# Veterinary Medicine

## Nature of the Work

For descriptions of this profession see:

- *Students, Applicants, and Advisors* section of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges website: [http://www.aavmc.org/](http://www.aavmc.org/)
- [www.explorehealthcareers.org](http://www.explorehealthcareers.org)

## Course Requirements

- 1 year general biology
- 1 year general chemistry
- 1 year organic chemistry
- 1 year general physics
- Most schools require additional courses (check the *Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements*; VMSAR; [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org))

## Application Timeline

Veterinary school directly after Gettysburg College:

- Required courses completed by end of senior year (although preference may be given to applicants that complete the required courses sooner)
- Apply during summer between junior and senior years

## Standardized Test

- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) revised General Test ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Given year-round at computer-based test centers
- Length ~ 4 hours
- 3 sections: Verbal Reasoning (score 130-170), Quantitative Reasoning (score 130-170), Analytical Writing (score 0-6)
- Register on-line ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Free and low-cost preparation materials ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))
- Unofficial scores on test day, official scores in 10-15 days
- Some schools accept the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) in place of the GRE (check VMSAR)

## Application Service

- Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) ([www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org))
- Available ~ June 1
- Schools not participating in VMCAS: apply directly to the school
- APPLY EARLY!!!
| Admissions Criteria                         | • Overall and science GPA (check VMSAR for #’s)  
|                                           | • Standardized test scores (GRE) (check VMSAR for #’s)  
|                                           | • Animal-related experience  
|                                           | • 3 separate letters of evaluation  
|                                           | • Leadership and communication skills  
|                                           | • Commitment to service  
|                                           | • Interview  
| Length of Program                         | • Veterinary school: 4 years  
|                                           | • Optional 1 year internship following veterinary school  
|                                           | • Optional 2-3 year residency following internship  
| Degree                                    | • Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)  
| Additional Resources                      | • Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges ([www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org))  
|                                           | • American Veterinary Medical Association ([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org))  

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