

# VETERINARY MEDICINE (DVM/VMD)



Veterinarians are highly trained medical professionals who diagnose, treat, and research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and other animals, ensuring their high quality of life. Vets provide treatment for animals similar to that of a physician for humans, and diagnose injuries and illnesses with a variety of medical equipment, including surgical tools, and x-ray and ultrasound machines. Vets can also do many other kinds of jobs: Making sure the nation's food supply is safe; control the spread of diseases; and conducting research that helps both animals and humans. Most veterinarians work in private clinics and hospitals. Others travel to farms or work in settings such as laboratories, classrooms, or zoos. Veterinarians who treat horses or food animals travel between their offices and ranches.

Veterinarians must complete a 4-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM or VMD) degree at an accredited school of veterinary medicine, which includes classroom, laboratory, and clinical components. Vets must obtain a license to practice, which is controlled by each state or province. As an undergraduate Pre-Vet student, it is important to carefully review the admission requirements of all programs as they vary. Academic performance is the major factor in selecting applicants for admission, and the **GRE** may be required. Applicants are expected to have a realistic and appropriate perspective of the responsibilities of the veterinary profession. Please consult the **online veterinary school directory** for specific admission requirements.

We encourage you to meet with a Pre-Health Advisor at least once a semester to ensure satisfactory progress towards your goals!

## COMMON CORE COURSES

Students are responsible for verifying the prerequisite coursework and policies of the schools to which they plan to apply.

Course	# of Courses	USC Course(s)
<b>General Biology</b>	2 courses with lab	BISC 120L and BISC 220L or BISC 121L and BISC 221L
<b>General Chemistry</b>	2 courses with lab	CHEM 105aL and CHEM 105bL or CHEM 107L and CHEM 108L or CHEM 115aL and CHEM 115bL
<b>Physics</b>	2 courses with lab. Major may determine course requirement.	PHYS 135aL and PHYS 135bL or PHYS 151L and PHYS 152L
<b>Organic Chemistry</b>	1 or 2 courses with lab. Refer to schools of interest.	CHEM 322aL and CHEM 322bL or CHEM 325aL and CHEM 325bL
<b>Mathematics / Statistics</b>	1 course in Statistics may be required. 1 course in Pre-Calculus or Calculus may be required.	MATH 208x or BISC 305 or HP 340 or PSYC 274g and/or MATH 108g or MATH 125g
<b>English / Writing</b>	2 courses	WRIT 150 and WRIT 340
<b>Microbiology</b>	1 course with lab is generally required.	BISC 300L
<b>Physiology</b>	1 course with lab is generally required.	BISC 307L
<b>Biochemistry</b>	1 course is generally required. Lab component varies by school.	BISC 330L or CHEM 350g (Fall only) or BISC 312 (Spring only)
<b>Humanities / Social Science</b>	Any non-science courses are acceptable (E.g: Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, Art, Drama, History, Philosophy, Religion, Drama, etc.)	Varies by school
<b>Communication / Speech</b>	1 course may be required by a few schools.	COMM 204
<b>Animal Science / Animal Nutrition</b>	1 or 2 courses may be required by a few schools.	No equivalent course(s) offered at USC.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- A science major is not required. Students should choose a major based on their interests and an area that they find exciting, which at the same time, will keep them academically competitive.
- Additional science courses may be beneficial in preparing for the veterinary curriculum, especially biological sciences, as the first two years of veterinary school consists of challenging science courses.
- Competitive applicants will have over 1,500 hours of quality "hands-on" experience (paid or unpaid) in the veterinary field, which can be acquired through private practices, farms, ranches, animal shelters, zoos, etc.
- **VMCAS** is the central application service for many accredited Veterinary Medicine programs. Application submissions begin in May.
- Admission to vet programs is extremely competitive so applicants should strive to exceed the minimum requirements.
- Nationwide, approximately 3,000 students are admitted to veterinary schools each fall.
- There are only 30 colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S.