



Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Navigating the Path to UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine:
From Community College to Application Success

Presentation Overview

- Navigating from Community College
- UC Davis DVM Requirements
- Strategies to Become a Competitive Applicant
- How to Gain Valuable Experience as a Pre-Veterinary Student
- Application Timeline
- DVM Programs & Curriculum

UC DAVIS
VETERINARY MEDICINE

About UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

- 60,000+** Patients we treat each year
- \$75+ million:** Annual research funding
- 34** Clinical specialties
- Ranked # 1 in the Nation**
- 35+** Student clubs and organizations
- \$6.5+ million:** Scholarships and grants awarded per year
- 70+** Active clinical trials
- Only public DVM program in CA**

Busiest teaching hospital as we have exposure to unique case loads to enhance learning.

- One of two schools with highest median starting salary of graduates
- Second least median debt of any of the 30 schools (as of 2019 study)
- Average starting salary is \$129,000.00

We are Community/service focused; providing outreach services from the veterinary medicine teaching hospital, veterinary education, free community clinics, etc.

Make Community College Count!

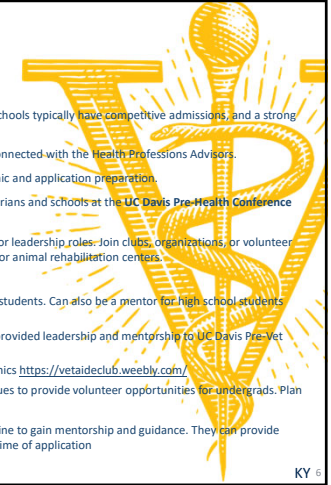
- Start by developing good study habits and earning **good grades** in the sciences and overall.
 - Most students enter our program will have a GPA of 3.7-3.8 or higher, cumulative
 - We are looking at two GPAs for our program. Your most recent 45 semester/68 quarter units and your overall science GPA
- Research transfer requirements** for your bachelors degree: Choose **any major** track that best fits your interest - as long as you fulfill the veterinary school prerequisites. Seek guidance from academic advisors to streamline your academic pathway.
- Join a Pre-Veterinary related club
- Build Relationships:** Connect with professors, advisors, and professionals in the veterinary field to build a strong support network and gain valuable mentorship.
- Start gaining experience** with veterinarians.
 - Try to **diversify your experience** and expose yourself to more than one species or other animal/research related activities so that it broadens your understanding of the veterinary profession. This can be through internships, volunteer work, or part-time jobs at animal clinics, shelters, or research labs.
 - Keep a record of your veterinary work or volunteer experience.



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Tips for Transitioning to a Four-Year University to Finish Your Bachelor's Degree

- Maintain a High GPA:** maintain a high GPA throughout your Pre-Veterinary coursework. Veterinary schools typically have competitive admissions, and a strong academic record can enhance your chances of acceptance.
- Advising:** Meet one on one with a Prehealth advisor. Subscribe to their email newsletters and stay connected with the Health Professions Advisors.
- At UC Davis advisors use a holistic approach while providing support and feedback during academic and application preparation
 - Explore veterinary medicine, network with 15+ vet schools, and learn at workshops from veterinarians and schools at the **UC Davis Pre-Health Conference on November 2, 2024. Open to all UC Davis and non-UC Davis pre-vets.**
- Get Involved:** Participate in extracurricular activities related to animal science, veterinary medicine, or leadership roles. Join clubs, organizations, or volunteer groups. Seek out volunteer or internship opportunities at veterinary clinics, hospitals, research labs, or animal rehabilitation centers.
- Examples of Pre-Veterinary clubs for UC Davis Undergraduates:
- Prevet Students Supporting Diversity Club:** Workshops, field trips, panels with current vet students. Can also be a mentor for high school students <http://prevetsofdiversity.weebly.com/>
 - Student Mentorship Program: For the past several years, DVM students have provided leadership and mentorship to UC Davis Pre-Vet Students Supporting Diversity (PSSD) students.
 - Veterinary Aid Club:** Hands on opportunity for animal experience. Internships at VMTH, clinics <https://vetaideclub.weebly.com/>
 - 27 Heartbeats:** Provide medical care for animals in need. Work with local shelters and rescues to provide volunteer opportunities for undergrads. Plan field trips including zoo. <http://twentysevenheartbeats.weebly.com/>
- Mentorship:** Connect with veterinarians, professors, or professionals in the field of veterinary medicine to gain mentorship and guidance. They can provide valuable insights, advice, and networking opportunities as well as be a reference for you during the time of application



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Gain experience through our Summer Enrichment Program

An intensive, four-week program to help underrepresented students enhance their preparation for veterinary school.

