

Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Regional Program In Veterinary Medical Education

Information for Prospective Applicants

2011–2012

A great veterinary medical education requires great teachers and great facilities. But it also requires a diverse community of scholars—students, faculty, and staff to educate well-rounded and knowledgeable professionals who will maximize their own potential and serve society well. The Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine offers all these things, providing a place where you can learn and grow as a member of our community. We are proud of our campus, facilities, and faculty, who are here because they want to help you. We aim to prepare you to be the best veterinarian you can be, regardless of which of the many roles of a veterinarian you aspire to fill. But why take my word for it? Please visit us and see for yourself.

Sincerely,

Bryan K. Slinker, DVM, PhD
Dean
College of Veterinary Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Washington State University is located in Pullman in southeastern Washington. The 60,000 people who live in the communities of Pullman, WA, and Moscow, ID, live and study here because the area has much to offer to those who seek a lifestyle that combines a beautiful country setting with the benefits of two major universities (University of Idaho is just a few miles away). Plus, WSU is a member of the PAC-10 athletic conference offering exciting sporting events throughout the year. With a true four-season climate, beautiful rivers, and nearby mountains, excellent recreational activities are available ranging from hiking, mountain biking, skiing, and snowboarding to fishing, camping, and whitewater rafting.

The College of Veterinary Medicine at WSU was founded in 1899 and is one of the oldest colleges of veterinary medicine in the country. Five major buildings house the three departments of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Veterinary and Comparative Anatomy, Pharmacology and Physiology, and Microbiology and Pathology, and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, along with the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The faculty and staff of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital are leaders in the field of veterinary diagnostic imaging and our well-regarded oncology unit offers an active clinical service that delivers medical and radiation oncology treatment to a wide variety of animals. The variety of faculty members who practice in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital attracts a large and diverse caseload for the DVM educational program and students are encouraged to spend time in the hospital throughout the entire four years of their study. The veterinary teaching program also allows for students to take advantage of numerous off-campus clinical opportunities in all areas of veterinary medicine.

The college is a leader in the development of programs to promote and enhance emotional intelligence, leadership, and communication skills. The School for Global Animal Health, the

first of its kind in North America, builds on the college's rich history of research on animal diseases that directly impact human health.

Upon satisfactory completion of our program, the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree is conferred by the Regents of Washington State University. Although the University of Idaho is a full partner in the program, Idaho students receive their DVM degrees from WSU.

WSU CVM FACILITIES

The layout of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine is probably one of the most compelling components for prospective students to consider. A five-building complex that sits at the heart of the WSU campus, any part of the complex is easily accessible to DVM students. Four of the five CVM buildings are joined, allowing ease of flow from one building to another, including the veterinary teaching hospital. This extremely connected facility layout creates a very fluid learning environment for current student access to the hospital and cases therein, labs, study areas, and even to the faculty members. You can be in class one minute learning about something and in a lab or the teaching hospital seeing the lecture topic "in real life" the next minute.

The complex includes the following buildings:

WSU's *Veterinary Teaching Hospital* provides full service to the general public's animals, attracting some 15,000 animal patients per year. The hospital provides full-service care and has more than two acres of assignable space.

The *Animal Disease Biotechnology Facility (ADBF)* has provided critically needed space for units of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Field Disease Investigative Unit, and USDA-ARS Animal Disease Research Unit.

Bustad Hall, the central building in the CVM complex, houses the CVM administration, student services, coffee cart and deli bar, lecture and lab facilities, as well as the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (WADDL). WADDL is a founding member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. As a part of the network, WADDL works closely with USDA in developing, validating and implementing high throughput molecular assays for exotic agents, all of which are considered high priority agro-terrorist pathogens.

Wegner Hall is home to labs, lecture rooms and the Animal Health Library. Established in 1963, the library primarily serves the research and teaching needs of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The Animal Health Library provides information on biomedical topics, as well as information for practicing veterinarians, pharmacists, physicians, and clinical pharmacologists.

McCoy Hall houses the old teaching hospital. The original building is little changed and it remains in use for overflow cases from the new hospital. In addition, student labs, offices, the veterinary anatomy museum, and the SCAVMA bookstore are housed in this building.

SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH (SGAH)

Launched in 2008 with a \$25 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the WSU CVM School for Global Animal Health will provide innovative solutions to global infectious diseases challenges through research, education, global outreach, and application of disease control at the animal-human interface. It advances science, people, and policy to discover novel approaches for disease intervention and delivery of preventive health care for animals and

humans. Graduate students in the SGAH will participate in a multidisciplinary curriculum that integrates research on disease transmission and prevention with economics, policy and political science. Veterinary students will have opportunities to gain valuable research experience by working with researchers and gaining laboratory experience during the four years they are in the DVM program.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Washington-Idaho-Utah (WIU) Regional Program in Veterinary Medicine

Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine (WSU CVM) has long been partners with the state of Idaho and the Western Interstate Commission of Higher Education (WICHE) program. We are now very pleased to announce a new educational partnership program with Utah State University (USU). Starting in the fall of 2012, students selected into the Utah State University School of Veterinary Medicine track within the WIU program will spend their first two years in Logan, Utah where much of the curriculum will be taught by the faculty of USU's Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences (ADVS), paralleling the curriculum taught in Pullman. USU boasts internationally recognized faculty members, cutting edge technology, and excellent animal and research facilities. Parts of the first two years will be taught by Pullman-based faculty, and the final two years are completed at the WSU CVM in Pullman, WA. The WSU CVM is one of the nation's top veterinary schools with world leaders in all areas of veterinary medicine and offers students the opportunity to take advantage of a large and diverse caseload during the heavy clinical portion of the program. Students accepted to this program earn a DVM degree from WSU College of Veterinary Medicine conferred by the Regents of Washington State University, with joint recognition of Utah State University. The regional program allows students the unique educational opportunity to experience world class education from two distinguished universities. The Utah track will accept 20 Utah resident applicants and up to 10 non-resident applicants per year. As has previously been the case, all applications to the WIU program, regardless of state of residency, will do so through the VMCAS online service (by choosing Washington State University as the CVM applying to); an additional WSU CVM supplemental application is also required. Additional information regarding the application process and how this is affected by your residency status will be available soon.

Research Scholars Program

Students entering the veterinary curriculum can apply for admission to the Research Scholars Program. Admission to this program is competitive. In addition to completing the DVM curriculum, students in this program participate in activities designed to encourage and develop an interest in research careers in veterinary medicine. These activities include orientation to ongoing research in the College of Veterinary Medicine, seminar discussions of ethical and philosophical issues in research, development of a student-mentor relationship with a faculty member, and the design and implementation of a research project. A goal is that the research will lead to submission of an original scientific paper to a biomedical journal by the end of the last year of the professional program. Interested students should inquire about the application process before the beginning of the fall semester as applications are reviewed at the end of the fall semester. Currently, stipends of \$1,250 for the first year and \$1,500 for the second through third years are provided to students in the Research Scholars Program. In addition, the WSU CVM

offers a competitively based and mentored Summer Research Program for DVM students during summers of the first and second years of the veterinary curriculum.

Early Acceptance Undergraduate Programs at WSU

There are two programs at Washington State University by which 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. These programs share the common goal of identifying and retaining uniquely and highly qualified students early in their respective undergraduate programs by offering an opportunity to gain pre-admission into the professional program at the end of their first undergraduate year. All such applicants submit an application, three letters of recommendation, and their SAT/ACT scores. The CVM Admissions Committee then invites the most highly qualified applicants for a personal interview.

Students in the pre-admitted Honors College and the combined Animal Sciences programs can, by virtue of specifically designed curricula, complete the majority of the work toward their baccalaureate degree in the three years prior to admission into the professional program. Please note, however, that these curricula are rigorous and the course loads tend to be heavy. The provision for remaining in these programs is that pre-admitted students must maintain their high academic performance with a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.5 at the end of the spring semester of their junior year. The baccalaureate degree is conferred in one of the respective undergraduate programs following satisfactory completion of the undergraduate work and the first-year professional coursework.

A student who is not selected to participate in one of the early acceptance and entry programs, or who fails to maintain the high academic standard, may enter the general applicant pool and become eligible to apply to the professional program as soon as requirements for general application have been fulfilled.

Honors College Pre-Admitted Veterinary Medicine Program

All Honors College students enrolled in one of four participating pre-veterinary programs, including animal sciences, neuroscience, wildlife ecology and zoology, are eligible to apply for early acceptance and entry into the professional program. These students may only apply and interview for early acceptance/entry one time, following their WSU freshman undergraduate year. Please note that pre-admitted Honors College students must complete an honors thesis prior to graduation. Pre-admitted Honors College students are advised by both the Honors College and their pre-veterinary academic major program. For more information, please contact the Honors College, Washington State University, PO Box 642012, Pullman WA 99164-2012; www.honors.wsu.edu/academics/vetmedprogram/.

