Overview of Veterinary Medical Admissions and Education

There is only one college of veterinary medicine in Missouri, one of 30 in the nation. 120 students will be accepted to the class entering the MU College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall out of more than 1,000 applicants. The selection process is based solely on individual merit as demonstrated in both the classroom and nonacademic areas.

If accepted, a veterinary medical student must successfully complete four years of professional courses to obtain the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Optional advanced training programs are available during and after attaining a DVM degree. These advanced training programs include graduate programs leading to an MS, MPH or PhD degree, or clinical training programs leading to board certification as a specialist in one of 20 recognized veterinary medical specialties.

National and state licensing examinations are required to obtain a license to practice in most states. Further information can be found at the National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (NBVME; www.nbvme.org) and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB; www.aavsb.org) websites.

Important Dates and Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>VMCAS Application Opens.</td>
<td>May 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>All application materials (GRE, eLRO’s, transcripts) must be submitted to VMCAS by</td>
<td>September 17, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-resident interviews held.</td>
<td>January 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri resident interviews held.</td>
<td>Feb-March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>All acceptance materials received to finalize enrollment.</td>
<td>5:00 PM April 15, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orientation week.</td>
<td>Mid-August 2020</td>
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<td>School begins.</td>
<td>Late August 2020</td>
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The University of Missouri requires all applicants submit an application through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) found at www.AAVMC.org
Undergraduate Course Pre-Requisites

All applicants must complete 60 semester hours, including the required courses shown below, at a regionally accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to qualify for admission.

Courses taken on the P/F or S/U grading system are not counted for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine. If a grade of D or F is made in a required course, the course must be repeated and a grade of C- or higher earned.

Students may use credit by examination to substitute for pre-veterinary requirements only if their institution accepts those credits in lieu of a specific required course. Courses must be listed on a U.S. transcript.

<table>
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<th>Semester* Credit Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Composition or courses in communication skills</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>College Algebra or more advanced mathematics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Biochemistry (requires organic chemistry prerequisite)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physics I and II or equivalent</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Biological Science</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social Science and/or Humanistic Studies</strong></td>
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* Multiply quarter credits by 0.67 to convert to semester credits.

**Biology Department courses may be selected from zoology and botany or as required in foundation courses for a biology major. Example: Genetics, Microbiology, Anatomy, Cell Biology.

Animal science courses do not qualify toward the 10 credit hours necessary in biological sciences except for those that are cross listed in both departments or an equivalent arrangement as determined by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The minimum required courses must be completed by the end of the spring semester (spring quarter) of the year for which admission is sought.

Only two courses being used to fulfill course pre-requisites may be pending completion in the spring/winter semester prior to matriculation. Final transcripts with grades for all course pre-requisites must be received no later than July 1 of the matriculation year.
Elective Courses:
The faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine strongly encourages applicants to include as many of the following courses as possible among their electives. We have found that anatomy and physiology are especially challenging for students lacking a background in those subjects.
- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Animal Nutrition
- Animal Reproduction
- Animal Husbandry
- Business or Accounting
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Cell Biology
- Any Biomed 1000-4000 level course at MU.

Courses That Are Not Accepted to Meet Intended Requirements:
Problems, topics, research, seminars or readings courses are not accepted for admission purposes. No more than two 100 percent online courses per academic year may be used to meet requirements in biological sciences, physical sciences, composition or communication, or social sciences and/or humanities.

College course credits acquired outside the United States are accepted for admission purposes only if they are credited with grades and semester credit hours on a transcript from a college or university in the United States.

Courses taken to meet requirements for a technical degree, such as veterinary technology or practical nursing, are included in the cumulative GPA calculations. However, restricted enrollment technical degree courses are not accepted to meet minimum course requirements nor included in the last three semesters’ GPA or average course load.
Requirements for Application

Applicants must meet all academic requirements regardless of degrees held. Among those requirements is a cum GPA of 3.00 achieved from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Each Student must submit a complete application to VMCAS by September 17, 2019 which includes the following:

- An official transcript(s) from all institutions of higher education ever enrolled, including any college courses taken while enrolled in High School.
- Official scores of 2.85 (total of verbal and quantitative) and 1.5 on the analytical section from the General Record Examine (GRE) must be submitted using code 7268. Scores must have been attained within the last three years. (Scores attained prior to September 17, 2016 will not be accepted)
- Three eLOR’s (one being from a veterinarian not a relative by birth or marriage) Applicants are allowed to submit up to six evaluations, additional letters submitted outside the VMCAS application or after the VMCAS deadline, are not received.