Course work, admissions workshops, case presentations and hands-on veterinary experience in the teaching hospital.

Target applicant: Current or post-undergraduate

Eligibility:

- 18+, disadvantaged, low-income or historically underrepresented backgrounds
- Minimum of one year of biology and/or chemistry
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Some vet or animal related experience

2024 Dates: June 5-July 5 or July 3-August 2

Application: Closed for summer 2024 open! **2025 Application will open in January!**

Contact: Monae Roberts at dmroberts@ucdavis.edu

Funding is available for up to 100% of the costs that may be associated with travel to and from Davis, lodging, food and transportation for the duration of the program. Students will also receive a stipend of \$750 for participating.

Experiences include: clinical rotations, guest lectures, workshops, field trips, and SVM student panels.



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Completion of prerequisites

Bachelor's degree

Three eLors:
(Electronic Letters of Recommendations)

180 Hours of Veterinary Experience

VMCAS
(Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service): Application & Supplemental Application

Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs)

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UC Davis SVM Prerequisite Courses

Lower Division Courses that Can be Completed at a Community College

<p>General Biology two semesters both with labs</p>	<p>General Chemistry two semesters both with labs</p>	<p>Organic Chemistry two semesters one with lab</p>
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Online courses are accepted from regionally accredited universities

Example for American River College:
Accepted: Biol 400 Principles of Biology
Not accepted: BIOL 300 The Foundations of Biology
Tip: Avoid the foundational/elementary level courses intended for non science majors

<p>Physics Two semesters (no labs)</p>	<p>Statistics 1 semester</p>
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*AP or IB credit is accepted
 *All courses must have a solid C or higher

Example for American River College:
Accepted: PHYS 350 and PHYS 360 General Physics
Not accepted: PHYS 310 Conceptual Physics and PHYS311 Basic Physics
Tip: stick with trigonometry based or calculus based physics courses

Flexibility with statistics courses. Can take a major specific course
 example: Bio Statistics or Business Statistics

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UC Davis SVM Upper Division Prerequisite Courses

Cannot be completed at a community college
 Must be completed at the 3rd or 4th year (junior or senior) level

*no labs required

<p>Biochemistry Must include metabolism 1 semester or quarter</p>	<p>Systemic Physiology -or- upper div. A&P (I&II) The course should cover all the major body systems 1 semester or quarter</p>	<p>Genetics 1 semester or quarter</p>
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Online courses are accepted from regionally accredited universities

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Electronic Letters of Recommendation (eLors)

They assess your knowledge of veterinary medicine and/or your academic abilities

eLORs through VMCAS system Only

At least one needs to be from a practicing veterinarian who has directly supervised you

Submit up to six, select three in the supplemental application

Evaluated in several categories (likert scale) and this is the score assigned to each eLOR

Can include up to 6 eLors. Applications without 3 eLORs or 1 from a veterinarian are incomplete & will not be reviewed. Must be completed by application deadline

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Tips for choosing the right references for your eLORs

Select a reference who can most effectively represent you and advocate on your behalf!

Choose Diverse Perspectives: Aim to select references who can provide a well-rounded view of your strengths, skills, and character. Diversity in perspectives can strengthen your application. Our Admissions committee will read every single eLOR during the holistic review process

Ask Early and Communicate Clearly: Reach out to potential references well in advance of the application deadline to give them ample time to write a thoughtful letter and complete the VMCAS survey. Clearly communicate the requirements of the letter and provide any necessary information or materials to assist them in writing it.

Ensure Availability and Willingness: Confirm that your chosen references are willing and available to write a strong letter of recommendation. It's essential to choose individuals who are enthusiastic about supporting your vet school aspirations

Academic Instructors

Consider professors or instructors who have taught you relevant science courses, especially those related to the sciences (biology, chemistry, animal science, etc.). They can speak to your academic abilities and potential for success in veterinary school.

Veterinary Professionals

If you have experience working or volunteering in veterinary clinics, shelters, or research labs, consider supervisors or veterinarians who can attest to your hands-on skills, animal handling, work ethic, and passion for veterinary medicine.

