

PRE-VETERINARY RESOURCES



CAREER CENTER

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

110 Lanier Hall | 478-445-5384 | career.center@gcsu.edu
gcsu.joinhandshake.com

This handout is designed to provide students a general guide to applying to veterinary programs. For further assistance, please schedule an appointment with a Career Advisor.

QUICK FACTS

Veterinarians are required to complete years of study and hands-on clinical experience and earn a **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)** degree before they are fully prepared to enter into professional practice. Currently, the **University of Georgia (vet.uga.edu)** has the **only veterinary program in Georgia**. As such, these programs can be highly competitive.

Here are things to keep in mind as you begin navigating the process:

- Applications usually require some combination of these materials: **minimum GPA, the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) essay, veterinary experience hours, letters of recommendation, standardized test scores, and an interview.** Thoroughly read through the requirements for admission for each school/program.
 - You can find a list of schools and their admission requirements here: applytovetschool.org/. Please note that the list may not always be comprehensive or fully up to date.
- It's important you apply as early as possible since completing your application can be a lengthy process, and application processing times vary.
 - **VMCAS Quick Start Guide** provides a suggested timeline that includes key actions to keep the application process on track. This timeline may need to be adjusted based on individual program deadlines and requirements.
- While many veterinary programs no longer require the GRE, you should check with each program to confirm their admission requirements.
- Most schools require **animal or veterinary experience**, but the hours needed vary between programs.
 - Animal experience and veterinary experience are both valuable on your application, but schools tend to request veterinary experience because it is under the supervision of a practicing veterinarian.
 - **These hours must be completed by the time the VMCAS application is submitted.**

COMMON APPLICATION SERVICES (VMCAS)

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges' (AAVMC - www.aavmc.org)

- In order to apply, you will use the **American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges' (AAVMC)** application system: **Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)**.
- **Some schools may have secondary application requirements outside of the VMCAS**, so it's important to thoroughly read the application requirements.
- The deadline for submitting your application through VMCAS usually falls annually in **the middle of September**.
 - Visit vmcas.liaisoncas.com/ to create your VMCAS account.

APPLICATION ESSAY PREPARATION

As part of your application through VMCAS, you will be required to write a **statement of purpose**. It is a one-page essay of no more than **3,000 characters** that gives admissions committees at veterinary programs a clear picture of who you are. This essay needs to answer the following question: **Why do you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?**

Here are some things to keep in mind as you answer the question:

- Because this essay will be sent to all of the programs you apply to, **keep your topic general**. Once your essay is submitted, it cannot be edited.
- Your essay will be typed in VMCAS, and the system will automatically track your character limit. If your essay exceeds the character limit, **you cannot save what was written**.
 - Formatting such as tabs, italics, multiple spaces, etc. are not saved by the system. To mark a new paragraph, hit enter twice.
 - This essay is about showcasing your medium and long-term academic and career goals. Be yourself, avoid using clichés, and focus on only relevant information.

COMMON PREREQUISITES

English Composition I
English Composition II
Principles of Biology I w/Lab
Principles of Biology II w/Lab
Principles of Chemistry I w/Lab
Principles of Chemistry II w/Lab

Organic Chemistry I w/Lab
Organic Chemistry II w/Lab
Biochemistry
Introductory Physics I w/Lab
Introductory Physics II w/Lab

****This list is not exhaustive. Please consult your academic advisor prior to registering for classes.**

KEY NUMBERS

- Average Minimum GPA: **3.0**
- Average Veterinary Experience Hours: **100-500**

***Check with each individual school for their GPA and score requirements.**

****Keep in mind that quality outweighs quantity when obtaining hours.**

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INTERVIEW PREPARATION

Many programs require an admission interview as part of the application process.

When preparing for professional school interviews, it is important that you practice ahead of time.

- Several pre-vet schools hold interviews as part of the admissions process.
- Utilize resources in **Handshake** and **book an appointment with a Career Advisor to further assist you.**
- **“Why do you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?”** or **“Why our program?”** are common types of questions that you want to prepare for.
- Develop **in-depth responses** to interview questions that are specific to you and how you fit into the program you’re applying for.
- There are different types of interviews for veterinary school such as **traditional interviews, group interviews, mixed multiple interviews (MMI)**; with MMI’s becoming more popular.
- The **American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)** provides a handout to help guide you in preparation for the interview process.
 - www.aavmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Veterinary-School-Interview-Tips_2025.pdf

PRE-VET AT GCSU

At Georgia College, students interested in pursuing veterinary medicine can find resources, support, and community to help them prepare for veterinary school and a career as a veterinarian. While “pre-vet” is not a specific major, students from a variety of academic backgrounds, including biology, chemistry, and other disciplines, can successfully pursue veterinary school admission with careful career and graduate school planning and advising.

Students are encouraged to join **GCSU’s Pre-Veterinary Club**. The GCSU Pre-Vet club educates students who are interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine about common animal diseases, medical techniques, and the requirements of different vet schools. The club also raises awareness and funds for the Trap Neuter Return program to help lower the feral cat population in Milledgeville. Additionally, we provide guest speakers to give helpful tips and tricks on how to boost your vet school application.

RESOURCES

American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges:

<https://www.aavmc.org>

AAVMC – How To Apply:

<https://www.aavmc.org/becoming-a-veterinarian/how-to-apply/>

AAVMC – Veterinary School Directory:

<https://applytovetschool.org>

Starting Your VMCAS Application:

https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_VMCAS_Application/

UGA VetMed:

<https://vet.uga.edu/>

UGA DVM Program Application Process:

<https://vet.uga.edu/education/dvm-program/dvm-application-process/>

Veterinary Medical College Application Service:

<https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/>

Veterinary School Interview Guidance:

https://www.aavmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Veterinary-School-Interview-Tips_2025.pdf

VMCAS Application Cycle Dates:

https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_VMCAS_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_VMCAS_Application/1_VMCAS_Application_Cycle_Dates

VMCAS Quick Start Guide:

https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Starting_Your_VMCAS_Application/Getting_Started_with_Your_VMCAS_Application/00_VMCAS_Quick_Start_Guide

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