**ROSS UNIVERSITY VETERINARY MEDICINE ACADEMIC COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS**

Veterinary science involves working with animals as patients and working with others to aid in the holistic care of animals. Veterinarians are responsible for treating and diagnosing disease, preventing disease, providing care to a wide range of animals or specializing in the care of one species, and working with animal owners regarding best practices of care.

Being Pre-Veterinary at Cleveland State University is not a major. Most pre-veterinary students choose to major in Biology, but you can choose any major and complete the prerequisites for veterinary school.

Cleveland State University is fortunate to have a partnership program with Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, an American Veterinary Medicine accredited institution outside of the United States. Ross University SVM is located on the island of St. Kitts.

In addition to the requirements outlined, students are also required to:

- Maintain an overall Grade Point Average of 3.2 or higher
- A Grade Point Average of 3.00 or higher in all courses designated by RUSVM as pre-requisites for admission
- No F, D, or C- grade in any pre-requisite course designated by RUSVM (all pre-requisite coursework must have been completed within the past ten years)
- A score in the 25th percentile or better in each category of the Graduate Record Examination (in the case of multiple attempts, the highest score is taken from each section)

**Course Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 200/201/202/203</td>
<td>Intro Biology I/II/Labs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 261/262/266/267</td>
<td>General Chemistry I/II/Labs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHM 331/336</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I/Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY 221 OR 231</td>
<td>College Physics I/II Biomed Apps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 306 OR CHM 402</td>
<td>Biochem/Molec Bio or Biochem I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 308/309 or 310/311</td>
<td>Cell Biology or Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 101</td>
<td>English Composition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math 147 or 167 or 168 or 181</td>
<td>Choose at least one of: Statistics, Pre-Calc I/II, Calculus I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nine semester hours of electives. Choose at least one from approved list.</td>
<td>Comparative Anatomy, Med Terminology, Microbiology, Nutrition, Physiology, Foreign Language, Public Speaking, Introduction to Business</td>
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**Additional Course Recommendations:** Please review other school requirements as the average applicant applies to 4-7 veterinary programs.

The above list is not comprehensive for all veterinary schools and programs. Each school may have slightly different requirements and it is the responsibility of the student to take prerequisite courses according to the schools they plan to apply to.
**APPLYING TO VETERINARY SCHOOL**

The application process to veterinary school is a rigorous one. Being that there are only 30 veterinary schools to apply to, students need to be competitive in order to get admitted. Most veterinary schools accept the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) as the entrance exam to veterinary school. All of the veterinary schools use the VMCAS system for applications. It is a centralized system where students complete the first application. The application opens each year in early May. Application deadlines are set by the institutions, but all applications must be in VMCAS by mid-September each year to be considered. It is important to follow all directions and deadlines carefully.

The actual application itself contains many parts. You should start as early as possible to give yourself as much time as possible to complete the application.

Below are the main components of the application:

- **Academic Record/Transcripts**
- **Extracurricular/Work Experience/Publications**
- **Test Scores (GRE)**
- **Personal Statement (5000 character limit)**
- **Letters of Reference**

After you submit your application, you will be expected to complete any secondary applications for the individual institutions that you applied to. Schools will then invite you to interview. You will be expected to discuss your motivation for veterinary medicine, personal/professional goals, and assessment of current health issues. You are usually provided with information about the school’s interviewing process.

You can get help with all areas of the application—reviewing your personal statement, GPA calculation questions, mock interviewing—through the College of Sciences and Health Professional Pre-Professional Programs.

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**GAINING EXPERIENCE**

Student organization involvement/leadership, volunteer work, research experience, job shadowing—there are so many options when it comes to creating a well-rounded resume. In addition to the coursework, veterinary schools want to see well-rounded and committed applicants.

Most veterinary schools require at least one letter of reference from a current veterinarian and therefore shadowing is paramount. You can shadow one veterinarian or several. In addition, students often have 1200+ hours of veterinary or animal experience to portray their commitment to the field.

What is the best way to find someone to shadow? Please see the helpful tips below for tips and tricks when it comes to finding a veterinarian to shadow.

- If you have a relationship with your family veterinarian, start by asking that person!
- Conduct an online search of vets in the area.
- Call the office and get an email address so you can send a professional email (in the form of a shortened cover letter) along with your resume.
- When you email, make sure to state your intent. How long do you want the shadowing experience to last? What do you hope to achieve through the experience?
- Treat any interaction like an interview. Be professional at all times.
- Even if the vet says no or not at this time, thank them and let them know you would like to shadow in the future if an opportunity arises.

Please keep in mind, you need to be selective in what you do to add to their application. Make sure to plan carefully and early. Also, think about how the people you meet through all of your experiences could help you as you apply to veterinary schools. You never know who you interact with that can have a positive (or negative) impact on your candidacy for veterinary school.

If you have additional questions about shadowing or other experiences, visit the Coordinator for Pre-Professional Health Programs!