

Pre-Veterinary Program at Messiah College

Messiah College has a proud tradition of preparing students for careers in Veterinary Medicine. While the academic and experiential requirements *may* vary by institution, most of them have similar requirements. Prospective applicants are encouraged to research the schools to which they may apply to best plan their curriculum. The purpose of this document is to present a brief outline of what is generally expected of successful applicants to Veterinary School, and how Messiah College prepares its students to meet and often exceed these requirements. You will note that at Messiah we have a Pre-Veterinary **Program**. Our program is best thought of as an overlay of courses that can be scheduled as part of most majors, with the exception of engineering and nursing.

Preparing for a Career in Veterinary Medicine

Description of the Profession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Labor <i>Occupational Outlook Handbook</i> www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm • www.explorehealthcareers.org
Course Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year general biology • 1 year general chemistry • 1 year organic chemistry • 1 year general physics • Most schools require additional courses (check the <i>Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements</i>; VMSAR; www.aavmc.org)
Application Timeline	Veterinary school directly after Messiah College: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required courses completed by end of junior year • Apply during summer between junior and senior years
Standardized Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually Graduate Record Exam (GRE) (check VMSAR) • Given virtually daily at computer test centers • Register on-line (www.gre.org) • Length 3 h • 3 sections : verbal (scores 200-800), quantitative (200-800), analytical writing (0-6) • Receive scores immediately • A few schools require either the MCAT or the GRE Biology Subject Test
Application Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) (www.aavmc.org) • Available late May or June • APPLY EARLY!!!
Admissions Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall and science GPA (check VMSAR for #'s) • Standardized test scores (usually GRE) (check VMSAR for #'s) • Animal-related experience • 3 separate letters of evaluation • Leadership and communication skills • Commitment to service • Interview

Length of Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinary school: 4 years• Optional 1 year internship following veterinary school• Optional 2-3 year residency following internship
Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)
Additional Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (www.aavmc.org)• American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org)• Cornell Veterinary Medicine Newsletter (www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/newsletters.htm)