Veterinarians are dedicated women and men whose profession is caring for the health and well-being of animals. Their work is widely varied and may include such activities as biomedical research, clinical practice, and safeguarding our nation's food supply. Whatever their specialty, veterinarians are dedicated to maintaining and promoting animal health. They understand the importance of animal welfare and the interdependent relationships between animals and humans.

Currently, there are 30 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States as well as 18 in other countries. There is one college of veterinary medicine in Oregon located at Oregon State University (OSU) in Corvallis. The information in this sheet is based on OSU’s requirements. You are responsible for checking on and meeting requirements for other veterinary medicine programs.

No specific undergraduate program is preferred at Oregon State University, but students must complete the required prerequisite courses. A bachelor’s degree is not required for admission to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. However, the vast majority of students admitted to OSU’s veterinary medicine program have earned a bachelor’s degree.

If completing a bachelor's degree at PSU, students must meet PSU’s general education requirements through University Studies or Honors. If completing the bachelor’s degree through OSU, students must meet OSU’s Baccalaureate Core requirements. If students choose to work towards OSU's Baccalaureate Core, it is their responsibility to work with OSU on completing those requirements. Students may transfer back to PSU up to 48 credits of the first year’s work in the professional phase to complete the PSU requirements for a bachelor's degree with a major in biology or science. Otherwise, students will need to meet OSU’s Baccalaureate Core Requirements.

**Prerequisite Courses Required by Most Veterinary Medical Schools:**
- One year of General Biology
- One year of General (Inorganic) Chemistry
- One year of Organic Chemistry
- One year of General Physics
- College math and/or calculus and/or statistics
- Biochemistry

**Additional Prerequisite Courses Required by Some Veterinary Medical Schools:**
- Additional upper division course work in Biology (Genetics, Microbiology, Cell Biology, Histology, etc.)
- Physiology
- College English
- Minimum credit requirements in the humanities and/or social sciences

The above lists are not exhaustive. Check individual schools for requirements. Note that most professional schools require that an A, B, or C be earned in all required preparatory courses. Admission to veterinary medical school is limited and extremely competitive. The average GPA of admitted students is approximately 3.60. Although OSU does not have a minimum GPA in order to apply, students with below a 3.2 are rarely admitted.

**GRE:**
OSU requires students to take the GRE. The GRE General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. The General Test is offered year-round at computer-based test centers. For more information and to locate a test center visit: www.ets.org. The GRE must be taken within a five-year period prior to applying to veterinary school.
### Prerequisite Coursework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oregon State University Science</th>
<th>Equivalent PSU Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prerequisite Courses</strong></td>
<td><strong>Equivalents</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biological Sciences</strong></td>
<td><strong>BI 211/214, 212/215, 213/216 (15) – Principles of Biology w/labs</strong> (pre or co requisite CH 221/227)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology – a one year course sequence of biology</td>
<td><strong>BI 341 (4) – Genetics</strong> (recommended prerequisite one year of biological science)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics – a course in upper division genetics (at least 4 quarter or 3 semester credits).</td>
<td><strong>BI 417 (4) – Mammalian Physiology</strong> – (recommended prerequisite upper-division physiology course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology – a course in animal or human physiology (at least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits).</td>
<td><strong>BI 418 (4) – Comparative Animal Physiology</strong> (recommended prerequisite upper division physiology course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences – a minimum of 6 additional quarter credits or 4 semester credits of upper division biological science courses with at least one laboratory. Recommended courses include additional biochemistry, additional physiology and/or anatomy, animal reproduction, cell biology, cell physiology, epidemiology, histology, immunology, microbiology, parasitology, virology.</td>
<td><strong>BI 301, 302, 303 (12) – Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemistry</strong></td>
<td><strong>CH 221/227, 222/228, 223/229 (15) - General Chemistry</strong> (prerequisite MTH 111)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry – a one year course sequence of general (inorganic) chemistry with laboratories</td>
<td><strong>CH 334, 335, 336 (12) - Organic Chemistry</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organic Chemistry</strong></td>
<td>Note: Organic Chemistry labs are not required but may be viewed favorably by the admission committee. Labs are CH 337 &amp; 338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– a course sequence of organic chemistry sufficient to meet requirements for upper division biochemistry (2-3 quarters)</td>
<td><strong>CH 350 (4) - Biochemistry</strong> (CH 223 &amp; 332 or 336 are the recommended prerequisites)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biochemistry</strong></td>
<td><strong>CH 490 (4) – Biochemistry: Structure &amp; Function</strong> (CH 336 is the recommended prerequisite and the recommended pre- or co-requisites are CH 416 or 440, CH 320/321, and BI 213). There are other biochemistry sequence options that you can discuss with the pre-vet adviser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– a minimum of 2 quarters or 1 semester of upper division biochemistry; a complete course sequence is preferred. Please Note: OSU teaches an online biochemistry sequence for non-biochemistry majors – BB 450 and BB 451. The prerequisite for this sequence is Organic Chemistry. Please visit OSU’s ECampus <a href="http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/">http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/</a> for more information.</td>
<td><strong>General Physics</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physics</strong></td>
<td><strong>PH 201, 202, 203 (12) – General Physics</strong> (MTH 112 is the prerequisite) <strong>Note:</strong> Labs are not required by OSU but are viewed favorably and are required by many other vet med programs. Labs are PH 214/215/216.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mathematics

