



Prehealth Programs: Veterinary Medicine

CU-BOULDER ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER, PREPROFESSIONAL OFFICE
<http://advising.colorado.edu> (click on prehealth, at left)

IS THIS CAREER FOR YOU?

There are approximately 61,447 active veterinarians in the US. Most of them work in private practice. Many restrict their practices to either small companion animals, to large animals, or to a single species, for example, exclusively to cats, cattle, or horses. Some veterinarians become certified as specialists through advanced training and experience.

Expanding career opportunities exist for veterinarians with postgraduate education in molecular biology, laboratory animal medicine, toxicology, diagnostic pathology, public health, immunology, environmental medicine or other specialties. Approximately 8,934 veterinarians are employed in universities and colleges, governmental agencies, military services, industry and areas other than private practice.

For more information on veterinary science, keep in touch with the prehealth advisor in Old Main 1B-90, (303) 735-3000. If you are a current CU student, you may schedule an appointment at <http://aac.colorado.edu>.

There is also an e-mail list serve for useful information regarding events, opportunities, applications, etc. Sign up for announcements specific to Veterinary Medicine and/or other health fields at <http://advising.colorado.edu/healthlist/>.

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR

Years ago, vet school applicants were advised to major in biology or a related science. This is no longer true. Admission is not contingent upon which major you choose, but rather on how well you succeed in your courses. Therefore, you should choose a major that interests you and in which you will do well. Also, consider whether your major will provide a good alternative if you don't get into vet school.

PREPARATION FOR THE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Note: This section focuses on information relevant to the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine. If you are not a Colorado resident, you should consult the book *Veterinary Medicine Admissions Requirements*, published annually by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, as prerequisites can vary considerably between vet schools.

For CSU you will need to complete all the prerequisite courses below with a grade of C or higher. An undergraduate degree is not absolutely required, however, most students accepted into the program do hold a degree. A degree provides a good alternative if your plans to attend vet school do not materialize.

The CSU College of Veterinary Medicine requires that you complete 60 semester hours of acceptable college work, including those below. In addition to these courses, it is strongly recommended that you take science courses in areas such as: cell biology, microbiology, physiology, developmental biology/embryology. Other useful courses include nutrition, anatomy, histology, computer science and other advanced sciences. If you have advanced placement credit for any course below, CSU admissions personnel would like to see actual performance in a college level course--normally by taking a higher level course in the subject area. Also, if you have received a C grade and would like to demonstrate improved performance, you should take a more advanced course rather than repeating the same course in order to show your competence. Remember that a C is minimally acceptable in any required course. The CU equivalents for CSU requirements are as follows:

Biological Sciences

- 1 semester credit of lab associated with a biology course
- Genetics (3 semester credits) EBIO 2070, or MCDB 2150 Note: Each of

these courses has slightly different prerequisites.

Chemistry

- 1 semester credit of lab associated with a chemistry course
- Biochemistry (3 semester credits) CHEM 4611 or 4711 Note: The CU prerequisites for this course are: CHEM 1111-1131 and CHEM 3311-3321, 3331-3341

Physics (4 semester credits with lab)

- PHYS 2010 (algebra-based), or
- the sequence PHYS 1110-1120-1140 (calculus-based; requires Calc1 and Calc2).

Statistics (3 semester credits)

- PSYC 3101, or IPHY 2800, or MATH 2510, or EBIO 4410, or EDUC 5716, or ECON 3818, or BCOR 2010, or APPM 4520, or MCEN 4120, or any standard introductory statistics course, upper division preferred.

English Composition (3 sem. credits)

Any WRTG course or EBIO 3940 or IPHY 3700.

Humanities/Social Sciences (12 sem. creds.) Any 12 credits of coursework

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Since almost all animals treated by veterinarians have human owners with whom the DVM will have to communicate effectively, the profession seeks new members who are not only interested in animals, but who also enjoy a high level of contact with people. Involvement outside the classroom in activities such as clubs or in service organizations gives evidence of leadership ability, social skills, energy, motivation, and a desire to serve the community.

