

Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine

WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine is one of the nation's top veterinary schools. It has one of the best-equipped veterinary teaching hospitals in the world. The college has top faculty who are respected worldwide—and who truly care about the success of their students.

WSU CVM Highlights:

- Fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association.
- Awards more than \$200,000 in scholarships each year to DVM students.
- Widely recognized at the national level for educational elements of the professional program, including biomedical research, the national award-winning Diagnostic Challenge, and aquatic animal health.
- Ranks among the top U.S. veterinary colleges in terms of extramural research support—averaging extramural research expenditures of \$8.3 million per year.
- A leader in developing alternative, animal-sparing methods to teach surgery.
- Serves as host for the national Veterinary Leadership Experience for DVM students and faculty.

Come and Visit!

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine offers pre-scheduled tours to individuals and groups who are visiting the WSU campus. If you are interested in touring the veterinary teaching hospital, or meeting with a faculty member in a certain research discipline, please contact us at least one week in advance.

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Services
509-335-1532
bhodson@vetmed.wsu.edu

Is Veterinary Medicine Right for You?

Veterinarians are extremely dedicated and willing to work long, difficult hours to save the life of an animal or help solve a public health crisis. Some of the personal qualities that help with a successful career in veterinary medicine are:

A SCIENTIFIC MIND—Individuals who are interested in veterinary medicine should have a curious mind and good sense of observation, noticing what is going on around them. It is also important to be interested in biological sciences. Veterinarians must be committed to lifelong learning since techniques and medicines are constantly improving and being discovered.

GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS—Veterinarians should be able to meet, talk, and work well with a variety of people. Animals may not be able to tell a doctor where it hurts, but most animal owners can explain what differences they've noticed in their animal. Compassion is an essential quality for success. Veterinarians must genuinely like and understand animals, as well as be able to work with owners who form strong bonds with their animals.

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE—While we don't always think about it, veterinarians have lots of help. Technicians, pharmacists, receptionists, and even kennel cleaners all work together to help the veterinarian treat and care for animals. Many work environments (e.g., private or corporate clinical practice, governmental agencies, public health programs) require that veterinarians manage other employees. This means that basic managerial and leadership skills training will make a veterinarian more successful in the workplace, as well as create a more enjoyable work environment.

The Veterinarian's Oath—“...use scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.”



For More Information

Online Resources:

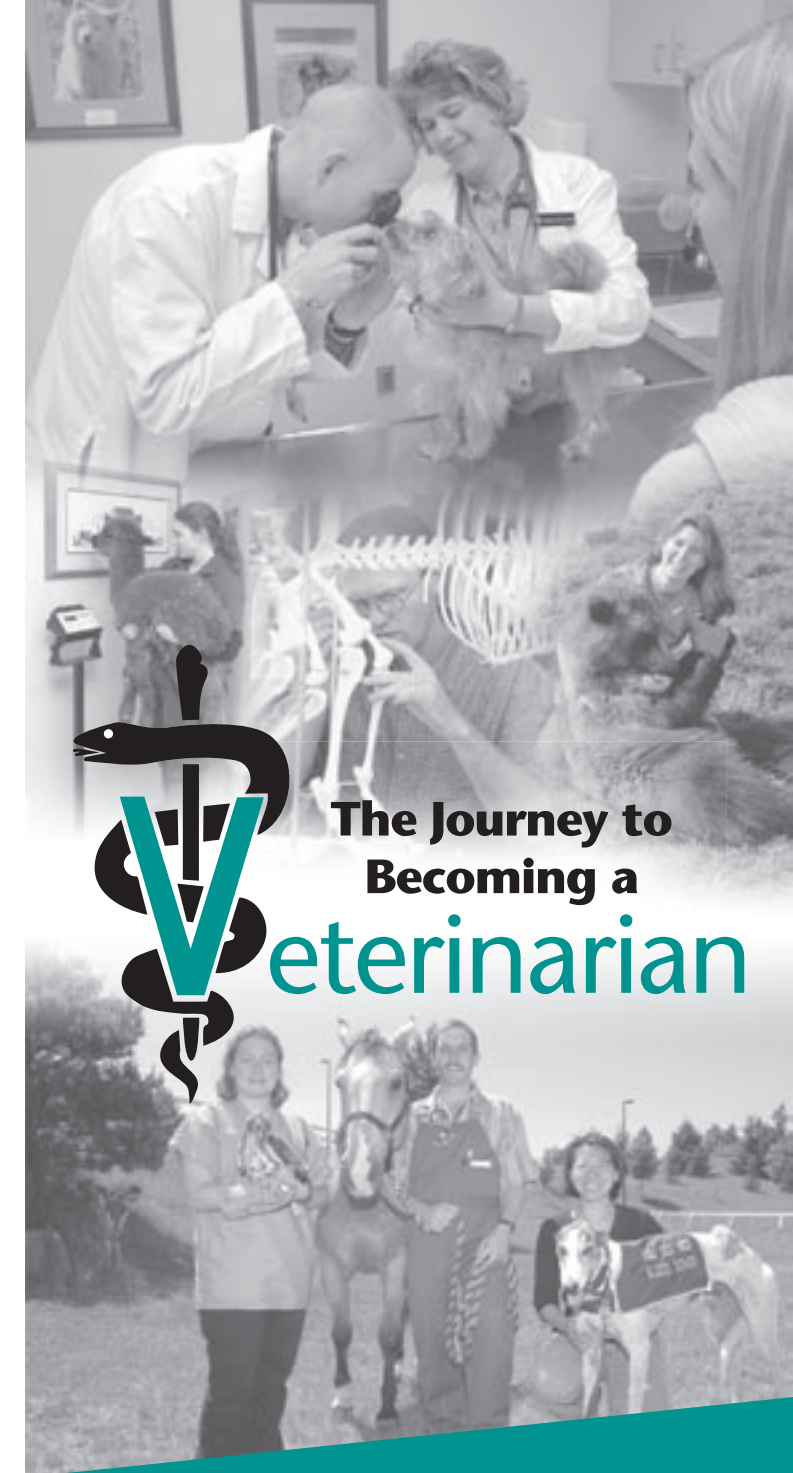
- Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.wsu.edu
- Overview of Veterinary Medicine
www.avma.org
www.aavmc.org
- Teaching and Research
www.ars.usda.gov
www.craiggroup.com/aavc.htm
www.ncrr.nih.gov
- Regulatory Medicine
www.usaha.org
www.aphis.usda.gov
www.fsis.usda.gov
www.ars.usda.gov
www.csrees.usda.gov
- Public Health
www.cdc.gov
www.usphs.gov
www.nasphv.org
www.fda.gov/cvm