Combined Program in Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine

The Department of Animal Sciences offers students selected from its undergraduate program an opportunity to participate in its combined program, the purpose of which is to attract and retain highly qualified candidates with specific career interest in production animal medicine. Selection

is by invitation only and requires a minimum entering high school GPA of 3.6 and significant experience with food-producing animals. Students are advised through the Department of Animal Sciences. For additional information contact the Department of Animal Sciences, Washington State University, PO Box 646310, Pullman, WA 99164-6310. www.ansci.wsu.edu/Undergraduate/Documents/Combined_AS-Vet_Med_Program_08.pdf.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications are available online by early June. All applicants must use the online Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) as their primary application (<http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm>). An online WSU supplemental application is also required and is located at the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) website (www.vetmed.wsu.edu). A \$60 application/processing fee will be assessed online as part of completing the WSU supplemental application. Applicants must complete **BOTH** the VMCAS **and** the WSU supplemental applications. Applicants must submit applications on or before the October VMCAS and WSU supplemental deadlines.

Transcripts and GRE scores should be mailed to the Office of Student Services, College of Veterinary Medicine, Bustad Hall 110D, Washington State University, PO Box 647012, Pullman, WA 99164-7012 before the application deadline.

Applicants should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than **February 15, 2012**, for priority consideration. Applicants should request that reports be sent to WSU in order to guarantee consideration for financial aid, if they are admitted. WICHE and out-of-area applicants need to have reports sent to WSU to be considered for financial aid.

RESIDENCY

Washington and Idaho have developed a regional acceptance contract and WSU CVM also serves Arizona, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Wyoming through the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Compact.

For admission, first preference is given to qualified applicants who are residents of Washington and Idaho, as well as qualified applicants funded by WICHE contract states. Second preference is given to qualified applicants in the out-of-area pool.

For the purposes of assessing tuition, the definition of residency varies with individual states. It is highly recommended that applicants contact the appropriate state authority for information regarding residency requirements as early in the application process as possible. Washington (www.registrar.wsu.edu/Registrar/Apps/Residency.ASP) applicants and those from Idaho (www.students.uidaho.edu/default.aspx?pid=56127) can learn about residency requirements by consulting their respective web sites. Idaho residents must complete an Idaho Residency Information Affidavit, which can be obtained at <http://www.uidaho.edu/registrar/regISTRATION/residency.aspx>.

Applicants from WICHE states should contact the WICHE office in their home state to determine what certification requirements apply to them (www.wiche.edu). Under the terms of the WICHE Compact, a certified student admitted from a WICHE state is sponsored by his/her

home state and pays resident tuition and fees only. Students must apply to their home states for certification no later than **October 15**. Additional information may be obtained from:

Student Exchange Program
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education
3035 Center Green Dr., Ste. 200
Boulder, CO 80301-2204
303-541-0214
www.wiche.edu

INFORMATION FOR OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANTS

Applicants who are not residents of the state of Washington and applicants not selected for the contracted Idaho seats or for funding by their WICHE state are considered in the out-of-area applicant pool.

WSU CVM's partnership with Utah State University now allows up to 20 UT residents be admitted through the regional program. The state of Utah is no longer participating in the WICHE program. UT residents who are selected to participate in this regional program spend their first two years in Logan, UT (USU) and the remaining two years in Pullman, WA (WSU CVM).

All UT residents MUST fill out both a VMCAS and WSU Supplemental Application. UT residents CANNOT apply through the Out-of-Area non-resident pool. Residency requirements are described at the following site:

http://www.usu.edu/graduateschool/costs/residency_requirements.cfm. Students will not be able to change their residency once they are accepted into the program. Projected tuition for the 2012-2013 school year can be found at <http://vetmed.usu.edu/htm/admissions/tuition-fees>.

Prospective applicants should realize that a large volume of out-of-state applications exists compared to the relatively low number of out-of-state positions available and consequently, a high proportion of successful applications will possess high level academic achievement.

Applications from international students are accepted and encouraged by the WSU CVM and are also considered in the out-of-area pool. All international applicants must submit transcripts to a transcript evaluation service. International students attending the WSU CVM must pay out of state tuition for all four years (tuition and fees and other expenses, page 16) and must demonstrate the ability to pay tuition and fees before being admitted to the university. International students must demonstrate English proficiency. A TOEFL score > 650 is required.

THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

A. Academic Criteria

In evaluating an applicant for admission, the CVM admissions committee considers both his/her academic and non-academic qualities. In assessing an applicant's academic qualities, the committee members ask themselves, "*How likely is it that this applicant will be able to successfully complete our rigorous, science-based veterinary curriculum?*" Answering this

question begins by considering the applicant's academic indices, i.e., cumulative GPA, science GPA, last 45-semester hour GPA, prerequisite GPA, grades in upper division science courses, course load per semester, and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score, as well as his/her record of academic honors, scholarships, etc.

* Overall undergraduate GPA. Initial evaluation of GPA will not include fall term grades. Fall term grades should be submitted as soon as grades are posted and will be used in the final evaluation.

