

Your Application Profile: A Self Assessment

Veterinary medical colleges are looking for a variety of characteristics in their successful applicants. These characteristics include a strong GPA, high GRE/MCAT scores, the quality of your degree-granting institution, significant veterinary experience with a variety of animals, strong interpersonal and communication skills, and an understanding of the profession.

In light of these variables, it is important that you are able to step back and assess your developing profile as an applicant to veterinary medical colleges. What are the strengths of your developing application profile? What are areas in need of attention? What are ways you can improve your overall application?

Consider the following self-inventory. Be honest with yourself as you confidentially rate yourself according to the following scale:

Ratings: 1 = needs considerable improvement
 2 = needs some improvement
 3 = OK
 4 = very good shape
 5 = outstanding

- Your involvement in veterinary-related experiences
- Your involvement with a variety of different animals
- Your involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Your ability to present yourself in person
- Your ability to present yourself in writing
- How well you relate to others
- Ways you exhibit independence or initiative or perseverance
- Ways you exhibit leadership skills
- Your sense of purpose and motivation
- Your sense of intellectual curiosity
- Your common sense
- Your ability to handle stressful situations
- Your interest in science and veterinary research
- Your breadth of interests
- Your familiarity with current issues in veterinary medicine
- How you will distinguish yourself as a candidate

- ___ How well your professors and advisors know you
- ___ Strength of your overall undergraduate or post-bacc grade point average
- ___ Strength of your standardized test scores
- ___ Your time management skills
- ___ Ways you have expanded your comfort level
- ___ Your problem-solving and critical thinking ability

Now, for each of these variables for which it is appropriate, and for which you have given yourself at least a '3,' think of one 'best example' (story or anecdote) that illustrates this variable. Does the strength of your example match your rating?

What area(s) are you going to focus on next? How (be specific) are you going to proceed?

This self-assessment is modified from "The Advisor" March 2000/Vol. 20, No.2 "Assessing Your Application Profile: A Workshop for Pre-Health Students" by David Verrier, Ph.D. and Gale Lang, MSW