Contact Us:

Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Services
PO Box 647012
Pullman, WA 99164-7012
509-335-5107
abbiedem@vetmed.wsu.edu



World Class. Face to Face.



The Journey to
Becoming a
Veterinarian



World Class. Face to Face.

What is a Veterinarian?

Do you have a pet? Has it been sick or injured? Did you take it to a veterinarian?

Veterinarians and their assistants help all kinds of animals, but becoming a veterinarian can open doors to so much more than just working with animals!

Do you think you would like to become a veterinarian or a veterinary technician? It is not too early to think about it.

Some things to consider:

- Do you care about animals?
- Do you like most people that you meet?
- Do you work hard in school?
- Do you do well in science?
- Do you do well in math?
- Do you do well in English?
- Do you want to go to college?

All of these questions are important if you would like to be a veterinarian or a veterinary technician.

Start Preparing Today!

Have you already decided that you would like to become a veterinarian? You are not alone. Many students decide at an early age that veterinary medicine is their passion. Or maybe you never thought about it, but now you really enjoy your science courses...especially the anatomy or chemistry components.

Junior High School

So how can you begin preparing in junior high? One day you will be asked to write down all of your experiences working with animals. The best way to do this is by keeping a journal/log of all the things you do and the amount of time (dates, hours, etc.) you spend doing them. In that way, you will have a jump start on everyone else.



High School

When you begin planning your high school schedule, you should let your guidance counselor know about your desire to become a veterinarian or veterinary technician. By doing this, your counselor can help you plan to take as many math and science courses as possible to help you prepare for college. Students interested in a career in veterinary medicine should perform well in general science/biology and math courses in high school.



High School

If you are planning your high school schedule and you want to go into veterinary medicine, you are strongly encouraged to complete:

- 4 years mathematics—algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus
- 4 years laboratory sciences—biology, chemistry, physics
- 4 years English

Other elective courses that round out your education are dependent upon the college/university you plan to attend.

Career Experience

Students who want to go into veterinary medicine also need to participate in activities that help to research and experience that career area. Some of these activities/experiences include:

- General animal—4-H/FFA animal projects, volunteering at a humane society, zoo, racetrack, livestock farm, etc.
- Veterinary work—hands-on work under the supervision of a veterinarian (this includes job-shadowing).

Leadership and Community Service

Leadership and community service activities also help you prepare to be a successful veterinarian. If possible, get involved in a variety of clubs or organizations that help you develop leadership, communication, and service skills. Some of these clubs/organizations include:

- Honor society, Key Club, Kiwanis, ASB/student government, sports teams, church groups, roadside clean-up, etc.

