews usually do so from December – March Schools sent out admission offers. Dates vary. Check each school for their dates. Continue shadowing, doing research, volunteering, etc.
Spring	Graduate