** Science GPA will include all physical sciences, mathematics, and biological sciences courses.

*** GRE scores are calculated by averaging the percentile rank from the three sections of the general test (composite score). If an application contains more than one set of GRE scores, the committee will consider the highest composite score. Only GRE scores received by the admissions office at the time of initial academic evaluation will contribute to Tier assignment. Scores received later will be used in the final evaluation.

B. Pre-Professional Academic Requirements

1. Graduate Record Examination

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) General Test is a computer-based comprehensive knowledge exam. The Educational Testing Service, Box 6000, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6000, administers the GRE. For convenient scheduling of the test, call 1-800-GRE-CALL or visit them on the web at www.ets.org/gre/. Results of the examination will be reported to WSU if the school code 4984 and department code 0617 is properly entered on the test form. GRE scores must be *received* by **October 1 of the year of application. Please note: test scores that are more than five years old on or after October 1 of the year of application will not be accepted by the CVM. Only the general GRE exam is required. Subject tests are not needed or considered.**

2. Prerequisites

The Admissions Committee for the College of Veterinary Medicine views a solid and broad undergraduate experience as crucial preparation for successful completion of the baccalaureate degree prior to applying to the DVM program. If a baccalaureate degree has not been earned by the time of application, the committee will still base its decisions on the strength and breadth of the applicant's educational background. Therefore, the committee will look for evidence that courses from the following categories have been satisfactorily completed:

Physical and Biological Science Requirements

Biology w/lab	8
Inorganic Chemistry w/lab	8
Organic Chemistry w/lab	4
Genetics	4
Biochemistry	3
Physics w/lab	4
Statistics (methods)	3
Math (pre-calculus or higher)	3

General Education Requirements*

English composition/communication**	6
Arts & humanities/social science/history**	21
Total semester credit hours	64

**If an applicant has received or will receive a bachelor's degree prior to matriculation, these prerequisites are considered fulfilled regardless of credit hours.*

***Course titles/classifications of these requirements may vary slightly by institution. Please follow the institution's graduation requirement standards for a guideline or see www.vetmed.wsu.edu for examples of courses found in these categories.*

Pre-professional coursework in the physical and biological sciences, outlined as prerequisites, and the GRE pertains to all students. Ensuring that all prerequisites have been completed **by no later than the spring semester** of the application year *is solely the responsibility of the applicant*. A list of WSU prerequisite courses, equivalencies of which may be met at other institutions, can be found at <http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/prospectiveStudents/>.

Note: Students who participate in the Pre-Admit DVM/Honors Program or the Combined DVM/Animal Sciences Program must fulfill all requirements that apply to these individual programs, such as completing the baccalaureate degree, honors thesis, etc., prior to the awarding of the DVM degree.

C. Advanced Placement/Running Start Credits

While Advanced Placement (AP) or Running Start credits *might* be acceptable for some prerequisites, applicants are encouraged to view such credits as an opportunity to qualify for and enroll in upper division physical and biological science courses, rather than simply as a means for “testing out” of prerequisites. The goal of the applicant should be to prepare as best as they can for our rigorous, science-based, veterinary curriculum. Upper division science courses are deemed to be highly preparatory for the DVM program.

D. Electives

Students spending more than two years in pre-professional programs have time to take a number of elective courses. Highly recommended, *but not required*, electives include mammalian or comparative anatomy, physiology, embryology, microbiology, immunology, computer science, physics II, and animal science courses, including nutrition.

E. Non-Academic Criteria

There is one fundamental question the committee poses to evaluate an applicant's non-academic qualities: *“Does the applicant possess the qualities of a good veterinarian?”* In order to answer this question, the committee considers various non-academic criteria, such as work ethic, knowledge of the profession, motivation, compassion, integrity, leadership and communication skills, and desire to contribute to society. In addition, the committee will assess an applicant's resiliency, willingness to accept responsibility, maturity, and breadth of experience. The following paragraphs describe components of the application that are used by the committee to evaluate these criteria.

1. Veterinary Experience and Animal Experience -*Veterinary experience* provides a basic knowledge of the veterinary profession through closely observing the role of the various members of the health care team in a traditional practice setting. Participating in biomedical research, public health, academic medicine, regulatory medicine, or industry can enhance an

applicant's appreciation for the breadth of the veterinary profession. The committee also takes involvement in seminars, practica, and other veterinary professional activities into account.

Veterinary medicine is an animal health and production-oriented profession. The admissions committee considers animal experience to be an important preparation for the curriculum. *Animal experience* includes such things as breeding, rearing, feeding, and showing various species of companion animals, livestock, laboratory animals, zoo animals, or wildlife.

2. Employment Experience - This information helps the committee better understand time commitments an applicant has beyond the classroom, as well as giving some insight into the applicants worth ethic. Both full-time and part-time work experience should be included in this section of the application as it helps the admissions committee with a composite evaluation of an applicant.