Requirement for Observation of the Profession:

Applicants are required to spend a minimum of 40 hours observing one or more veterinarians actively engaged in their normal work environment. Observation must be as a third person, not as a client. (i.e., small or large animal practice, public health, laboratory animal medicine or research).
Preparation in High School

Preparation for application to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine is best begun while in high school. The selection process for entrance evaluates academic and nonacademic criteria.

Academic Preparation:

No fixed requirements exist for the high school curriculum. However, a high school student is generally advised to take four years of mathematics, four years of English (grammar and composition), two years of biology, and as much chemistry and physics as possible. Basic computer skills are useful. Speech or drama will also help prepare the student for communication skills expected of veterinarians.

Nonacademic Preparation:

Involvement in extracurricular activities, such as school clubs, athletics, band, FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church activities, and any other organized activity requiring the development of teamwork, interpersonal skills, and diversity are encouraged and scored for selection purposes.

Applicants are expected to have had experiences with a variety of animals. Some of this experience must be while observing veterinarians in an actual veterinary medical practice. Many veterinarians will permit prospective veterinary medical students to spend time observing activities in their practice. High school students considering veterinary medicine as a career are encouraged to seek out such opportunities to see the actual practice of veterinary medicine. Agricultural, biomedical, research, and public health experience is also highly regarded.

Preparation in Undergraduate College

Selection of Colleges:

The Admissions Committee accepts credits and grades from any regionally accredited institution of higher learning recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To ensure proper counseling and support, it is advised that undergraduate work be completed at an institution with an active pre-veterinary medical club.

Students enrolled in the University of Missouri are not given preference when applying for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine unless they are participants of the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Scholars or AgScholars Programs.
Undergraduate Majors:
A student should select an undergraduate major based on their interests and talents. Since some students are not accepted into veterinary medical college, a student should enroll in the school/college offering the degree major selected as a career alternative to veterinary medicine. There is no preference or consideration given to any particular major as long as the prerequisite courses are successfully completed.

Applicant Evaluation
While the actual procedure may vary each year, applicants are evaluated academically and nonacademically.

Academic Evaluation:
An academic score will be assigned to each student by using cumulative grade point average (20 percent), the last three full-time semesters while working toward a undergraduate degree (summer not included) (10 percent), average undergraduate course load (6 percent), and performance on the GRE general examination (4 percent). Cumulative GPA must be at least 3.00/4.00. Grades for repeated courses are averaged for calculation of GPA.

Non-Academic Evaluation:
Each applicant will be scored by the Admissions Committee based upon nonacademic factors. The committee will evaluate the following:

- Motivation and concepts of the veterinary profession
- Animal/medical/biomedical research/public health experience (a higher value will be assigned to observation or experience with a veterinarian than with a non-veterinarian)
- Communication skills
- Leadership
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience (while enrolled in school)
- Diversity and life experience
- Overall impression

The nonacademic evaluation will constitute 60 percent of the total score.
Six Year Academic Elimination Option:

Applicants may elect to have all courses taken and grades received prior to and including spring semester 2014 ignored in the academic evaluation. If the applicant elects to eliminate courses and grades six or more years old, the required 60 semester hours of academic credit and all required courses must have been taken within the last six years prior to application. New courses that will fulfill course category requirements are preferred. If the applicant elects to eliminate courses and grades more than six years old, another evaluation using all courses and grades will not be done during the same year of application as part of the same application evaluation.

Personal Attributes and Experience Desired

The Admissions Committee expects applicants to:

a. have experience working with a variety of animal species;

b. be familiar with the veterinary medical profession;

c. be community minded and have demonstrated leadership abilities;

d. be an effective communicator;

e. have developed time and stress management skills;

f. be sincerely motivated; and

g. have realistically evaluated their plans for financing their education since demands of the professional curriculum usually preclude part-time employment during school sessions.

