Western Carolina University | Pre-professional Pathways

Pre-Veterinary Medicine

In order to become a veterinarian, you must:

- complete a bachelor's degree (in any major) *WCU Undergraduate Major Options*
- take the appropriate prerequisite coursework for all desired schools *VMCAS Prerequisite Information*
- take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) *Examprep.wcu.edu*
- obtain job-shadowing, internship, or experience hours as required by most programs *(see list of programs)*
- apply through VMCAS.org, some colleges may require additional, internal applications *VMCAS.org*
- complete a doctorate, 4 year program in veterinary medicine (DVM or VMD) *List of programs*
- pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) *NAVLE information* (additional state exams may be necessary depending on state of licensing)

What should I major in?

While there is no prescribed major for admission into a veterinary medicine program, it is imperative that students complete all required courses for admission. Veterinary programs vary significantly in their requirements, and it is important for you to learn what coursework the schools that interest you require. Students should choose their major according to their strengths, interests and alternative career choices. The Veterinary Medicine Centralized Application Services (VMCAS.org) is used by the majority of Vet schools but individual schools may also require a separate application for their institution as well.

Minimally, a student should complete these courses at WCU for entrance into many veterinary medicine programs:

BIOL 150, BIOL 240, BIOL/CHEM 361, BIOL 413/414
General Bio. I, Introduction to Genetics, Principles of Biochemistry, Principles of General Microbiology/Methods of General Microbiology

CHEM 139, CHEM 140, CHEM 241, CHEM 242
General Chemistry I, General Chemistry II, Organic Chemistry I, Organic Chemistry II

PHYS 130, PHYS 131
Introductory Physics I, Introductory Physics II

PSY 150 and/or other course in social or behavioral science
General Psychology

One course in Animal Nutrition
(available online through another institution via UNC Online or direct enrollment)

WHO CAN HELP ME AT WCU?

For information on undergraduate program options and admission requirements for Veterinary schools, contact pre-professional advisors:

Pre-Professional Students:
828-227-7753
prepro@wcu.edu

Honors College Students:
Emily Sharpe
828-227-3277
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go.wcu.edu/preprofessionaladvising

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