3. Honors & Awards and Community Activity - Achievements, leadership ability, and participation in academic and other activities will be evaluated carefully. This includes extracurricular activities such as collegiate clubs, service organizations, sports, or other interest-based activities. Community service activities are viewed as an indication of an applicant's desire to contribute to society. These activities need not be directly affiliated with veterinary medicine. The applicant should clearly and succinctly describe their level of participation in these activities.

4. Letters of Recommendation - Each applicant should obtain a minimum of three evaluations (WSU College of Veterinary Medicine will accept up to six evaluations) to aid the admissions committee in assessing their personal traits. The best individuals for these evaluations are those who know the applicant well enough to provide meaningful comments. Your application *must* have, at a minimum, the following three different evaluations:

A graduate veterinarian with whom the applicant has interacted fairly extensively.

Another must be from a current or former academic [e.g., professor, teaching assistant, laboratory instructor] that can speak to the applicant's academic ability.

Other evaluations should come from individuals who can evaluate the oral and written communication skills as well as the scientific background of the applicant. Graduate students should include an evaluation from their major advisor.

The CVM Admissions Committee reserves the right to check references for verification and accuracy.

5. Research Experience - The WSU Admissions Committee values knowing about an applicant's experience in the broad field of research. Since there is not a defined location for this information on the VMCAS application, the WSU Supplemental application provides a section for applicants to capture research experience. This experience does not have to be directly affiliated with veterinary medicine.

6. Diversity/Adversity - Each year, the CVM admissions committee is given the enormous task of selecting top candidates from among an array of highly qualified applicants. The committee seeks applicants who will increase the geographic, cultural, and economic diversity of the student body and the profession. Extenuating circumstances such as extensive extracurricular work commitments or family responsibilities are taken into consideration as well. If you feel that you qualify in this category, please provide information in the "Explanation" portion of the application. Applicants may also have issues about which they are reluctant to write in their veterinary school application. If so, these candidates should feel free to contact the admissions staff to discuss the matter.

7. Personal Statement - The personal statement portion of the application is a candidate's opportunity to make a case as to why they are the best possible student for the DVM program at WSU. It is a chance to set oneself apart from other candidates, give the admissions committee background information that might not otherwise be included in the application, explain special situations or circumstances that have influenced you as a person, and where you see yourself in the future.

8. Personal Interview - Non-academic evaluation of the top qualified applicants in the Washington, Idaho, and out-of-area applicant pools may include a personal interview. WICHE-supported applicants are not formally interviewed, but they are encouraged to visit the WSU campus at any time. The interview consists of a 30 minute personal interview with two to three members of the Admissions Committee and a representative from the respective state veterinary medical association (the Idaho or Washington State Veterinary Medical Association). Between two and three members of the Admissions Committee will comprise the interview team for out-of-area pool. The personal interview will be used to clarify any issues arising from the academic and non-academic evaluation and to assess the applicant's maturity, motivation, communication skills, knowledge of the profession and desire to contribute to society through veterinary medicine.

FINAL EVALUATION

After all information has been accumulated on academically qualified applicants, the Admissions Committee will meet to decide which applicants are best suited to enter the veterinary curriculum. Both academic and non-academic factors will be used to reach a final decision. For Washington, Idaho, and out-of-area applicants, this process will generate a group of admitted students and a list of alternates who may receive offers of admission at a later date. In the case of WICHE applicants, the process will yield a ranked list of all applicants from each sending state. Ranking of applicants from each WICHE state by the three regional colleges of veterinary medicine (Washington State University, Oregon State University, and Colorado State University) helps determine which applicants are funded each year.

ANTI-DISCRIMANOTORY POLICY

Washington State University and the University of Idaho prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex (including sexual harassment), religion, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical, mental, or sensory disability, marital status, sexual orientation, and status as a Vietnam-era or disabled veteran in the recruitment and admission of students, the recruitment, employment, and retention of faculty and staff, and the operation of all university programs, activities, and services. Applications from women and members of minority groups are encouraged.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

At the time of notification of interview, all unsuccessful candidates are also notified of their status. All Washington, Idaho, and out-of-area applicants to WSU who are interviewed are notified of their status on or before February 28. A number of interviewed applicants who are not initially made offers of admission are given alternate status, and may be offered admission at a later date. Barring delays in the ranking process, WICHE applicants should be notified by January. Some WICHE applicants are also given alternate status.

Applicants who are admitted to the College of Veterinary Medicine at WSU will be required to complete a WSU uniform undergraduate application. Complete and final academic transcripts for accepted applicants must be submitted to WSU CVM before August 2.

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to be considered the following year must submit new application materials.