Research Mentors

If you have participated in research (not just related to veterinary medicine), a research mentor can provide valuable insight to your analytical abilities, scientific curiosity, and contributions to research projects.

Employers or Supervisors

Doesn't need to be veterinary medicine related, supervisors or employers can provide valuable information about your work ethic, professionalism, and interpersonal skills

Extracurricular Advisors

Such as animal advocacy groups, pre-vet clubs, or animal rescue organizations, advisors or leaders within these organizations can speak to your leadership, teamwork, and commitment.

Other References

Can speak to your character, values, and motivation for pursuing veterinary medicine. This could include mentors, coaches, or community leaders who have observed your personal qualities and dedication.



Veterinary Experience

Veterinary Experience

180 Hours of Experience

Any veterinary clinical, agribusiness, or health science experiences that took place under the supervision of a veterinarian

Animal Experience

Online vet or animal experience WILL NOT count

Anything that is NOT under supervision of a veterinarian

Examples: Farm/ranch experience, 4-H Club, Animal training, animal shelter work, wildlife rescue/rehabilitation, etc

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What Attributes and Competencies are important?

- Resilience
- Cultural awareness
- Adaptability
- Self-reflection
- Growth mindset
- Ability to communicate
- Emotional intelligence
- Critical thinking
- Interest and understanding of veterinary medicine profession



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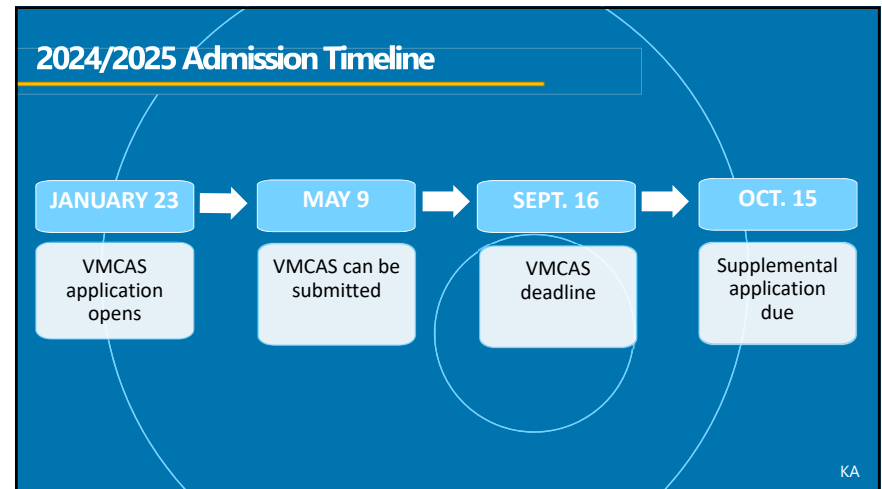


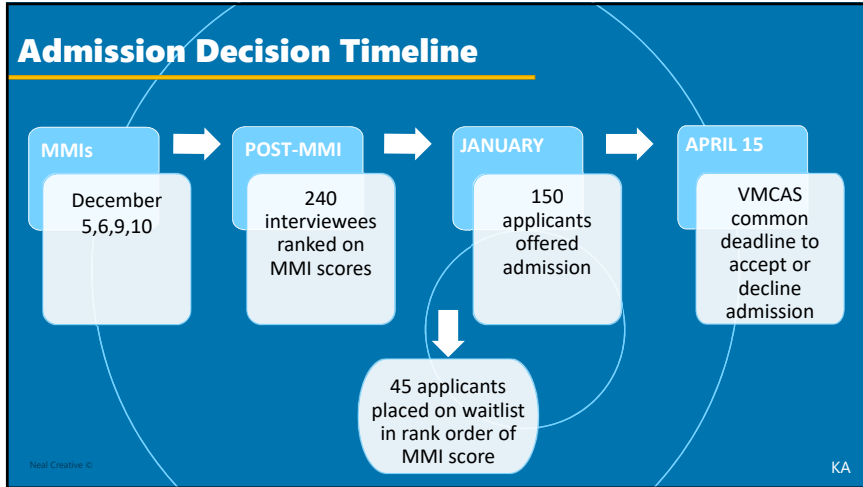
Apply Intelligently

Would I go to this school if it was the only one I got into?

- Location
 - Ability to move to location
 - Pets, spouse, etc
 - Establishing residency
- Tuition cost
- Clinical year set up (+/- teaching hospital, externships)
- Requirements (pre-reqs, etc)
- Length of program
 - 3-year, 4-year, 5-year
- Special interests
 - Research, species of interest, specialty

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What About Money?

