

Counseling Services - College of the Siskiyous

Pre-Veterinary Advising

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Source: http://advisingservices.ucdavis.edu/advising/hsa/handouts/pre_vet_preparation_ucdavis.html

Most COS pre-vet students are interested in applying to the veterinary school at UC Davis. However, each year an increasing number of students apply out of state, and many will be interested in the new, private vet school in southern California, Western University of the Health Sciences in Pomona. Required course work varies from school to school, consequently, you should be certain that you are meeting the requirements for each school where you wish to apply.

You can visit **Net Vet Veterinary Resources** <http://netvet.wustl.edu/> on the web or the *Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements in the United States and Canada* directory in the COS Transfer Center for helpful information. If you plan to apply to out-of-state schools you should make certain that you are preparing yourself appropriately in all areas. The academic requirements for the two California schools are as follows:

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Applicants must have completed at least 108 quarter units (72 semester units) at an accredited college or university before entering **UC Davis Veterinary School** <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/>. The required course work at COS is listed below in parentheses. More difficult versions of these courses and courses completed at other colleges/universities (check **ASSIST** for articulation of COS courses) are also acceptable.

- **General Chemistry** - 1 year w/lab (COS: CHEM 1A, 1B)
- **Organic Chemistry** - 2 quarter sequence (take at a university)
- **Biochemistry** - one course (take at a university)
- **Physics** - 2 quarters (COS: PHYS 2A, 2B)
- **Biological Sciences** - 2 quarters intro bio (COS: BIO 1, 2)
- **Genetics** - 1 course (take at a university)
- **Physiology** - 1 course (take at a university)
- **English** - 12 units to include 1 course in composition (ENGL 1A) or English AP plus 2 courses composition/ rhetoric/ speech/ literature
- **Humanities and/or Social Sciences** – minimum 8 semester units from IGETC Area 3 and/or Area 4
- **Elementary Statistics** - 1 course (COS: MATH 2)

Western University of the Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine (WU)

The requirements for (WU) school may change; be sure to visit the **WU** Web site <http://www.westernu.edu/xp/edu/home/home.xml> for updates.

Organic Chemistry - 1 course w/lab

Biochemistry - 1 course

Physics 1 year sequence

Biological Sciences - 3 courses including two advanced courses and one lab course (choose from courses in biology, zoology, physiology, anatomy, cell bio, botany, embryology, mammalogy, animal science, reproduction, or ecology)

Microbiology - 1 course

Nutrition - 1 course

Genetics - 1 course

Statistics - 1 course

English Composition - 1 course

Technical Writing - 1 course in addition to composition

Public Speaking - 1 course (

Humanities and/or Social Sciences - 3 courses (including at least 1 in psychology or sociology)

Macroeconomics - 1 course

Major

There is no inherent advantage in the choice of one particular major over another. Any major is acceptable as long as the required pre-veterinary courses (science and non-science) have been completed.

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

This is only standardized examination required for entrance to US veterinary schools, including UC Davis I and Western U. (Note: different schools have different testing requirements and may accept other exams) Only the General Test is required. It involves seven 30-minute tests (three and one-half hours of testing), and can be taken by computer any time. There is no longer a paper version of the GRE General Test.

GRE Information can be found on the [GRE website](#). For UC Davis, the GRE must be taken no later than September 30th of the year you apply to veterinary school. If you feel that your GRE scores do not reflect your true ability, you may take the exam again. Only the best score for each section will be considered by the admissions committee at UC Davis when reviewing your application. This policy, however, varies from school to school. WU will accept either the GRE or the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test).

Experience

One hundred and eighty (180) hours of veterinary, animal and health-related experience is the required minimum amount to apply to UC Davis; however, most successful applicants have more than this amount (2,500+ hours on average). Western U requires at least 500 hours of hands-on experience. Other schools have varied requirements. Diverse work experience will aid you in deciding which veterinary track to pursue and will strengthen your vet school application as well. Start your preparation as early as possible.

Application Format

UC Davis now uses the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS). This is the centralized application process for applications for most of the U.S. veterinary medical colleges. VMCAS organizes the distribution, collection and processing for applications but is not involved with setting application, admissions, or deadline requirement, or with making admission decisions; questions concerning these matters should be directed separately to each school of veterinary medicine. Applicants to WU may apply through VMCAS or directly to the university. You are encouraged to speak with an HSA pre-vet advisor if you have questions.

Application Process

A student applying to veterinary school has the option of doing so after two years of college have been completed and the minimum requirements (see above) have been met, but most successful applicants complete a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation into vet school.

The Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service ([VMCAS](#)) is now available only online. Applications need to be submitted one year prior to the year of matriculation with an October 1st deadline for most schools. Applications usually become available on the website in late May. Contact any non-VMCAS schools you would like to apply to directly to request an application.

You must also request that the Educational Testing Service mail copies of your GRE scores to VMCAS. This can be done when registering to take the examination.

Personal interviews for admission are usually part of the admissions process.

Criteria for Selection

Applicants to the vet school at UC Davis are evaluated based on the following factors:

Academic Factors (~ 50-60%)

- Overall undergraduate/graduate GPA
- Last 45 semester units GPA (UG/Grad)
- Required science courses GPA
- GRE scores

Non-Academic Factors (~40-50%)

- Narrative/Experience
- Letters of Evaluation
- Interview