The Admissions Committee assumes the applicant, if offered admission, is fully prepared to enter the veterinary program starting the next fall semester. *Deferral of admission is considered by the director of admissions on a case-by-case basis and granted only under special circumstances.*

PROFESSIONAL DVM CURRICULUM

The primary thrust of the first year of the curriculum is to help students to understand the normal animal, the second year is devoted to teaching diseases and the agents that cause them, and in the third year students begin to learn about the principles of medicine and surgery. The fourth, or clinical, year of the program encompasses the calendar year period from May (immediately following the end of the third year) to May of the next year.

First Year

Fall Semester

Microscopic Anatomy
Animal Restraint/Ag. Animal Issues
Vet Cell Physiology
Vet Anatomy I
Intro to Clinics

Spring Semester

Vet Anatomy II
Vet Neurology
General Pathology
Physiology
Basic Nutrition
Immunology
Intro to Clinics

Second Year

Fall Semester

Fundamentals of Pharmacology
Bacteriology
Clinical Pathology
Virology
Systemic Pathology
Principles of Surgery
Epidemiology
Intro to Clinics

Spring Semester

Clinical Specialty Practice
Radiology
Vet. Toxicology
Anesthesia/Principles of Surgery
Public Health
Parasitology
Epidemiology
Communication Skills
Intro to Clinics

Third Year

Fall Semester

Ag. Animal Medicine I
Equine Medicine
Small Animal Medicine I
Small Animal Surgery I
Surgery Lab

Spring Semester

Ag. Animal Medicine II
Clinical Nutrition
Small Animal Medicine II
Large Animal Surgery
Theriogenology

Clinical Pharmacology	Foreign Animal Diseases & Regulatory Issues
Emerging and Exotic Diseases of Animals	Intro to Clinics
Communication Skills	
Intro to Clinics	

Fourth Year

As in human medicine, the delivery of veterinary medical care occurs in primary, secondary, and tertiary centers. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is an example of a tertiary care center. A secondary care center can be a multi-practitioner specialty practice that is not large enough to be affiliated with a teaching hospital. Primary care centers represent general practices in large and small communities. Typically, primary and secondary practices refer their most difficult and challenging cases to tertiary or referral centers for evaluation and treatment. It is important for veterinary students to spend time in a tertiary care center so that they can learn what is possible in regards to the art and practice of veterinary medicine. Students will witness and participate in cutting edge medicine, surgery, critical care, and well-being. They will see the most advanced diagnostic and imaging technology. These experiences will be invaluable as they prepare to eventually refer cases themselves. To gain these experiences, students will rotate through the various services offered in the Teaching Hospital. The required rotations include small animal medicine and surgery, equine medicine and surgery, and clinical services. Supplemental core courses are available to enhance students' special interests.

The college firmly believes that students' educational experiences must not be limited entirely to a tertiary care setting. It is equally important for them to participate in cases that typically present to primary or secondary care centers. The externship/preceptorship program allows students to leave campus to interact with veterinarians in a routine practice setting, to gain experience in their particular area of interest, and/or to explore diverse career opportunities.

For an example of the basic 4th year required rotation, please go to the following website:
<http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/prospectiveStudents/Curriculum.aspx#sample>

TUITION, FEES, AND OTHER EXPENSES

Tuition, fees, and other charges are subject to change by the action of the various legislative bodies. Therefore, the information presented here, although current, should be considered only as an estimate.

Summary of Estimated Yearly Expenses for 2010-11	<u>Amount</u>
Resident Tuition and Fees (WA, ID, and WICHE sponsored).....	\$20,948
Non-Resident Tuition and Fees.....	\$50,878
Room and Board Estimate.....	\$10,500

Total expenses for students may be greater than indicated above due to the cost of necessary additional expenditures for books, supplies, and other items. Microscopes are furnished for all first and second year students for \$100 per year to cover maintenance and insurance. Students may purchase their own microscopes if desired.

FINANCIAL AID

Adequate financing for the professional program is essential. Further information on available financial aid can be obtained from the WSU Scholarship and Financial Aid Office, Lighty Student Services Bldg., Room 380, PO Box 641068, Pullman, WA 99164-1068, www.finaid.wsu.edu

Applicants should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit it no later than February 15 for priority consideration. Make sure to select WSU as a school that your report should be sent to in order to guarantee consideration for financial aid if admitted. WICHE and non-service area applicants also need to make sure reports are provided to WSU to be considered for financial aid.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The WSU CVM maintains an active scholarship and awards program. Each year approximately \$300,000 to \$600,000 is awarded to students currently enrolled. WSU has some additional funds designated for incoming students that are based upon academic achievement and need. An application for CVM scholarships and awards is provided through the Office of Student Services, College of Veterinary Medicine, in May for incoming students and in January for currently enrolled students. Students are also encouraged to apply for general university scholarships, as well as through other sources.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What should I major in at college?