- Mathematics – both Algebra and Trig or one higher level course (like calculus) (at least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits).
- Statistics – a course in statistics (at least 4 quarter or 3 semester credits).
- MTH 111 & 112 "OR" a higher level math such as Calculus (MTH 251) (4)
- STAT 243 (4) – Introduction to Probability and Statistics (prerequisite – MTH 95 or appropriate Math Placement score). Note: Recommend the non-business version of stats.

The following requirements are only for students who will not have completed a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation at OSU. Students who already have a bachelor's degree or intend to earn one from PSU need not complete these courses. These requirements are a portion of OSU’s Baccalaureate Core.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oregon State University Non-Science Prerequisite Courses</th>
<th>Equivalent PSU Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English/Writing</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 6 quarter or 4 semester credits of English</td>
<td>WR 121 (4) – College Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>writing (e.g. English composition, technical writing)</td>
<td>WR 227 (4) – Introductory Technical Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WR 323 (4) – Writing as Critical Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Note: Freshman Inquiry may count for WR 121 (3 credits). Check with the pre-vet med adviser.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Speaking</strong></td>
<td>COMM 220 (4) – Public Speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 3 quarter or 2 semester credits of public</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speaking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Humanities/Social Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Recommended:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 12 quarter or 8 semester credits of humanities</td>
<td>Anthropology, Art, English, Economics, Foreign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or social sciences courses.</td>
<td>Language, Geography, History, Philosophy, Psychology Sociology, or Women's Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Program Admissions & Application Requirements:

- Students must complete prerequisite courses by July 1 of the year in which they are accepted into the program. Complete and final academic transcripts for all accepted applicants must be received by OSU CVM by August 1 of the year in which they are accepted into the program. It is the applicant's responsibility to verify receipt of these materials.
- GRE scores (the GRE must be taken within a five-year period prior to applying). Submit GRE scores via ETS directly to VMCAS.
- Complete VMCAS application with electronic letters of recommendation prior to Sept 15, 2016 deadline. (A minimum of 1 letter of recommendation is required for VMCAS to begin processing your application. Applicants are encouraged to complete the letter of recommendation section no later than Sept 1. VMCAS strongly encourages all applicants to submit their initial application/VMCAS fee, all official transcripts and at least 1 letter of recommendation by Sept 1st for guaranteed processing by the Sept 15, 2016 deadline.
- Complete the OSU supplemental application (available on the OSU website) and payment by Sept 15, 2016. OSU Supplemental Applications are available online May 13, 2016.
- In addition to the prerequisite courses, applicants are encouraged to take elective courses to better prepare them for the veterinary curriculum and profession. Suggested elective courses include: upper division biology, business related courses, computer science, embryology and microbiology.
- Advanced Placement (AP) and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exam credits for lower division prerequisite courses are accepted.