Financial Support

- FAFSA
- Health Professions Loan
- Check Interest Rates
- Grants & Scholarships
- Return to aid grant for select students

Cost of attendance

- Tuition + Cost of living
 - Resident Tuition: \$32,913
 - Non-resident Tuition: \$45,158

Applications Fees

- VMCAS Application Fees
 - \$234 for first application (fee waiver available)
 - \$128 for each additional program
- Supplemental Application Fees
 - \$60 for UC Davis SVM
- Travel fees for interviewing if applicable

of EXCEPTIONAL CARE AND INNOVATION

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4 Year Curriculum

Years 1 & 2:
Foundational, comparative, and core (systems based) + mini rotations

Year 3:
Introduction to streams:
Small animal, Large animal, Equine/livestock/zoologic, Avian/reptile, Poultry, and Lab animal.
Includes surgery labs and medicine courses

Year 4:
Core requirement by emphasis with elective: clinical rotations

*Opportunity to bring pets to school with designated homeroom for them

*Business, ethics, and wellness woven in curriculum

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		Semesters											
		Fall				Spring							
Yr 1	Vacation	Prologue	Basic Foundations	Immun/Heme/Coag	Pharm/Nutrition/Tox	MusculoSkeletal	Neuro/Senses/Behavior	Gastrointestinal/	Metabolism				
		Professional & Clinical Skills				Professional & Clinical Skills							
Yr 2	Vacation, STAR program, Summer Clinics, Externships	Renal/Urinary	Cardiovascular/Respiratory	Endo/Repro	Skin	Oncology	Immune/Infectious Disease	Population Health	Clinical Foundations				
		Professional & Clinical Skills				Professional & Clinical Skills							
Yr 3	Vacation, STAR program, Summer Clinics, Externships	Small Animal Stream I	Small Animal Stream II			Small Animal Stream III	Small Laboratory Mammals			Clinical Rotations			
		Large Animal Stream I				Large Animal Stream II		Equine					
		Comparative Stream I				Comparative Stream II		Livestock					
		Core Stream						Zoologic	Small Laboratory Mammals	Business & Communication	Clinical Pathology	Avian/Reptile	Clinical Rotations
		Anesthesia/Surgery Stream						Comparative Stream III				Poultry	Clinical Rotations
								Core Stream				Laboratory Animal	Clinical Rotations
Yr 4	Clinical Rotations	Clinical Rotations				Clinical Rotations							

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Additional Programs

VSTP- Dual DVM/PhD program

Prepare students to become exceptional **vetenarian-scientists** engaged in basic and translational research to advance the health of people, animals, and environment.

- Partner with faculty
- Eight years (2-4-2)
- Fully funded + stipend
- Train in one or more of the following areas:
 - (1) biomedical research
 - (2) zoonotic and vector borne diseases,
 - (3) food security and food safety
 - (4) environmental quality on animal, human health, and well-being.

Dual DVM/MPVM Degree

Designed to train the next generation of veterinary epidemiology, research, and One Health scientists

- Partner with faculty
- Five years (2-1-2)
 - One Health | Zoonotic and vector-borne disease | Planetary health | Ecosystem health | Wildlife medicine | Shelter medicine | Veterinary statistics | Clinical trials | and more...



Veterinary Medicine Career Opportunities

Variety of career possibilities:

- Private Practice (general, emergency, specialty)
 - LA/SA/Exotics
- Corporate Veterinary Medicine
- Shelter med
- The Federal Government
 - USDA, FDA
- Research and teaching
- Public Health
 - CDFA
- Food Supply Medicine
- Global Veterinary Medicine
 - One Health Initiative
- Public Policy
- US Army Corps and Air Force

“ There are so many dynamic career opportunities available right now for our DVM graduates; it's a very exciting time to be entering the field of veterinary medicine!

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What Happens After You Finish Veterinary School

After completing four years of the veterinary program you receive the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Just like human medicine, students must pass a board certification exam to allow them to practice veterinary medicine.

Some specialize in a particular field or you may decide to obtain a PhD to further your breadth of knowledge and skill set.

You may also serve an internship or residency to acquire training to become board certified in your specialty.



Questions

- **Website:** vetmed.ucdavis.edu
- **Email:** svmadmissions@ucdavis.edu
- **Admissions Department:** (530)752-1383

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