No preference is given for any particular undergraduate major. Any undergraduate major or degree will qualify for application as long as the prospective applicant has fulfilled all CVM prerequisites (see academic and non-academic criteria). Applicants are encouraged to develop a plan for an alternate career. It is strongly recommended that applicants pursue a bachelor's degree in a desired field in the event they are not accepted into a DVM program, rather than concentrating on a major solely with an eye toward gaining entry into the DVM program.

Is it acceptable to attend a community/junior college?

While lower division prerequisite courses may be taken at a community/junior college, upper division coursework must be completed at a four-year institution. If you do choose to or currently attend a community/junior college, be sure to get in touch with a transfer advisor to make sure all credits you complete will be transferable to the four-year institution and/or professional program.

Does it matter where I get my undergraduate degree?

No, what is more important is your success in your academic program. The committee will review the rigor of the program and its courses, as well as the rigor of an applicant's schedule at a given period of time. Some schools do offer more or less rigorous programs and this should be considered by prospective students.

How many years are required in veterinary school?

Four years of study are required in the professional program to obtain a DVM degree, regardless of the number of years spent in pre-professional or pre-veterinary preparation.

Do all of the prerequisites have to be completed before I submit my application?

No. While we prefer that applicants have a majority of all required coursework completed at the time of application, pending coursework may be completed throughout the application process. However, all required coursework must be completed prior to starting the DVM program, if admitted.

How do I know if my college courses satisfy the WSU CVM prerequisites?

Some prerequisite equivalency information can be found at:

<https://webapps.wsu.edu/ais/myinfoservices/darstce/index.aspx>.

You should also check with your academic advisor (from the institution where the courses were taken). If you are still unable to determine equivalency, you can contact the WSU CVM admissions program coordinator for assistance. Keep in mind there are periods of time when these requests will not be fielded as quickly due to admissions processing.

Are my chances of getting into the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine program better if I attend WSU as an undergraduate?

No. Qualified students are accepted from academic institutions around the world. However, a student's state of residency is a consideration. Of the 95–99 seats in a given year, about 60 will be filled by Washington state residents, 11 by Idaho state residents, and the remaining seats are offered to a combination of WICHE-funded and out-of-area students.

Does WSU have a “tracking” curriculum?

Tracking curricula, in which students are asked to identify species and/or discipline interests very early on in their veterinary education is not practiced at WSU CVM. Our curriculum is designed to provide our graduates with a core knowledge base, meaning that each graduate leaves the DVM program with the knowledge they need to function as an entry-level veterinarian across the full range of domestic species. Students are able to enhance their preparation in specific areas of interest by taking various electives, supplemental core courses, and participating in off-campus experiences.

What if I have a disability?

The WSU program is committed to assisting students who have disabilities with reasonable accommodations. Students with concerns should contact the WSU Disability Resource Center.

How are applications from under-represented groups considered?

The program is sincerely interested in and committed to recruiting and admitting a highly-qualified, diverse student body. In keeping with this commitment, the admissions committee seeks to select students who are racially, ethnically, and experientially diverse.

If I am a non-traditional student and veterinary medicine is a second career choice, what should I do to start pursuing my new career choice?

To begin, you should verify if you have fulfilled any of the prerequisites or determine which courses you need to take. You should also build your experience hours, if you have not already. If you have not taken the GRE, or it has been more than five years since you took the test, you should study for and take the exam. Since each non-traditional student's situation is unique, we encourage you to contact our student services specialist/recruiter, Miguel Inzunza (208) 335-5107 or minzunza@vetmed.wsu.edu, who can help make sure you are on track.

What is the gender distribution in the veterinary program?

Entering classes for the past five years have included approximately 75% women and 25% men.

Can I take the VCAT or MCAT instead of the GRE?

No. We do not accept any substitutions for the general GRE exam.

Can I retake the GRE to improve my scores?

Yes. WSU will consider the highest score per section from exams taken within the five year period.

Is it appropriate to list religious activities on the application?

Yes, if they are relevant to one of the application sections. Many applicants will participate in service activities, national and international mission work, and gain other life experience from participation in a belief system. Applicants should feel welcome to include this information where appropriate.

Do evaluations from influential people help?

These evaluations help no more than those from any other individual. Generally, the best evaluations are written by people who know the applicant well enough to provide candid and detailed information about his/her technical and non-technical abilities.

Should I apply for financial aid before I know if I have been accepted?

YES, DEFINITELY!

Can I reapply if I don't get accepted to vet school?

Yes. The average student accepted into the WSU CVM program has applied 1.4 times.