The Admissions Committee also looks for applicants who have gained an understanding of animals and of the profession through participation in such activities as 4-H, Medical Explorer Scouts, or research, and through paid or volunteer work on farms or ranches, in kennels, animal shelters, rescue operations, labora-

PREHEALTH PROGRAMS:

tories, zoos, or veterinary clinics. The average applicant has spent the equivalent of one summer (about 500 plus hours) working with a veterinarian and an equivalent time working with animals in other capacities. Applicants should show a continuing commitment to a career focused on animal/people interactions. They should also become acquainted with a veterinarian who would be able to evaluate motivation toward, and understanding of, the profession.

PREHEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The **Vet Club** is an active prehealth club on campus. To join, send an e-mail to the current president, listed on the Prehealth Advising website

(<http://advising.colorado.edu>, click on Prehealth), under Student Groups. In addition, CSU typically has an open house in early April, with tours, talks and other activities. To find out more, keep in contact with the Vet Club. You can also check Healthlist emails and the Events Calendar on the Prehealth Advising website.

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is a prehealth honor society for those interested in health careers. You can email AED at aed@colorado.edu, or stop by their office in the UMC, or visit their web site at <http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/aed> for more information.

The **Student Association for Prehealth Professionals (SAPP)** represents a community of students at CU-Boulder whose goal is to provide an organization in which students interested in all areas of medicine can come together and learn more about the many professions, receive academic or personal guidance, and get detailed advice on applying to health professions programs. Within SAPP there are specialized subgroups for areas such as medicine, nursing, physician assistant, etc. Membership is open to all CU students. You can e-mail email SAPP at prhlth@colorado.edu, or visit their web site at: <http://www.colorado.edu/studentgroups/prhealth>.

All information in this publication is subject to change. Please check with the prehealth advisor, or with the appropriate school for up-to-date information.

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Take the time during your undergraduate career to nurture meaningful relationships with people who you respect, including professors, employers or professionals you meet during extracurricular work. If a professor's research excites you, arrange to do research and/or an honors thesis under his or her direction. Most vet schools require letters of recommendation, and heart-felt letters of enthusiasm are evident compared to the "boiler-plate" variety that emerge when professors are asked to submit dozens of letters for students they barely know.

Application Year

The application deadline is Oct. 1. The application is online and is available through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). In addition, a supplemental PVM application to the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is required. Both of these online application processes may be accessed through the Colorado State web site portal at: <http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/>.

For more specifics about the application process see the CSU Vet School webpage at <http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/prevetadvisorpge.html>. You may also contact the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at CSU directly. The preferred means of contact is by e-mail. If you are more than one year from filing your application for vet school, or have general preveterinary questions not answered on the CSU website, the appropriate contact is PreVetAdvisor@colostate.edu. If you are within one year of applying to veterinary school, or have specific admissions question not answered on the CSU web site, the appropriate contact is DVMAmissions@colostate.edu.

For vet schools in other states, be sure to check the school website for application procedures.

For help with your application essay, look for Application Essay Writing workshops sponsored by the Preprofessional Advising Office each year.

VETERINARY

GRE REQUIREMENTS

CSU requires that you take the GRE, general test only. The scores must be received at CSU by at least October 1 of the year in which you file your application. You will also be asked to *unofficially* report your GRE scores when you file the CSU supplemental application.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

You must have three (and only three) recommenders send references to VMCAS using the electronic submissions system (eLOR) or VMCAS reference forms. One letter should be from a DVM in a classical or alternative profession. Other references may include a university/college advisor or professor or recent employer.

INTERVIEWS

Selection for interviewing is based on a combination of academic achievement and on evaluation of the information provided in the application form. All qualified sponsored applicants will be interviewed. Students applying as non-sponsored, or sponsored from a WICHE state, will be admitted on the strength of the application file. The Preprofessional Advising office sponsors Interview Strategies workshops. In addition, videotaped practice interviews are available once you have an official interview scheduled. Contact the Preprofessional Advising office at prepro@colorado.edu or call 303-735-3000.

Vital Statistics (from the CSU Veterinary Medicine Dept. - 2004)

- Applications to acceptance ratio: 3:1 (CO residents)
- Total applications received: 1,377
- Median age of students: 24
- GPA average: cumulative: 3.55
- In-state yearly tuition: \$12,066
- Mean income of new graduates in private practice: \$48,004
- Mean income of all professionals in private practice: \$83,979

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
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