OSU Selection Criteria

The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions Committee strives to select applicants who: 1) have a high probability of successfully completing the professional program, 2) possess the qualities deemed valuable in a veterinarian, 3) have knowledge of the veterinary profession, and 4) contribute to cultural, geographic, professional, and economic diversity of the student body and the profession. For detailed information on the selection criteria, please visit OSU’s website.
OSU Veterinary Experience & Other Admissions Criteria:

Applicants should have exposure to and an understanding of the veterinary profession. OSU assesses the following areas:

- Veterinary experience (volunteer or paid positions): Veterinary experience may include working or volunteering in a research laboratory, clinical practice, animal shelter, zoo, animal rehabilitation facility or public health, regulatory, or industrial setting. The quantity, quality, and diversity of the experiences are important.
- Other animal-related experiences are also evaluated, including raising and caring for different species of animals.
- Recommendations from those who know the applicant in an educational or work environment.
- Knowledge of the varied roles of veterinarians in the scientific community and in society.
- The applicant’s potential to contribute in a unique or diverse fashion to the profession is also considered.

Oregon State University Program Contact:
College of Veterinary Medicine
200 Magruder Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4801
(541)737-6985
Email: cvmproginfo@oregonstate.edu
Web: http://oregonstate.edu/vetmed/

Applying to Veterinary Medical School

Application Process in Brief:

Students typically apply to veterinary medical school about a year and a half before they expect to matriculate to veterinary medical school (e.g. in the spring before their last academic year in college).

Students apply to veterinary medical school by completing and submitting a primary application through a central application service (VMCAS). This service sends your application to the schools of your choice. Some veterinary medical schools also require a supplemental application. OSU requires a supplemental application and a $50 application fee in addition to the VMCAS application. All materials must be received by OSU by the deadline posted on their website: http://vetmed.oregonstate.edu/students/future/dvm/apply

Each applicant must arrange to have three letters of evaluation sent to VMCAS. The evaluation letters aid the Admissions Committee in assessing personal characteristics. Individuals selected to submit evaluations should know the applicant well enough to provide meaningful comments.

At least one letter of evaluation must be from a veterinarian with whom the applicant has had significant contact. Students currently in a graduate program should include a letter of evaluation from their program adviser.

Central Application Service:

Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS www.vmcas.org)
VMCAS
Toll Free: 877.862.2740
Fax: 202.682.1122
1101 Vermont Ave, NW Suite 301
Washington, DC 20005
Email: vmcas@aaavmc.org
Application Tips:

- **Apply Early.** If you wait until the night before a program deadline to submit your application, your application may not be received by VMCAS in time. Ideally you should apply at least four weeks before the deadline of the program(s) that you are applying to. This will allow the necessary time to verify and process your application and send it to your designated programs in a timely manner.
- **Review your application carefully.** Print your completed application for your records before submitting it to VMCAS. Do not send the printed copy to VMCAS.
- **Send Transcripts & Test Scores directly to the designated colleges prior to their deadlines.**
- **Enter all Institutions Attended.** Enter all undergraduate, graduate, professional, and foreign institutions that you have attended even if it was only for a single course or college credit awarded while you were in high school. Official transcripts will be necessary for all undergraduate and graduate coursework. Foreign coursework will need to be evaluated for U.S. equivalency if it is not in English.