Be sure to keep track in your journal/log of all the different career, leadership, and service activities you participate in because all of those things can be used on your application to college and veterinary school.

Today's veterinarians are in the unique position of being the only doctors trained to protect the health of both animals and people. They are not only educated to meet the health needs of every species of animal, but they play a significant role in environmental protection, food safety, and public health.

Caring Professionals

According to surveys, veterinarians consistently rank among the most respected professionals in the country. Currently there are close to 82,000 veterinarians who actively practice in the United States and the profession is growing at a rate of approximately 3% a year. However, in the past few years the number of people going into veterinary medicine has remained the same or declined, so the demand for qualified veterinarians will only increase. This is especially true for agricultural animal and research-based veterinarians.

Protecting the Health of Animals and Society

Employment opportunities for veterinarians are almost endless and include private or corporate clinical practice, teaching and research, regulatory medicine, public health, military service, and many others.

Private or Corporate Clinical Practice

In the United States, approximately 67% of veterinarians are engaged in the exciting field of private or corporate clinical practice. Of these, many treat only pets such as dogs, cats, birds, small mammals (e.g., hamsters, guinea pigs), reptiles, and fish. Other veterinarians limit their practice to the care of farm/ranch animals and advise owners on the best approaches to production medicine; some exclusively treat horses; and still others treat a combination of all species.

Teaching and Research

Veterinarians may also use their education to instruct veterinary students, other medical professionals, and scientists. Veterinary college/school faculty members conduct research, teach, and develop continuing education programs to help practicing veterinarians acquire new knowledge and skills. Veterinarians employed in research at universities, colleges, governmental agencies, or in industry are dedicated to finding new ways to prevent and treat animal and human health disorders. The public can credit veterinarians for many significant contributions to human health. For example, veterinarians helped conquer malaria and yellow fever, solved the mystery of botulism, produced an anticoagulant used to treat some people with heart disease, and defined and developed surgical techniques for humans such as hip and knee-joint replacements and limb and organ transplants.

Veterinarians who work in pharmaceutical and biomedical research firms develop, test, and supervise the production of drugs and biological products such as antibiotics and vaccines used for animals and humans. These veterinarians usually have specialized training in pharmacology, virology, bacteriology, or pathology.

Veterinarians are also employed in management, technical sales and services, and other positions in agribusinesses, pet food companies, and pharmaceutical companies. They are in demand in the agricultural chemical industry, private testing laboratories, and the feed, livestock, and poultry industries.

Regulatory Medicine

Veterinarians who work for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) protect the public from unhealthy livestock and unsafe meat and poultry. They ensure that food products are safe and wholesome through carefully monitored nationwide inspection programs.

To prevent the introduction of foreign diseases into the United States, veterinarians are employed by state and federal regulatory agencies to quarantine and inspect animals brought into the country. They supervise shipment of animals between states, test for diseases, and manage campaigns to prevent and eradicate diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, and rabies that pose threats to animal and human health.

USDA veterinarians in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) monitor the development and testing of new vaccines to ensure their safety and effectiveness. APHIS veterinarians are also responsible for enforcing humane laws for the treatment of animals.

Public Health

Veterinarians serve as epidemiologists in city, county, state, and federal agencies investigating animal and human disease outbreaks such as food-borne illnesses, influenza, rabies, Lyme disease, and West Nile viral encephalitis. They also help ensure the safety of food processing plants, restaurants, and water supplies.

Veterinarians working in environmental health programs study the effects of pesticides, industrial pollutants, and other contaminants on animals and people. At the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), veterinarians evaluate the safety and efficacy of medicines and food additives. Veterinarians also work at the Agricultural Research Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Library of Medicine, and National Institutes of Health.

Military Service

Veterinarians in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps are at the forefront of protecting the United States against bioterrorism. They are responsible for food safety, veterinary care of government-owned animals, and biomedical research and development. Officers with special training in laboratory animal medicine, pathology, microbiology, or related areas conduct research in military and other governmental agencies.

In the U.S. Air Force, veterinarians serve in the Biomedical Science Corps as public health officers. They manage communicable disease control programs at air force bases around the world and work toward halting the spread of HIV, influenza, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases through education, surveillance, and vaccination.

Other Professional Activities

Zoological medicine, aquatic animal medicine, aerospace medicine (shuttle astronauts), animal shelter medicine, sports medicine (racehorses, greyhounds), animal-assisted activity and therapy programs, and wildlife management also employ veterinarians. Two veterinarians have even made it to space as part of the NASA space shuttle program!

Veterinarians protect the health of animals and people every day!

