



Health Professions & Veterinary Medicine

FOR students interested in the human health professions or veterinary medicine, undergraduate study at Virginia Tech provides a solid academic background for graduate or professional school. Academic advisors are available to guide students planning to pursue careers in medicine, dentistry, optometry, pharmacy, physical therapy, clinical science, or veterinary medicine.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Your primary academic advisor is assigned to you by the department in which you plan to attain your degree. Additional guidance on the specific requirements of professional schools is available from the following persons: pre-veterinary students should contact Joyce Bohr Massie, Admissions Coordinator, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary

Medicine (see reverse); pre-medical or pre-dental students should contact Dr. George Simmons in the University Honors office on the first floor of Hillcrest Hall. (Enrollment in University Honors is not required for consultation with the pre-medical/pre-dental advising office.) Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences should contact Dr. Jacquelyn

Pelzer, Career Services Coordinator, 1360 Litton Reaves Hall. Students interested in other health professions should discuss their plans with their departmental advisor to determine if they need additional advising.

CHOOSING A MAJOR

Any major is acceptable to medical or dental school as long as students satisfy admission requirements. Although pre-health professions students tend to be concentrated in a few disciplines (bio-

chemistry; biology; chemistry; engineering; human nutrition, food and exercise; and psychology), recent research demonstrates that the non-science major not only has an equal opportunity for admission to

medical school, but also performs at the same level as the undergraduate science major.

ADMISSION TO HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS

In general, admission to health professions schools depends upon academic achievement in college (only high achievers are successful), performance on national standardized tests, motivation, and letters of recommendation. Normally, successful applicants have obtained some experience in their chosen field prior to admission. Virginia Tech graduates who apply to medical school gain admission at a rate that exceeds the national average of 45 percent.

Most medical and dental schools and other health professions programs include the following college

courses among their admission requirements:

- » *Mathematics*
- » *Biology + lab*
- » *Biochemistry*
- » *General Chemistry + lab*
- » *Organic Chemistry + lab*
- » *Physics + lab*

Specific prerequisites vary widely among the medical and dental schools. The student should review the prerequisites for the specific school(s) of their interest to make certain all such courses have been accounted for by the time of application.

Most medical schools require students to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Normally, students take this test in the spring before applying to medical school. Additional information for individual medical schools is listed at www.aacom.org for osteopathic medical schools and at www.aamc.org for allopathic medical schools.

Students must take the Dental Admission Test (DAT) before applying to dental school. Specific dental school requirements are listed at www.ADEA.org.

For veterinary medical school requirements, see the back of this sheet.

Contact Us

If you have questions or want more detailed information about pre-health professions advising, contact the academic advisor in your department. Pre-medical or pre-dental students should contact:

Tammy Craft
Pre-Med/Pre-Dental Secretary
or
Dr. Thomas Sitz
Director of Pre-Medical Studies

137 Hillcrest Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540/231-4591
E-mail: honors@vt.edu
Web: www.univhonors.vt.edu

Pre-veterinary students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences should contact:

Dr. Jacquelyn Pelzer
Career Services Coordinator
1360 Litton Reaves Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540/231-6939
E-mail: jpelzer@vt.edu



Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

TODAY'S VETERINARIAN

With a firm basis in the biomedical sciences, the veterinarian of today has an opportunity and obligation to help create and advance the body of medical knowledge that serves society. People have always

had a profound interest in maintaining their animals' health and welfare because of their dependence on animals for food, textiles, companionship, and sport. There are over 86,000 professional veterinarians

in the United States today, about three-fourths of whom are engaged in private practice and one-fourth who work in various areas of government and corporate veterinary medicine.

CHOOSING A MAJOR

The required courses and a proficiency in the sciences are essential to understanding veterinary medicine, but concentration in the sciences is not necessary for admission. Pre-veterinary students

most often major in animal and poultry sciences, biochemistry, biological sciences, dairy science, or fisheries and wildlife science. Students who elect majors other than biological sciences or chemistry

should include some courses in advanced biology or advanced chemistry in their undergraduate programs. Suggested electives include anatomy, genetics, microbiology, and nutrition.

Students in the College of Science can contact:
Dr. Robin Andrews, or Dr. Brent Opell, Pre-Vet Advisors, College of Science
2089 Derring Hall
phone: 540/231-2407; e-mail: randrews@vt.edu, or bopell@vt.edu

Students in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences can contact:
Dr. Jacquelyn Pelzer, Career Services Coordinator
1360 Litton Reaves Hall
phone: 540/231-6939; e-mail: jpelzer@vt.edu

PREPARATION & APPLICATION

Students seeking admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine must show evidence of intellectual ability and achievement, as well as personal preparedness for the program. Prior to entering the college, applicants must have completed 60 semester hours with a 2.8 minimum GPA on a 4.0 scale. Alternatively, students who achieve a GPA of 3.3 over the last two years of college work will be considered to have met the minimum entry requirement. Courses taken during these two years must be at the junior or senior level. Applicants must have taken the general examination of the Graduate Record Examination on or after October 1, 2002.

The following required courses must be completed by the end of the spring term of the year for

which the application is being made:

8 SEMESTER CREDITS EACH	6 SEMESTER CREDITS EACH
<i>Biological sciences + lab</i>	<i>English</i>
<i>Organic chemistry + lab</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>
<i>Physics + lab</i>	<i>Humanities/social sciences</i>

Students must complete three semester credits of biochemistry before entering the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The majority of students apply during the fall of their junior year in college. It is not necessary to have completed a bachelor's degree program before applying; however, most students will have completed

three or more years at an accredited university by the time of matriculation.

To apply, students must follow the instructions on the current Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine admissions website, www.vetmed.vt.edu, and submit a completed Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS) application prior to the year they seek admission. For more information, contact: VMRCVM Admissions Office, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; 540/231-4699.

Admission to the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine is awarded on a competitive basis. Applications by individuals from underrepresented groups are actively encouraged.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Although the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of animal diseases remains a major emphasis, the educational background of today's veterinarian provides a perspective in solving medical, agricultural, and ecological problems. The need for veterinarians with specialized knowledge has grown during the past two decades in such areas as:

- » *Animal behavior*
- » *Aquatic medicine*
- » *Comparative medicine*
- » *Epidemiology/public health*
- » *Laboratory animal medicine*
- » *Legal & environmental medicine*
- » *Marine biology*
- » *Nutrition*
- » *Scientific administration*
- » *Toxicology*
- » *Tropical medicine*
- » *Wildlife management*

Contact Us

If you have questions or want more detailed information about the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact:

Joyce Bohr Massie, Admissions Coordinator
VMRCVM Admissions Office
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540/231-4699
Fax: 540/231-9290
E-mail: dvmadmit@vt.edu
Web: www.vetmed.vt.edu

If you have questions about admission to Virginia Tech, please contact:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions
201 Burruss Hall
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540/231-6267
Fax: 540/231-3242
E-mail: vtadmiss@vt.edu
Web: www.vt.edu