

# Pre-Veterinary Program

If you are interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, please read this page carefully. Included here are tips for successfully gaining admission to vet school, coursework requirements, and links to other sites that may be helpful to you. Please note that this information applies to people hoping to become veterinarians. If you wish to be a veterinary technician (vet tech) or similar, you may want to consider a technical school instead.

## What is the "Pre-Vet" Program at UWW?

First and foremost, there is no such thing as a "Pre-Vet" major at UW-Whitewater, or any other reputable university. The University does not offer a degree program in Pre-veterinary medicine. If you pursued a course of study that consists only of the minimum coursework required for admission to most vet schools (largely consisting of basic science credits from Biology, Chemistry and Physics), such a program will not satisfy the requirements for completion of a bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater. Incoming students should speak with the pre-vet advisor in Biological Sciences to discuss appropriate choice of major and minor.

## Choice of Major and Minor

Although a bachelor's degree is technically not required for admission to most vet schools, few students are accepted to vet school without one, and we advise that students consider completing the requirements for a degree at UW-Whitewater. A bachelor's degree in the sciences is not necessary, however. Schools of veterinary medicine admit students who have degrees in art, literature, political science, business, etc. Students with degrees in fields other than the sciences, however, must still also complete (and do well in) the science coursework to satisfy vet school admission requirements. For these reasons, most pre-vet students opt to major in biology, typically choosing the 54 unit Pre-Biomedical Professions Emphasis, which does not require a minor, but which incorporates the necessary credits in chemistry and physics. Alternatively, students may choose the 40 unit cell/physiology emphasis, which requires a minor (most students opt for a Chemistry or Physical Science minor). Again, however, other major and minor combinations are possible.

## Successful Admission to Vet School

Admission to a vet school is a highly competitive process. Minimally, you should strive to achieve the following goals to make yourself a good prospect for admission to a professional program in Veterinary Medicine:

- Maintain a minimum 3.5 grade-point average (GPA)
- Score well on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test
- Gain significant experience working directly with veterinarians (job shadowing), including experience with both large- and small-animal vets. Plan ahead. Vet schools are typically looking for a prospective student to have hundreds of hours of such experience. Also, part of the application process will require strong letters of recommendation from veterinarians – they can only write a strong letter if they know you well, and they can only know you well if you have spent a good deal of time with them.
- Other experience with animals is a plus and can help you stand out as a candidate, but does not replace job shadowing. Such experiences might include internships, work at a zoo, farm, shelter, animal training facility (e.g., stables, track), undergraduate research or other experiences above and beyond care of your own pets.
- Successful completion of minimum coursework requirements as specified by the vet school of choice. Although you should visit the website of any school you are considering, the Association

of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) also compiles this information, which can be found at this address: [http://www.aavmc.org/College-Specific-Requirements/College-Specific-Requirements\\_College-Specifications.aspx](http://www.aavmc.org/College-Specific-Requirements/College-Specific-Requirements_College-Specifications.aspx).

- See below for more information on applying to veterinary medical schools.

## Minimum Course Requirements

The following table indicates those UW-Whitewater courses that are required for admission to the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Veterinary Medicine (the school of choice for most UWW students). If you are considering applying to other vet schools, please consult them directly (or see the link above) for information about their requirements for academic preparation.

Requirement	Credits	UWW Courses which fulfill requirement
Statistics	3	Usually Biology 303 OR Psychology 215, but other 3 credit stats courses will also suffice
General Biology (zoology)	5	Biology 141 AND 142
Genetics	3	Biology 251
General Chemistry	8	Chemistry 102 AND 104
Organic Chemistry	3-4	Chemistry 251
Biochemistry	3	Chemistry 454 OR Biology/Chemistry 456
Physics	6	Physics 140 AND 141 (4 cr. each) OR Physics 180 AND 181 (4 cr. each)
Social Sciences/ Humanities	6	No specific coursework defined as long as minimum number of credits are earned in this discipline
English Composition	3-6	English 101 OR 102 OR 105
<b>Recommended by UW-Madison</b>	---	-----
Anatomy	3	Biology 340
Microbiology	3	Biology 311
Physiology	3	Biology 345
Cell/Molecular	3	Biology 253 (recommended) OR Biology 363

As you can see from studying this table, completion of the minimum coursework requirements will require at least two-three years of study at UW-Whitewater. In addition, some of these courses have pre-requisites of their own. Please consult the [UW-Whitewater Undergraduate Catalog](#) for complete details about course pre-requisites and other academic requirements (available online). Also, here is a link to the [UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine](#).

## How and When to Apply for Vet School

Application to most vet schools is through a centralized service, and applications are completed online at the AAVMC website. There is also a wealth of other helpful information at this website. Here is a link to the homepage: <http://www.aavmc.org/>. Applications are typically due by October 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> each year; the GRE must be taken by that date as well. Most students take the GRE in the spring of their junior year or early summer before their senior year, and apply through AAVMCA in October of their senior year. (If you apply to UW-Madison, they will also send you a supplementary application, due sometime in November. Matriculation is for the following Fall Semester.) You should be aware that each year, only about 80 seats are reserved for new students at UW-Madison, and most of these are reserved for residents of the state of Wisconsin.

### **UWW Pre-Vet Student Advisor**

Dr. Ellen Davis  
Upham 361  
(262) 472-5141  
[davise@uww.edu](mailto:davise@uww.edu)