

# Pre-Veterinary Fact Sheet

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## Prerequisite and Recommended Courses

Pre-veterinary students who complete the following courses should be well-prepared to apply to a large percentage of veterinary programs. Students should research individual schools to ensure they are aware of all prerequisite courses and admission policies.

### PREREQUISITES OFTEN REQUIRED BY VETERINARY PROGRAMS

- General Biology I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - BIO 201/205 & BIO 202/206
- General Chemistry I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - CHM 203/204 & CHM 205/206
- Organic Chemistry I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - CHM 321/322 & CHM 323/324
- General Physics I & II w/ Labs - 8 hours - PHY 201/205 & 202/206
- Biochemistry - 3 or 6 hours - CHM 371 or CHM 383 & CHM 384
- Genetics - 3 or 4 hours - BIO 317 (3), BIO 318 (1)
- Microbiology - 3 hours - BIO 350 (non-BIO majors) or BIO 452/453 (BIO majors)
- Calculus - 3 or 4 hours - MTH 231 or MTH 245
- Statistics - 3 hours - Many options for courses
- English - 6 hours - must include one composition course

### ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED COURSES

- Physiology - 3 or 4 hours - BIO 449 (3), BIO 450 (1)
- Animal Behavior - 3 or 5 hours - BIO 371 (3), BIO 372 (2)
- Cell Structure and Function - 3 or 4 hours - BIO 362 (3), BIO 363 (1)
- Parasitology - 4 hours - BIO 439
- Vertebrate Comparative Anatomy - 4 hours - BIO 433
- Zoology - 4 hours - BIO 355

Applicants should research individual schools to be certain of their admissions policies regarding accepting AP/CLEP/IB, dual-enrollment, and community college courses to satisfy prerequisites.

### PRE-VETERINARY GROUPS AND RESOURCES

**Pre-Vet Club:** All pre-veterinary students should participate in the Pre-Vet Club. This student organization provides leadership opportunities to further explore and gain experience in the veterinary profession. Learn more on CU Involved: <https://cuinvolved.creighton.edu/organization/pre-vetclub>

**Veterinary Programs:** There are 33 schools of veterinary medicine in the U.S. Students can access a list through the American Association of Veterinary Medicine Colleges' website: <https://www.aavmc.org>

### BECOMING A COMPETITIVE APPLICANT

Some veterinary schools may allow students to begin without a bachelor's degree after completing all prerequisite courses, but many require the completion of a bachelor's degree prior to starting veterinary school. Competitive applicants have solid academic records, well-rounded co-curricular experiences, strong scores on the GRE (if required), supportive letters of recommendation, and can clearly articulate their reasons for pursuing veterinary medicine.

#### Selecting a Major, Grades, and GPA

Students are encouraged to choose a major where they can demonstrate strong overall academic performance, while also focusing on developing a solid foundation in the sciences. Ideally, a major should be based on student interests and should support an alternate career. Veterinary schools look for students who demonstrate the academic ability to handle rigorous course loads.

Grades are another vital aspect that admissions committees look towards, as they indicate an inability (or ability) to handle challenges in veterinary school. This is why it is important to try to maintain grades higher than a B. Grades below a B, especially within the two academic years leading up to veterinary school application, could interfere with admission; it is possible to withdraw (W) from courses in this situation. However, students should be aware that more than two W's could indicate a lack of judgment.

GPA's calculated on veterinary school applications include coursework done at all colleges attended and all attempts at a course.

Aim for GPA's of **3.5 or above**.

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## COURSE SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

Freshmen and sophomores usually take only two natural science or math subjects each semester.

### Chemistry:

General Chemistry I (CHM 203/204) and General Chemistry II (CHM 205/206) are typical choices for freshman fall and spring. To be eligible to take General Chemistry in the freshman year, students must achieve a sufficient score on the Quantitative Assessment for New Students (QANS). Students who do not achieve a sufficient QANS score will need to complete Introductory General Chemistry 1 (CHM 102) with a grade of "B-" or better to progress to CHM 202/204.

### Biology:

General Biology I (BIO 201/205) and General Biology II (202/206) are typical choices for freshman fall and spring. Completion of either General Chemistry I (CHM 203) with a grade of "C" or better or Introductory General Chemistry 1 (CHM 102) with a grade of "B-" or better is required in order to take General Biology II.

### Math:

Pre-veterinary students may be required to complete a calculus course. This requirement can be fulfilled by either MTH 231 or MTH 245. Math, physics, and chemistry majors will need more than one semester of calculus and should take MTH 245.

### Physics:

Students who have sufficient math and physics (a year of high school physics or a semester of college introductory physics, math through pre-calculus) are eligible to take General Physics I (PHY 201/205) and General Physics II (PHY 202/206). Prospective math, physics, and chemistry majors may take alternate sections of General Physics and additional math.

### Summer Classes:

Science courses may be taken in the summer, but only when there are good reasons for doing so (not just a vague desire to "catch up") and not at community colleges. Speak with a Pre-Vet Advisor about timelines.

## Sample First Semester Schedule

\*Course sequencing may vary depending on a student's readiness\*

- General Biology I w/ Lab (4 hours)
- General Chemistry I w/ Lab (4 hours)
- Magis Core Class (3 or 4 hours) - ENG or Critical Issues & COM 101
- Magis Core Class (3 hours) - PHL or THL
- Maybe another Magis Core Class (3 hours) - PSY, SOC, or Foreign Language
- RSP Class (.5 hours)

## CO-CURRICULAR EXPECTATIONS

### Volunteer & Service

It is important to demonstrate sustained commitment over time. Students should have service experiences in animal and non-animal settings. Check out the Schlegel Center for Service and Justice for opportunities:  
<https://www.creighton.edu/scsj>.

### Shadowing

Students must gain knowledge of the profession by shadowing professionals in their field or by working and volunteering with veterinarians. Varied experiences working with different animal populations can be important and helpful.

### Research

Research experience working with vets or animals may add an extra layer to the application, especially if the student is interested in research. See the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship for opportunities:  
[www.creighton.edu/curas](http://www.creighton.edu/curas).

### Leadership and Teamwork

Students must demonstrate leadership and interpersonal skills. Consider initiating group projects, serving as an officer in a student organization, or working as a teaching assistant. Students must also demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively.

### Animal Experience

Working with animals is valuable experience. Volunteering at shelters or rescue organizations, participating in summer enrichment opportunities, experience in 4-H and FFA, an internship at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, or even employment in a veterinary office are all ways to gain animal experience.

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