Do I need to submit a new application the next year I wish to apply?

Yes. Applications are not carried over from year to year, so if you are unsuccessful and wish to be reconsidered for admission in a different year, you must submit a completely new VMCAS application, WSU supplemental application, as well as all new supporting materials (such as GRE scores, transcripts, evaluations, etc.).

Does WSU CVM accept transfer students from other veterinary programs?

Transfer is possible if open seats are available in the corresponding WSU DVM class. When you accept a veterinary program position, you should be prepared to remain in that program for its entirety as transferring is not a guarantee. If you are still interested in trying to pursue a potential transfer to WSU, you can contact Barbara Hodson, bhodson@vetmed.wsu.edu, for the WSU CVM transfer request policy and information.

Does the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine offer a veterinary technician/assistant program?

No. There are three veterinary technician/assistant programs in the state of Washington: Yakima Valley Community College, Pima Medical Institute, and Pierce College; www.avma.org/education/cvea/vettech_programs/washington.asp.

Where can I get further information about a career in veterinary medicine?

You may write to the American Veterinary Medical Association, 1931 North Meacham Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60173-4360 or visit www.avma.org.

What is there to do in Pullman?

The area has much to offer those who seek a lifestyle that combines a beautiful country setting with the benefits of a major university. With a true four-season climate, there is excellent outdoor recreation available ranging from hiking, renowned golf courses, and whitewater rafting to mountain biking and both water and snow skiing, as well as theater and arts. Pullman is also home to the National Lentil Festival, the Chipman Trail (an 8+ mile paved trail that connects the communities of Pullman and Moscow, Idaho), and Ferdinand's (known for delicious ice cream and world-famous award-winning Cougar Gold cheese).

What courses should a high school student take to prepare for a career in Veterinary Medicine?

A high school student should follow a solid college preparatory program, including English, mathematics, sciences (particularly biology, chemistry, and physics), and social sciences.

WSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

You are invited to visit the WSU CVM at www.vetmed.wsu.edu. Additional information about WSU, the College of Veterinary Medicine, academic and research programs, and a calendar of college activities and events is available.

For further information contact:

Office of Student Services
College of Veterinary Medicine
Washington State University
PO Box 647012
Pullman, Washington 99164-7012
509-335-1532, 509-335-5107, Fax 509-335-6133
admissions@vetmed.wsu.edu

CAMPUS VISITS

College of Veterinary Medicine Visit and Tours

Tours of the CVM facilities and teaching hospital are arranged on a case-by-case basis, as tour guides are available. The tours are of the CVM facilities, not of animals in the teaching hospital. Tours are not typically provided on weekends. Since tours and classes vary by date, we require **one week** notice for a tour to be arranged.

***Tour Restrictions:** Please be aware that children under the age of 13 are **not** allowed on tours for health and safety reasons. Tour groups may not exceed **ten** people unless otherwise arranged. You will not be allowed to touch/pet any animals or take any pictures. All guests touring the hospital must remain with their tour guide at all times.*

To arrange a visit, please complete and submit a visitation form by going to www.vetmed.wsu.edu/prospectiveStudents/ Please give at least one week notice of your anticipated arrival. Maps and directions to the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine can be downloaded at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/maps

APRIL 13, 2012 Discover Veterinary Medicine @ WSU

Discover Veterinary Medicine @ WSU is a recruitment event that takes place on the Friday immediately before the annual CVM open house. Pre-veterinary students must register to attend the all-day event that includes an application walk-through, a special tour of the CVM facilities, panel discussion with current DVM students and spouses, financial aid information, what it's like to live in Pullman, and more. This event is geared toward those individuals who will be applying to the DVM program within a two-year window or have applied recently. Seating is limited so registration is required. Advance planning is critical if you will need overnight accommodations as WSU Mom's Weekend causes an unusual influx of visitors to the Pullman area. More information and registration will be posted on the prospective student web site, www.vetmed.wsu.edu/prospectiveStudents/.

APRIL 14, 2012 CVM Annual Open House

Each spring as a part of the WSU Mom's Weekend festivities, the student body of the College of Veterinary Medicine hosts an open house. Several thousand visitors attend the open house to tour the hospital facilities and discover the behind-the-scenes side of veterinary medical education and practice. The painted cow and horse, working dog demonstrations, pet health and care mini-lectures, or any of the various booth games/giveaways are just a few of the highlights. Butch, the WSU mascot and 2007 national mascot of the year, also attends the open house. This is an excellent opportunity for people with an interest in veterinary medicine to observe the facilities, students, and faculty and to learn about veterinary service programs at Washington State University.

STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

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The information in this publication was current at the time of publishing, but is subject to change. The College of Veterinary Medicine reserves the right to modify this information at any time.

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