

Pre-veterinary studies at Goshen College

Veterinarians are most commonly employed in private practice. Most choose to specialize in either large (e.g., horses, cows) or small (e.g., cats, dogs) animals, but several other types of specialization are available. Job opportunities also exist in industrial settings, in governmental agencies and in research or education at universities. The role of the veterinarian continues to change over the years and this change creates even more opportunities in this growing field.

Why study pre-vet at Goshen College?

Veterinary schools are very selective. To gain entrance into such a school, you will need a strong background in the sciences. Goshen College can give you the academic foundation to begin your veterinary studies. There are also many convenient opportunities to gain experience with animals, required by most veterinary programs.

Academic excellence

Goshen College has an excellent record in preparing students to succeed in the sciences.

- Goshen students who apply to post-graduate programs have a historically high rate of success. In the past 10 years, 82 percent of GC students who have applied to medical school have been accepted.
- In a recent study by Franklin and Marshall College of over 500 undergraduate institutions, Goshen College ranked in the top 5 percent for its percentage of graduates who earned Ph.D.s in life sciences.
- In a comparison to 70 undergraduate institutions in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, Goshen was number one in the percentage of graduates who received Ph.D.s in the life sciences.

Excellent facilities

Renovated in 1992, the Science Building and Schrock Annex provides modern laboratory and research facilities. Its comfortable and safe research labs are well-ventilated and well-equipped for basic research in the biochemical, genetic, cellular, molecular, vertebrate, aquatic and marine areas.

Opportunities to work closely with faculty

Students can interact personally with the science faculty in classes, labs and research activities.

- The student-faculty ratio is 12:1, giving students the opportunity to work one-on-one with their professors.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in various undergraduate research projects directed by faculty members.

- Many students work with professors as lab assistants.

Opportunities to gain experience

Students will find many opportunities to gain valuable experience (paid or volunteer) in and around GC.

- Most Goshen College students spend a semester abroad in GC's unique Study-Service Term (SST). During SST, students spend six weeks volunteering in a service location. Students interested in veterinary studies may be able to spend their six-week period of service volunteering on a farm or other location where they will gain unique experience with animals.
- There are several veterinary clinics in the Goshen area (one within one mile of GC), where students may find paid or volunteer work.

Suggested plan of study

Veterinary programs do not have a universal list for prerequisite classes. The following schedule meets basic admission requirements at nearly all schools. Some schools require one or two additional classes.

	<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>May Term</i>
First year	Biological Principles I General Chemistry I Literature and Writing General education/electives	Biological Principles II General Chemistry II Expository Writing General education/electives	Oral Comm
Second year	Organic Chemistry I Calculus I* General education/electives	Organic Chemistry II General education/electives	SST
Third/ fourth year	General Physics I Biochemistry Microbial Biology General education/electives	General Physics II Genetics General education/electives	General education/ elective

*Most schools require completion of at least college-level algebra or pre-calculus. Calculus I is a prerequisite for General Physics and is also required by Purdue University Veterinary school.

Many schools also require or recommend:

Anatomy and Physiology	Vertebrate Physiology
Developmental Vertebrate Biology	Zoology
Humanities	Molecular Cell Biology
Psychology	Animal Nutrition **
Sociology	Business (Bus 121)
Statistics	Principles of Accounting (Acc 201)

** Purdue University requires animal nutrition; it may be taken over the summer before starting veterinary school, after the student has already been admitted. It is offered by Purdue, Cornell and possibly other sites as a Web-based course.

To find the specific prerequisites for the schools you are interested in, check the *Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements* booklet, found in the science secretary's office.

Applying to veterinary school

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) runs a uniform application process for nearly all veterinary schools. Each application is first processed by VMCAS, and then is forwarded to schools that the applicant is interested in. Be sure to check the application deadline for all schools you are interested in. Many are as early as November of the year prior to enrollment. Keep in mind that most schools have much stricter requirements for out-of-state applicants than for in-state applicants.

Veterinary schools base their acceptance of students on many factors besides classes taken in undergraduate study. These include:

- *GPA*: While most veterinary programs have a stated minimum GPA of 2.5-3.0, it is wise to maintain a GPA of above 3.0 to remain competitive. In recent years, the mean GPA of accepted students has ranged from 3.3 to 3.6.
- *Standardized test scores*: Not all schools require applicants to take the Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT). In fact, most schools require the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) instead. Some schools even accept MCAT scores. Plan on taking the GRE and perhaps the VCAT.
- *Experience*: Experience in working with animals or at a veterinary clinic is strongly recommended. Most schools require some experience with animals. Many ask for a reference from a veterinarian, as well as personal references.

Faculty advisers

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Additional resources

Goshen College Pre-professional Programs Web site:
http://www.goshen.edu/bio/pre_prof/prehome.html

Biology department Web site:
<http://www.goshen.edu/bio/biology.html>

Chemistry department Web site:
<http://www.goshen.edu/chemistry/>

American Veterinary Medical Association Web site:
<http://www.avma.org/>

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges Web site:
<http://www.aavmc.org>