Shortages of veterinarians are not evenly distributed within the profession. However, the Committee does not select students by the type of work they say they wish to do as veterinarians. Interests of students frequently change during their four years of professional studies.

Approximately 95 percent of accepted students have completed degrees. No preference is shown for applicants with undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Personal Interviews

Missouri applicants who meet minimum requirements are invited for an interview with the Admissions and Scholarship Committee early February to mid-March.

Out of state applicants who are chosen to interview are notified by mid-November. Interviews are held in early January for the OOS applicants.
BS in Animal Sciences and DVM Degrees

Students who complete prescribed undergraduate courses in the MU College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, Division of Animal Sciences, and are then successful in being selected to a class in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine will receive elective credits concurrently for up to 32 hours of professional degree courses. This enables qualifying students to receive a BS degree with three or four years of undergraduate work and two years of professional studies.

For more information, contact:
Animal Science Department
S110 Animal Science Center
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (573) 882-2644

Email: straucht@missouri.edu

The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Scholars and AgScholars Programs

Definition:
These programs guarantee acceptance into the MU College of Veterinary Medicine upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate requirements at the University of Missouri.

Eligibility:
High school seniors and MU freshmen with an ACT composite score of at least 30 or an equivalent SAT score are eligible to apply for the PVM Scholars Program. The minimum ACT score for AgScholars is 27 and experience in livestock production and health must be demonstrated.

Veterinary Medical Mentors:
Students qualifying for the Scholars Programs will be assigned a faculty mentor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Whenever possible, Scholars Program students will be invited to participate in veterinary medical research projects and other appropriate events in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

How to Apply:
Application forms are available in the Office of Academic Affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The application deadlines are April 1 for high school seniors and Sept. 15 and April 1 for MU freshman.
Residency:

Students who attend the University of Missouri have the option of applying for Missouri residency after completing their first year. If residency status is approved, then the student will pay nonresident tuition in year 1 only, followed by the much lower in-state tuition rate/fees estimated at $26,692/year in years 2 thru 4, saving roughly $107,472 in non-resident fees.

Residency status is determined by the MU Residency Office, not by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Questions concerning residency status should be directed to:

Residency Office  
University of Missouri  
123 Jesse Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
Phone: (573) 882-3852  
Email: residency@missouri.edu

An agreement exists with Arkansas that may reduce tuition for residents of that state.

The number of nonresident positions is variable based on annual applicant pools.

US citizens, permanent residents and international students who have completed the sixty semester hours of required courses at a regionally accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education are eligible to apply. Once notified of admission, international students must meet eligibility criteria to obtain the student visa certificate issued by the MU International Center.

Notification of Selection:

All necessary information to prepare for entering the College of Veterinary Medicine is mailed to accepted students either at the time of notification of acceptance or before the beginning of the fall session.

Each accepted applicant is required to sign a statement agreeing to accept a position in the class and to send a check for $500 which is applied toward first semester fees by 5:00 PM, April 15.
Financial Aid

Several loans and some scholarships are available to veterinary medical students from various sources.

Please note: Students admitted into CVM who have not completed 72 undergraduate hours will not be eligible for federal student loans. Private student loan options may be available. Please contact your financial aid advisor for more information.

For more information, contact:

MU Financial Aid
11 Jesse Hall
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO 65211
Phone: (573) 882-7506
(800) 225-6075 in Missouri
Questions after reading this pamphlet, contact:
Admissions Manager, Kathy Seay
seayk@missouri.edu or 573-884-3341

Tours are available for high school or college students and their families interested in applying to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine.
For an appointment, contact:
Coordinator of Student Recruitment, Douglas Tindall
tindalld@missouri.edu or 573-884-5044

All statements in this publication, The College of Veterinary Medicine Admission Guide, are for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as being contractual for any purpose.

The University of Missouri-Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, status as disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era, or sexual orientation. For more information call Human Resource Services at (573) 882-4256 or U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

The University of Missouri-Columbia complies with the guidelines set forth in the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have special needs as addressed by the ADA and need assistance with any portion of the application for admission process, notify us at (573) 884-3341 as soon as possible. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.