Becoming a doctor of veterinary medicine involves a program of academic preparation—usually 8 years after high school. Applicants complete three to four years of undergraduate coursework and the majority earn a bachelor's degree. The professional school is an additional four years in science and clinical procedures. It is important to know that science is the foundation for veterinary medicine. Make sure you take as many science and math courses as you can; however, we also look for students who are well-rounded, with various interests.

As a junior high or high school student, you have a chance to start preparing early and strengthen your application for veterinary school.

**What Do You Need To Do?**

- Take and successfully complete as many science and math courses as you can. The foundation for veterinary medicine is science, so make sure you are prepared!
- Shadow a local veterinarian or volunteer at a local clinic. Be sure to keep track of the hours you spend at this, as well as the contact information of the veterinarian(s) with whom you work.
- Keep a log or portfolio that lists all of your extracurricular activities (including the dates of membership, any offices held, special projects you accomplished, etc.), any honors or awards you receive (including scholarships) and any community service you participate in. All of these things can be included on your vet school application. Yes, high school counts!
- Work on developing your interpersonal and communication skills. While veterinary medicine is rooted in science, it is very much a people profession. The best veterinarians are skilled doctors as well as good communicators!
Get Started Now!

In High School: If you are planning to go into veterinary medicine after college, you are strongly encouraged to consider completing:

- 4 years of mathematics - algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and statistics
- 4 years of laboratory sciences - biology, chemistry, physics, and anatomy/physiology
- 4 years English
- Other elective courses that round out your education depend upon the college you plan to attend

And Beyond: A solid and broad undergraduate experience is essential for successfully completing the veterinary curriculum. Most students earn a bachelor’s degree, then apply to a four-year professional program in veterinary medicine. While earning a bachelor’s degree is not required, you must complete your prerequisites prior to entry into the veterinary professional program and have the academic maturity to be successful. You can choose any major you like -- just be sure to fulfill the core requirements for admission to veterinary professional schools.

Preparing in College

Physical & Biological Science Requirements

- Biology with lab 8 credits
- Inorganic chemistry with lab 8 credits
- Organic chemistry with lab 4 credits
- Genetics 3 credits
- Biochemistry 3 credits
- Physics with lab 4 credits
- Statistics (methods) 3 credits
- Algebra, pre-calculus or higher 3 credits

General Education Requirements*

- English composition/communication 6 credits
- Arts & Humanities/Social Science/History 21 credits

Total SEMESTER Credit Hours 63 credits

* If an applicant has a bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation, the general education prerequisites are considered fulfilled regardless of credit hours.

Pre-vet Advisor: A pre-veterinary advisor is an invaluable asset as you make the transition from high school to college and from college to veterinary school. An advisor can help you decide which major you would like to pursue and assist you in picking classes that fulfill the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine’s prerequisites. You can find a pre-veterinary or pre-health advisor at almost any four-year institution.

Washington State University pre-veterinary advisor:
Becky Jewell | 509-335-4549 | becky.jewell@wsu.edu

Early Acceptance Undergraduate Programs at WSU: Highly motivated and uniquely qualified individuals may gain early acceptance (pre-admission) and early entry (admission) into the professional veterinary medical program. In cooperation with the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine, the WSU Honors College offers the Pre-Admitted Veterinary Medicine Program and the WSU Department of Animal Sciences offers the Combined Program in Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine. Contact the Honors College (honors.wsu.edu/academics/vetmedprogram) or the Department of Animal Sciences (www.ansci.wsu.edu/undergraduate) for more information.