



GENERAL TIPS & STRATEGIES



APPLY

via Veterinary Medical
College Application
Service (VMCAS)

or our website:

veterinary.rossu.edu

VMCAS

Opens in January and submissions are accepted May through September for DVM programs the following year

ROSS VET WEBSITE

No deadlines, but ideally submitted approximately 3–4 months prior to the term you would like to begin: January, May, or September



START EARLY

Set weekly goals for each task/application section



REVIEW YOUR TRANSCRIPTS



GET IT TOGETHER

Gather documents, identify relevant experiences, dates, and contact information. Identify letter writers (evaluators) for your recommendation letters



Helpful Hint: Take your time with your responses. Review everything carefully before submitting and make sure all documents are included!

ACADEMIC PROFILE & EVIDENCE OF ACADEMIC READINESS

Transcripts of all schools attended; the Admissions Committee will consider the following:

- Overall CGPA, pre-requisite courses CGPA, advanced science CGPA, and CGPA of any post-bac or graduate courses
- Trends through the four years: repeats (Ws, Ds, Fs); did you finish strong with an upward trend?
- A Bachelor's degree is not required and your program of study is not a strong determining factor; **GRADES ARE!**

Tips regarding grades

- Any Fs on transcript SHOULD be repeated, any F/Ds in pre-requisite courses HAVE to be repeated, and any other science F/Ds SHOULD be repeated
- If raising your science GPA is a goal, instead of repeating Cs consider taking advanced science courses such as Anatomy & Physiology, Immunology, Zoology, Medical Terminology, etc., and striving for a B or better
- Provide a personal statement to explain any academic 'miscues,' or rough classes, semesters, or years. Besides explaining what happened, also discuss what you learned, how you 'course-corrected,' and what strategies you implemented to improve

GRE—general with verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections:

- Focus on quantitative and analytical writing, which provides evidence of your math, problem solving, and critical thinking skills
- Take full length practice tests (consider timing and test-taking strategies)

Give thought to study habits and strategies:

- **Are you a proactive learner?** Do you prepare ahead for lecture or review notes daily?
- **Are you organized with a good time management system?** Do you keep a structured study routine?
- **Are you an active learner?** Do you design study guides, consider problem and application-based learning, do you draw, chart, or outline concepts? Do you make up quizzes or games to assist with understanding concepts instead of just memorizing? Do you utilize a study buddy or study group?
- **Do you ask for help and utilize academic resources?** Do you take advantage of tutoring or review sessions?

Research: Any topic or experience. This indicates active learning, critical thinking, and a curious mind

Academic letter of recommendation:

This should come from a professor you have a good relationship with, who can speak to your academic characteristics (your engagement in learning, timeliness, group work, etc.) and one who, where possible, can speak to your active learning methods and ability to be a critical thinker

UNDERSTANDING THE PROFESSION

A solid knowledge of the professional demands, expectations and obligations, and evidence of your professional readiness will help you stand out as a DVM candidate.

Experience with animals:

- Exposure to small and large animals beneficial
- When describing your experience, focus on what you learned, such as skills or competencies gained, not so much on tasks and responsibilities
- Minimum of 150 hours under the supervision of a DVM
- Use your Curriculum Vitae (CV) or Resume to highlight your experience working with animals; additional hours in husbandry beneficial (shelters, boarding, farm/ranch hand, etc.)

Professional letter of recommendation:

This should come from a DVM you have a good relationship with who will speak to your teamwork, curiosity about the profession, professionalism with clients and co-workers, etc.

Essay/personal statement response that explains a defining moment that helped steer you toward a career in veterinary medicine:

- Discuss how you would contribute to the profession and patient care, all of which will help you stand out from other applicants
- Explain why you are good candidate for veterinary school—in a pile of 100 applications, would you enjoy reading your statement?
- Convey your passion for veterinary medicine in your statement
- Avoid repeating information from your transcripts or reference letters
- Ask yourself if this essay is a good representation of your character, ideals, and aspirations

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS AS A DVM STUDENT AND FUTURE PROFESSIONAL

Provide evidence of your positive personal characteristics and qualities through the following:

- Participation in clubs and organizations, including leadership responsibilities
- Work experiences (animal or non-animal related) that identifies teamwork, responsibility, and accountability
- Experiences outside of your comfort zone that exposed you to different people, cultures, and activities with opportunities for personal growth
- Long term commitment to a demanding extracurricular activity (sports, music, arts)
- Letters of recommendation should address your personal, educational, and professional growth and maturity
- Personal statement/response to essay question
- Interview

Committee and application reviewers will look for the following qualities:

- Resiliency and persistence to cope with the rigor, demands, and expectations of both a DVM education and the veterinary profession
- Commitment and dedication to the journey ahead; a curiosity, open mindedness, and a love of learning; to take responsibility and initiative for lifelong learning
- Excellent communication skills; an ability to communicate professionally with your peers and colleagues, articulate with detail and examples, and be a good listener who is aware of what your body language communicates
- Excellent interpersonal skills; friendly, personable, engaging, approachable
- Confidence and poise—a maturity to be able to cope with new experiences

PREPARING FOR THE INTERVIEW

- Dress professionally (applicable to virtual interviews as well).
- Be prepared to demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills; consider body language, listening skills, as well as the ability to be articulate—provide robust responses with good detail and examples.
- Review information about the school you are interviewing with: Why does the school appeal to you? Why would it be a good fit? What do you like about the program?
- Review your transcript and be prepared to discuss any poor grades and/or difficult semesters: what will you do differently to be successful in the DVM program?
- Prepare to discuss your experiences, including what you gained, specific skills and competencies learned, what you enjoyed, and specifically how these experiences helped you grow personally and professionally.