Additional Recommendations:

- **Personally read the admission brochure and Web site** of each of the veterinary programs to which you plan to apply to obtain information on admissions requirements and to determine if the school is a good fit for you.
- **Participate in volunteer, and/or shadowing experience** in the veterinary medical field and in the community at large early on in your college experience. It is important that you understand the realities of the veterinary medical field and illustrate through action your commitment to the field of veterinary medicine.
- **Get involved with other pre-health students on campus** – joining the Pre-Veterinary Student Group (http://salpsync.orgsync.com/org/prevet) is a great way to start.
- **Check periodically with the adviser** for recent changes, remaining requirements to meet, and application procedures.
- **Begin the application process early** in the spring before your last academic year at PSU. Submit your application as early as possible without compromising the quality of your application. Visit the pre-vet adviser at PSU to discuss the application process.
- **Utilize free university resources** such as the pre-vet adviser, Writing Center, and Career Center for help with your personal narrative and interview preparation.
- **Begin completing financial aid forms in January; the priority filing deadline is March 1.**

Additional Resources:

- Veterinary Medical College Application Service VMCAS – [www.vmcas.org](http://www.vmcas.org)
- PSU Pre-Veterinary Medical Group – [http://www.prevet.groups.pdx.edu/](http://www.prevet.groups.pdx.edu/)
- Email: vetmed@pdx.edu
- American Veterinary Medical Association - [https://www.avma.org/](https://www.avma.org/)
- Oregon Veterinary Medical Association - [https://oregonvma.org/](https://oregonvma.org/)
Pre-Veterinary Medicine Volunteer and Exposure Sites

How do you know that you want to be a Veterinarian? How will Veterinary Medicine schools know that you are serious and understand the broad range of areas in which Veterinarians work? When you apply to Veterinary Medicine programs, you will need to list your activities that have given you clinical and other animal exposure. These activities are an important aspect of your application. According to Oregon State University's College of Veterinary Medicine: “It is preferred that applicants receive substantial exposure to multiple disciplines within the veterinary field. These include clinical practice with large and/or small animals, research, industry, zoological or exotic animal medicine, public health and food safety.”

Below are some possible places to gain exposure. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list and PSU does not guarantee the quality of the experience you may have.

Portland Metro Area:

**Animal Aid**
5535 SW 42nd Ave., Portland, OR 97221
503-292-6628

**Audubon Society of Portland**
5151 NW Cornell Road, Portland, OR 97210
503-292-6855
[http://audubonportland.org/about/volunteer/volopps](http://audubonportland.org/about/volunteer/volopps)

**Cat Adoption Team**
14175 SW Galbreath Drive, Sherwood, OR 97140
503-925-8903
[http://catadoptionteam.org/volunteer/](http://catadoptionteam.org/volunteer/)

**DoveLewis Animal Hospital**
1945 NW Pettygrove, Portland, OR
503-228-7281

**Forward Stride**
18218 SW Horse Tale Dr., Beaverton, OR 97007
503-590-2959

**Oregon Humane Society**
1067 NE Columbia Blvd., Portland, OR 97
503-285-7722
[http://www.oregonhumane.org/volunteer/overview.asp](http://www.oregonhumane.org/volunteer/overview.asp)

**Oregon Zoo**
4001 SW Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221
503-226-1561

Outside of Portland:

**Big Hearts Horse Rescue & Sanctuary**
P.O. Box 21601, Keizer, OR 97307
bhhroregon@gmail.com

**Equine Outreach Inc**
63220 Silvis Road, Bend, Oregon 97701
541-419-4842

**Hockman Ranch Sanctuary**
P.O. Box 563, Colton, OR 97017
503-539-6558

**Sanctuary One at Double Oak Farm**
13195 Upper Applegate, Jacksonville, OR 97530
541-899-8627
[http://www.sanctuaryone.org/volunteer.html](http://www.sanctuaryone.org/volunteer.html)

**United Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals**
15500 HWY 47, Yamhill, OR 97148
503-662-0083
[http://www.unitedspca.org/Volunteer_Application.html](http://www.unitedspca.org/Volunteer_Application.html)

**Wildlife Safari**
1790 Safari Rd., Winston, OR 97496
541-679-6761
[http://www.wildlifesafari.net/docent.html](http://www.wildlifesafari.net/docent.html)