

## Considering Pre-Vet?

So you are interested in becoming a veterinarian. This information sheet is designed to help you consider everything as you plan for your future.

**Do you really know what it is like to be a veterinarian?** Admissions committees at veterinary medical schools want to know if you have a good understanding of the profession. Have you thought about the long educational road that you have ahead of you? What are the potential financial hardships? The lifestyle? Will you mind long or irregular hours? What rewards are you looking for from the profession? Do you have an idea of what type of veterinary medicine interests you most? As a veterinarian you may focus on research, pathology, pharmacology, cardiology, nutrition, teaching and more (as well as having a practice). Do your research and speak with practicing vets.

**What are you doing now to prepare?** Don't wait until your junior year- that is too late! As a freshman and sophomore you should be involved with volunteer work, student organizations, clinical work, research and all types of animal experiences (small, large, laboratory, zoo). Are you involved in the pre-vet club on campus? If you are volunteering or working for a vet, lab, zoo or other organization make sure you document your hours and what you do. Documentation will help you later in the application process.

**Do you know the prerequisite courses for the vet school you are interested in?** Make sure to visit the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges at <http://aavmc.org/> This site has admissions information and career information as well as the on line application for the 28 veterinary medical colleges in the U.S. For a complete list of specific veterinary college prerequisites, please order and consult the Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements in the United States and Canada (VMSAR) book by calling Purdue University Press at 1-800-247-6553. This is the official handbook of the Association of American Veterinary Colleges. If you are interested in the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine visit <http://vetmed.wisc.edu> and make sure you visit with an advisor in the vet school.

**Learn all you can about the application process.** Each vet school has a different testing requirement, some require the MCAT and others the GRE, and some would like both. The UW-Madison vet school requires the GRE. Do you know when you need to apply? Have you thought about whom you would like to write your recommendation letters? Have you researched if your home state has a vet school? State supported schools of vet medicine give preference to students from that state, so if you are from a state with a vet school you will have an advantage over those who do not live in a state with a vet school.

**Always have a plan "B".** Things happen along the way. What will you do if you do not get into vet school? Explore other careers in the animal health field or working with animals that combine the same characteristics as the ones you like in vet medicine.

## Sample timeline for Preparing for Veterinary Medical School Admission

### Freshman Year

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Connect with your advisor, express your interest in attending Vet school</li> <li>* Meet with a vet-school advisor</li> <li>* Focus on getting off to a strong academic start</li> <li>* Join a student organization related to your professional and academic interests (pre-vet club)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Get involved with volunteer, community, research, clinical activity</li> <li>* Familiarize yourself with the pre-requisite courses you need to apply to vet school--work on a 4 year plan to complete requirements</li> <li>* See your advisor every semester</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Job shadow and/or do an informational interview with a doctor or other professional in the area you're planning to pursue</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;">                     Continuously learn about animal health care and about being a veterinarian!                 </div>

### Sophomore Year

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* See your advisor every semester </li> <li>* Remain active in your student organization</li> <li>* Begin thinking about who you'll ask for recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Continue volunteer, research, clinical activities this year</li> <li>* Maintain strong academic performance</li> <li>* Make sure you're completing prerequisite courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Research vet schools </li> <li>* Consider a Plan B in case you are not accepted to vet school and start working toward it</li> </ul>

### Junior Year

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* See your advisor</li> <li>* Pursue a leadership position in your student organization</li> <li>* Think about the GRE, take a prep course or begin preparing on your own--Preparing might be equivalent to a 3 credit course</li> <li>* Decide who you'll ask for letters of recommendation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Work on personal statement</li> <li>* Solicit letters of recommendation</li> <li>* Continue researching schools </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Complete primary applications online</li> <li>* Continue thinking about Plan B</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px; text-align: center;">                     Take GRE in April or Aug                 </div>

### Senior Year

Fall	Spring	Summer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* See your advisor</li> <li>* Complete and submit applications</li> <li>* Send letters of recommendation</li> <li>* Interview if required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Continue to perform well academically</li> </ul>	