

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 has the only veterinary program in Georgia**. 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 VMCAS essay, veterinary experience hours, letters of recommendation, GRE 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: <https://applytovetschool.org/>.
- In order to apply, you will use the **American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges' (AAVMC)** application system: the **Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)**. **Keep in mind that some schools may have secondary application requirements outside of VMCAS**, so it's important to thoroughly read the application requirements.
 - Visit <https://vmcas.liasoncas.com/applicant-ux> to create your VMCAS account.
- It is **highly recommended** that you take all science courses in person. However, some schools may accept online or hybrid courses. For instance, UGA has [specific guidelines](#) on what is accepted.
 - Hybrid science courses – such as general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics – are accepted by UGA for consideration. This means that the lecture component of your science courses can be completed virtually, **but you will still need an in-person lab component to be considered**.
 - Generally speaking, **prerequisites completed virtually between Spring 2020 and Spring 2023 will be recognized** due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19.
- 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.**
- The deadline for submitting your application through VMCAS usually falls annually in **the middle of September**.

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.
 - It's also recommended to save your essay somewhere in case you want to apply to other programs.
- Your essay will be typed in the 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 – **ENGL 1101**

English Composition II – **ENGL 1102**

Principles of Biology I – **BIOL 1107/L**

Principles of Biology II – **BIOL 1108/L**

Principles of Chemistry I – **CHEM 1211/L**

Principles of Chemistry II – **CHEM 1212/L**

Organic Chemistry I – **CHEM 3361/L**

Organic Chemistry II – **CHEM 3362/L**

Biochemistry – **CHEM 3510**

Introductory Physics I – **PHYS 1111/L**

Introductory Physics II – **PHYS 1112/L**

****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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SOURCES

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>

Veterinary Medical College Application Service:

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

Starting Your VMCAS Application:

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

UGA DVM Program Application Process:

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

VMCAS Applicant Login:

<https://vmcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux>