



VETERINARY MEDICINE— Major Steps

While in High School, enroll in

- Advanced Algebra. Take calculus if possible
- Two or more years of foreign language
- Four years of English, including college prep writing
- Biology, Chemistry, Physics classes
- Social science classes

Start your college application portfolio

- Shadow a local veterinarian or volunteer at a local clinic. Keep track of your hours and veterinarians you worked with.
- Keep a list of your extracurricular activities, honors and awards received, and community service you participated in.

Thinking about a career as a Veterinarian?

It takes more than simply a love of animals. And if you think about it, physicians have it easy. They study human anatomy and typically focus on one specialization. On the other hand, veterinarians, have to be knowledgeable about the whole body of many different species. Vets prescribe medicines, perform exams and sometimes operate on animals. Most vets will specialize and work primarily with either small domestic pets or large animals. Besides an aptitude for science, good communication and people skills are important when interacting with animal owners.

Veterinarians are licensed, medical professionals who often work long hours. Training usually lasts six to eight years after high school and about 28 percent of vets end up going into private practice which has high start-up costs. Between 2009 and 2014, this occupation is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations in Washington. Factors

affecting job growth include an increasing numbers of animals, consumer and environmental protection activities, and the recent trend toward the consolidation of veterinary practices. The median yearly income for a Vet in Washington state is \$75,000.

Source: Washington Occupational Information System - WOIS
To learn more about Veterinarians, go to www.wois.org

How can you prepare for Veterinary School?

While attending Highline Community College, you can take steps to prepare for a smooth transfer as a Junior into a major of interest to you. To begin, students who are interested in Veterinary School should plan to complete the Associate of Arts (AA), Option A, Method II with an Emphasis in

Chemistry.

Admission to any veterinary school is highly competitive.

The average GPA of students admitted at Washington State University's veterinary school for the class entering in autumn of 2007 is 3.71 overall and 3.65 in the sciences. To be competitive, it is recommended that your GPA in the core curriculum (the required science courses) be at least 3.50. At WSU, if a course is repeated, both the initial grade and the repeat grade will be included in the grade-point average.

You must also present scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Source: Washington Occupational Information System - www.wois.org

Work with your faculty advisor

Working with a faculty advisor who understands the academic preparation for Veterinarians can be an invaluable resource for you. Your faculty advisor can provide you with information about class selection and sequencing, internships and differences between various veterinary schools. Having a letter of recommendation written by a faculty who really knows you can enhance your application to a veterinary school as well as a future job.

To request a faculty advisor email edplanning@highline.edu or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center in Building 6: Monday and Tuesday—8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Wednesday—8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Thursday—8 a.m. - 2 p.m., 3 p.m.-5 p.m. and Friday—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Hours: fall, winter, spring quarters)

Interested in exploring more about a career in Veterinary Medicine? Call for an appointment with a Highline Community College counselor at (206) 878-3710, ext. 3353.

Veterinary Medicine Degree Pre-Requisites

Washington State University (WSU) is the only veterinary school in Washington State. Nationwide, there are 28 colleges of veterinary medicine. Because most veterinary medicine schools are obligated to accept residents of their geographic regions, residents of the Washington State have the most chance of admission at WSU.

Be sure to complete these courses at Highline CC:

Biology& 211, 212, 213

Inorganic Chemistry& 161, 162, 163

Organic Chemistry& 261, 262, 263, 204, 205, 206 (labs)

Math 107 or equivalent 151 **or** Math& 141,142

Physics 201 & 202

A minimum of seven years is required to obtain the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM)—three or more years of pre-veterinary training, followed by four years of professional study in a regional program in Veterinary Medicine.

Although a bachelor's degree is not required for acceptance into the School of Veterinary Medicine, the majority of successful applicants have completed a degree.

Students who plan to enter WSU's veterinary school without a bachelor's degree must complete WSU's general education requirements before matriculation (i.e. before enrolling as a student at the veterinary school) and still must earn a bachelor's degree prior to obtaining their DVM degree.

Applicants are awarded points for their veterinary medical and animal experiences based on its quality and breadth. Ideally, you should present experience working with as many types of animals as possible, including companion, livestock, laboratory, wildlife, and zoo animals.

Achievements, leadership ability, participation in academic and other activities, as well as job and family responsibilities while enrolled in pre-professional curricula will be evaluated carefully. Determination, motivation, responsibility, maturity and diversity are also considered by the WSU Admissions Committee.

Extracurricular and Community Activities/Diversity

Achievements, leadership ability, participation in academic and other activities.

Every effort has been made to provide current and accurate information. Please contact school of interest directly to verify course requirements.

Listing of Washington Veterinary Medicine Schools

Washington State University College of Veterinary
Medicine
509-335-5107

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
<http://aavmc.org/>