

WHAT IS A VETERINARIAN?

Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) are dedicated to animal welfare. Veterinarians diagnose and treat diseases and injuries in animals. They also help prevent the spread of disease from animals to humans.

PREREQUISITES:

NOTE: EACH VETERINARY SCHOOL ESTABLISHES ITS OWN SET OF PREREQUISITES. CHECK THE WEBSITES OF THE SCHOOLS THAT YOU ARE MOST INTERESTED IN TO OBTAIN A CURRENT LIST OF UNDERGRADUATE REQUIREMENTS.

Listed below are the courses at the University of Dubuque that students must complete to meet Iowa State University's School of Veterinary Medicine prerequisite course requirements for admission.	
Physics (4 credits)	PHY 151 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.)
Math	UDMA 250 and/or UDMA 230
Chemistry (8 credits)	CHM 111 (MATH 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and CHM 112
Organic Chemistry (8 credits)	CHM 221 (CHM 112 is a prerequisite for this course.) and CHM 222 (CHM 221 is a prerequisite for this course.)
Biochemistry (4 credits)	CHM 331 (CHM 222 is a prerequisite for this course.) *CHM 332 is Highly Recommended
Biological Sciences (8 credits)	BIO 135 General Zoology and BIO 235 Cell Biology * One year series with lab each term. If a two-semester series is not available, an organismal biology course with lab and a cellular biology course with lab will substitute. A Bachelor's degree in Biology also fulfills this requirement.
Genetics (4 credits)	BIO 236
Mammalian Anatomy and/or Physiology* (4 credits)	Human anatomy and physiology will fulfill this requirement. A single course in anatomy or physiology is preferred over an anatomy/physiology combined course.
Oral Communication (3 credits)	COM 101
English (6 credits)	ENG 101 and RES 104
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (8 Credits)	Skill courses such as drawing, painting, music lessons, and foreign language courses do not fulfill this requirement.
<i>If you choose not to major in one of the natural sciences, you may wish to include one or two additional science electives in your program of study if your schedule permits.</i>	

Prospective students and applicants are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to contact cvmadmissions@iastate.edu if there are questions concerning whether or not a course will fulfill the ISU-CVM requirement.

EXAM AND GPA:

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is a standardized examination that consists of four multiple-choice sections that cover basic mathematics and reading comprehension skills. The GRE is designed to measure general academic ability. It is required by most Veterinary schools. Typically, students take the GRE about one calendar year prior to their intended date of matriculation to professional school. The GRE is a nationally standardized test, similar to the ACT and SAT. A GRE score is good for three years at most schools, so taking the test in the spring of junior year does not necessarily mean that you must enter veterinary school right after college graduation. **The GRE Code for Iowa State University is 6315.**

Grade Point Average (GPA): All required coursework must be completed with a grade of "C" (2.00) or better to fulfill the requirement. A "C-minus" or lower is not acceptable. Any required science course taken more than 8 years ago may be subject to review and the applicant may be asked for further information or to repeat the course.

TIMELINE:**Freshman Year:**

- Connect with a Health Professions Advisor or Faculty Member.
- Start taking basic sciences (See chart above).
- Think about possible majors (Study what you love).
- Begin getting involved with volunteer opportunities (campus and community).
- Start shadowing
- Join some student organizations.

Sophomore Year:

- Continue with next sequence of courses.
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities (shadowing, volunteer, etc).
- Begin to think about becoming an officer in your organizations.
- Begin research on professional schools, their requirements, and assess your competitiveness.
- Investigate GRE preparation options.
- Identify programs you are interested in.
- **BOTTOM LINE:** Keep working on the things you established your first year!!

Junior Year:

- Talk to Health Professions advisor or faculty member to narrow program options and assess competitiveness (Fall semester).
- Register for the GRE (Fall Semester).
- Study for GRE and take it (Spring/Summer).
- Identify 3-4 individuals to write letters of recommendation (Spring Semester).
- Complete Application (VMCAS) (Spring Semester-Summer).
- Schedule a mock interview with Career Services.
- Keep working on the things you have established thus far.

Senior Year:

- Submit Application(s) if you haven't already (Fall semester).
- Wait to be contacted for interviews from veterinary schools.
- Continue with activities and professional experiences/shadowing.
- Talk with an advisor about Plan B if necessary.
- Finish degree requirements and GRADUATE!

RESOURCES:

Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges [Click Here](#)

GRE Information [Click Here](#)

Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine [Click Here](#)