

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I apply to veterinary school and how do I get an application?

- The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) application is available through the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in Washington, DC. Contact: [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org). Only electronic applications are accepted.

### Do Pennsylvania residents have a better chance of being admitted to Penn Vet?

- Yes, about 30 percent of a first-year class of 125 students comes from Pennsylvania. Out of about 1,100 applicants for the Class of 2020, more than 200 were from Pennsylvania
- To be considered a resident of Pennsylvania, you must have lived in the state for 12 consecutive months (as a citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States) for reasons other than educational purposes prior to matriculation.

### What is the average Grade Point Average of a successful applicant?

- The average GPA for the Penn Vet Class of 2020 was 3.59.

### Is there a standardized test to be taken?

- Yes, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is the test required for our school.

### What should my major be in college?

- Your college major should be in an area of interest. Although about 80 percent of our applicants are science majors, it is not required. However, a series of science courses — including Chemistry, Physics, and Biology — are required for all applicants. Each year, we accept students with degrees in various subjects, including History, Business, Fine Arts, and Music. All have proven their ability to successfully complete science courses.

### Do you admit students from some schools more readily than others?

- An entering class represents 75 to 85 different colleges and universities. A cluster of students always comes from Pennsylvania State University and from the University of Pennsylvania. While several schools have three or four students admitted, most have only one or two representatives. Choose a competitive school and, most importantly, do well.



## What kind of experience do I need for my application?

- > It is important for every applicant to understand the practice of veterinary medicine. Volunteering or working in a veterinary clinic will help you realize there is far more to veterinary medicine than just caring for animals. If you are interested in companion animals, then you should work in a small-animal setting. If your interest is in large animals, then your choice should be a large-animal practice. If you are curious, then try both, or volunteer at a zoo or a wildlife rescue organization. If research is of interest to you, then get involved in a research project at your college or university. A minimum of 500 hours of experience is recommended.

## What are the prerequisite courses required for admission to Penn Vet?

- > The following courses are required for all applicants to enter the school:
  - > English 6 semester credits (at least 3 must be in composition)
  - > Social Sciences or Humanities 6 semester credits
  - > Physics 8 semester credits, including 2 laboratories
  - > Chemistry 12 semester credits, including laboratory in at least one course; 8 semester credits in general chemistry; and at least 4 semester credits in organic chemistry
  - > Biology or Zoology 9 semester credits, (3 courses) at least one of which must cover the basic principles of genetics
  - > Microbiology 3 semester credits
  - > Biochemistry 3 semester credits
  - > Calculus 3 semester credits
  - > Statistics 3 semester credits of any Introductory Statistics course
- > Although these are the basic prerequisites, many applicants in the current competitive market have taken more upper-level biology courses, and most have taken at least one semester of Biochemistry. Prerequisite classes must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or better to be accepted.

## Can I apply before I have completed all the prerequisite courses?

- > Yes, frequently prerequisites are completed during the application year. All prerequisite courses must be completed by July 20th prior to your matriculation into the school.

## How much does it cost to attend Penn Vet?

- > The current cost of tuition is \$51,384. Legal residents of Pennsylvania are awarded a subsidy each year as a result of Penn Vet funding by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## Are scholarships available for incoming students?

- > Recruitment scholarships help secure extraordinary students who will make an impact at Penn Vet and in the veterinary profession. Successful applicants will illustrate great potential, have a plan for the future, and showcase a plan for global impact in practicing veterinary medicine. While grades and test scores may be important, they are not the deciding factors in the selection process.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT PENN VET ADMISSIONS AND DOWNLOAD AN ADMISSIONS BROCHURE:**

<http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/admissions>

## Summer VETS Program

Penn Vet offers a Summer **V**eterinary **E**xploration **T**hrough **S**cience (VETS) program for college students and high school juniors and seniors who are interested in a close-up look at the science of veterinary medicine.

- Students will observe in rotations with fourth-year vet students and experience veterinary medicine throughout Penn Vet's Ryan Hospital for companion animals on the Philadelphia campus. Students will rotate through several clinical services, including Cardiology, Internal Medicine, Dentistry and Oral Surgery, Emergency/Critical Care, and Radiology.
- One day of each session will be devoted to New Bolton Center, Penn Vet's large animal campus in Kennett Square, PA. Students will tour the New Bolton Center hospital, Marshak Dairy, and Sports Medicine facilities.
- Special labs in Pathology, Microbiology, and Anatomy, created specifically for the Summer VETS students, will be taught by our renowned faculty and veterinary students.
- Students will attend several lectures on topics including Public Health, Toxicology, and Clinical Trials.
- Current Penn Vet students will hold a panel discussion about what it's like to attend veterinary school, giving participants a first-hand student perspective.
- Participants will speak with members of the Admissions Office. One-on-one sessions with an admissions officer can be arranged.

If you have an interest in a career in veterinary medicine, this program will provide an understanding of the challenges and rewards of the profession. You will engage with other students who share your passion and begin forging relationships with those who care about science and medicine for both animals and humans. Dates for the Summer VETS program will be available at [www.vet.upenn.edu/education/admissions/summer-vets-program](http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/admissions/summer-vets-program). Call 215-898-5434 or email [summervets@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:summervets@vet.upenn.edu) for more information.

