



Admissions Do's and Don'ts

The Do's: We encourage applicants to include the following items in order to submit a complete application to our program. These are the Do's of a successful application. This should be considered a guide and is not an absolute list.

Do Complete the VMCAS Application and Submit by September 17

Academic History

- Send **all** transcripts and GRE Scores (School Code 4984) to VMCAS
- Identify and be on track to complete prerequisite coursework prior to matriculation

Noncognitive Criteria (VMCAS Supporting Information: Experiences and Awards)

Applicants are evaluated on all of the following experience categories and are encouraged to include experience in all applicable areas including those from high school.

- Animal Experience:** Includes farm and ranch experience, 4-H membership, personal pets, pet sitting, animal training, or similar activities that were **not under the supervision of a veterinarian**. Experiences listed as Animal Experience should be different from those entered for Veterinary and Employment experiences.
 - Employment Experience:** Includes paid work done outside of the animal or veterinary field - for example, a retail or restaurant job. Do not include any experiences listed as Veterinary, Animal, or Research.
 - Research Experience:** Includes any animal and veterinary research, as well as other field and/or laboratory-based research. Include specific details about your work/involvement, including whether the research experience provided an opportunity to present or publish.
 - Veterinary Experience:** Includes any veterinary clinical, agribusiness, or health science experiences **that took place under the supervision of a veterinarian**. Experiences listed as Veterinary Experience should be different from those entered for Animal and Employment experiences. Do not list any veterinary research experience.
 - Extracurricular Experience:** Includes all extracurricular activities including (but are not limited to) participation in sports, clubs, music, arts, hobbies, etc.
 - Volunteer/Community Enrichment:** Includes experiences outside of the animal care field - for example, Habitat for Humanity, tutoring students, participating in or working for a fundraiser walk or blood drive, etc.
 - Awards, Honors, and Scholarships:** Honors and awards may include (but are not limited to) Dean's List, President's List, National Honor Society membership, and leadership positions in clubs, organizations, religious groups, and athletics. Achievements, leadership ability, and participation in academic and other activities will be evaluated carefully. These activities need not be directly affiliated with animals or veterinary medicine.
- Evaluations or Letters of Recommendation:** Each applicant should obtain a minimum of **three** evaluations (the program will accept up to **six** evaluations) to aid the Admissions Committee in assessing personal traits. The best individuals for these evaluations are those who know the applicant well enough to provide meaningful comments.
- Letter from a **veterinarian** with whom the applicant has interacted fairly extensively
 - Evaluation from a current or former **academic** (professor, teaching assistant, laboratory instructor or academic advisor)
 - Additional letter from individuals who can evaluate the oral and written communications skills as well as the scientific background of the application
 - Up to three additional letters
- Essay Questions:** the VMCAS essay question will be split out into 3 distinct questions, all of which will be required for all applicants. These questions provide applicants an opportunity to make a case as to why they are the best possible student for the DVM program.

- ❑ **Do Complete the WSU/WIMU Supplemental Application and Submit By September 24**
- ❑ **Do Complete your Residency Certification: Due Dates Vary**
 - ❑ **WIMU Residents (Due September 1, 2019):** Residents of the states of Idaho, Montana, and Utah must certify with their state to be considered in their resident pool. You will be considered in the nonresident applicant pool, if you do not certify.
 - ❑ **WICHE Residents (Due date determined by WICHE Office):** Applicants from WICHE states (AZ, HI, NV, NM, ND, WY, MT) must certify as residents to be considered in the WICHE applicant pool. Applicants should contact their state WICHE office for residency certification requirements and deadlines.

The Don'ts: The following items are considered red flags on an application. These are the Don'ts of a successful application. This should be considered a guide and is not an absolute list.

Don't Have Missing Experience Categories

The Admissions Committee utilizes the experience categories to evaluate the applicant's on various noncognitive criteria, such as motivation, communication and teamwork skills, compassion and empathy, professionalism, integrity and ethics, maturity, experience with a veterinarian in your desired area of interest, and knowledge of the profession. With the exception of research, applicants should consider all experience categories required. Research experience is highly valued but not necessarily available or relevant to all applicants.

Don't Have Multiple "W"ithdrawals

While the Admissions Committee understands there are situations where a student must withdraw from classes, this should not be a regular occurrence.

Don't Have Multiple Semesters of Poor Performance

The Admissions Committee understands that there are extenuating circumstances in the lives of applicants that could lead to poor performance. Applicants should see this as an opportunity to overcome obstacles and show the committee their ability to persevere and not use it as a reason to extend the poor performance to multiple semesters.

Don't Have Letters of Recommendation From Individuals Who Don't Know You

Applicants should choose letter writers or evaluators who know them well and can evaluate them on the majority of the criteria listed on the VMCAS application. If an evaluator marks most items as "not applicable" the reference is not a useful source of information for the Admissions Committee.

Don't Double Count Experience Hours

When listing experience, choose a single category unless an experience has a specific differentiation in duties and can be clearly divided. Utilize the summary to describe how that experience could be considered in more than one category.

Don't Grossly Overestimate Experience Hours

Applicants should make sure that experience hours represent actual contact hours. For example, our Admissions Committee values "pet ownership" on the application, however applicants should only include hours that they are **actively participating** in the care, training, etc. of that animal.

Don't Choose to Be a Veterinarian Because You Don't Like People

Applicants who have chosen this profession because they do not like to interact with people will find that this is not the profession for them. We are looking for applicants who possess good communication and interpersonal skills that will allow them to be successful in this profession.

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