

**Pre-Health Advisors:**

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**Guide for Students Interested in:**

- D.V.M.: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

**Pre-Health Liaison:**

Facebook Group: Simmons University Pre-Health Liaison  
[prehealth-liaison@simmons.edu](mailto:prehealth-liaison@simmons.edu)

Typical Veterinary School Prerequisite Requirements

Subject	# of Semesters	Simmons Courses to Satisfy Prerequisites
<b>Biology</b>	Biology Major Strongly Recommended	<b>BIOL 113:</b> General Biology or <b>BIOL 115:</b> Advanced General Biology (both SCI) <b>BIOL 218:</b> Zoology (SCI) <b>BIOL 221:</b> Microbiology (SCI, Biology Major elective) <b>BIOL 222:</b> Animal Physiology (SCI) <b>BIOL 225:</b> Cell Biology (SCI) <b>BIOL 336:</b> Genetics (SCI)
<b>General Chemistry</b> Enrollment in CHEM 111, 113 or 115 is dependent on placement exam score or Chemistry department recommendation. All fulfill the first semester of General Chemistry.	2 semesters	<b>CHEM 111:</b> Principles of General Chemistry or <b>CHEM 113:</b> General Chemistry I or <b>CHEM 115:</b> Intensive General Chemistry (all SCI)  <b>CHEM 216:</b> General Chemistry II & Quantitative Analysis (SCI)
<b>Organic Chemistry</b>	2 semesters	<b>CHEM 224:</b> Organic Chemistry I (SCI) <b>CHEM 225:</b> Organic Chemistry II (SCI)
<b>Mathematics</b>	3 semesters	<b>MATH 120:</b> Calculus I (QL, prerequisite for PHYS 114) <b>MATH 121:</b> Calculus II (QL, prerequisite for PHYS 115)  <b>MATH 118:</b> Introductory Statistics and/or higher level (QL)
<b>College Physics</b>	2 semesters	<b>PHYS 114:</b> Fundamentals of Physics I (SCI) <b>PHYS 115:</b> Fundamentals of Physics II (SCI)
<b>Biochemistry</b>	1 semester	<b>CHEM 345:</b> Biochemistry (recommended) or <b>CHEM 223:</b> Principles of Biochemistry (SCI)
<b>English Composition</b>	2 semesters	<b>ENGL:</b> choose a writing intensive course (often fills ALA KCA); <b>BOS 101</b> fulfills 1 semester

Strongly Recommended Coursework (Required for Some)

<b>Nutrition</b>	1 semester	<b>NUTR 112:</b> Introduction to Nutrition Science
<b>Public Speaking</b>	1 semester	<b>COMM 181:</b> Public Speaking & Group Discussion
<b>Social Sciences</b>	1+ semesters	<b>SOCI 101:</b> Introduction to Sociology (SH) or <b>SOCI 241:</b> Health, Illness & Society (SH) <b>PSYC 101:</b> Introduction to Sociological Science

## Pre-Vet Timeline Example

This timeline is an **example** of how you **may** wish to take courses if you plan to go directly from Simmons to Veterinary School, with only the summer after graduation as a break. This is generally an appropriate route for a student who had no doubts that they want to attend veterinary school (and therefore don't need to spend time exploring options), and is strong academically in their first two years of college. It is common for students to start out on this timeline in their first year, and choose to take one or more growth years later in their career for a variety of reasons (i.e. balancing academic rigor, gaining additional animal care experience, etc.).

Students will consult with the Pre-Health Advisors to determine which timeline will aid them in being the strongest possible candidate at the time of application to veterinary school. The Pre-Vet track is more flexible than other Pre-Health tracks because students do not need to take science prerequisites before sitting for the GRE. If students plan to take growth year(s), there is even more flexibility in this schedule.

Year & PLAN Requirements	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>BOS 101:</b> Boston Course  <b>SIM 101:</b> Simmons (2 cr.)  <b>CHEM 111/113/115:</b> Inorganic Chemistry I  <b>BIOL 113/115:</b> Biology I	<b>LDR 101:</b> Leadership Course  <b>CHEM 216:</b> General Chemistry II & Quantitative Analysis  <b>BIOL 218:</b> Zoology	<i>Exposure to Veterinary Medicine</i>  <i>Community Service</i>
<b>Year 2</b>  Learning Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 courses, 3 cr. each</li> <li>• 1 integrated seminar, 2 cr.</li> </ul> Simmons: Experience, fall or spring, 1 cr.	<b>CHEM 224:</b> Organic Chemistry I  <b>MATH 120:</b> Calculus I  <b>BIOL 222:</b> Animal Physiology  <i>Discuss Learning Community Options with your Advisor</i>	<b>CHEM 225:</b> Organic Chemistry II  <b>MATH 121:</b> Calculus II  <b>BIOL 225:</b> Cell Biology (prereq for BIOL 336)	<i>Continue Service</i>  <i>Animal Care/Healthcare experience</i>
<b>Year 3</b>  3D: Design Across Diverse Disciplines (years 3 & 4)  Simmons: Excel, 1 cr.	<b>PHYS 114:</b> Physics I  <b>BIOL 336:</b> Genetics  <b>GRE Preparation</b>	<b>PHYS 115:</b> Physics II  <b>BIOL 221:</b> Microbiology  <b>GRE Preparation</b>  <b>GRE Exam strongly recommended by mid-April</b>	<i>Animal Care/Healthcare experience</i>  <i>Apply by June/July</i>  <i>Secondary Applications</i>
<b>Year 4</b>  Capstone (in major)	<b>CHEM 345:</b> Biochemistry  <b>Vet School Interviews</b>	<b>Vet School Interviews</b>	<i>Take a break before Vet School</i>
<b>Additional Recommended &amp; Required Coursework:</b>  These courses are offered in both Fall and Spring semesters, and therefore offer students greater flexibility when adding them to their academic plan.  *Required (others are strongly recommended)	<b>*MATH 118:</b> Introductory Statistics (or higher, QL) <b>*ENGL:</b> choose a writing intensive course (often ALA) <b>COMM 181:</b> Public Speaking & Group Discussion <b>NUTR 112:</b> Introduction to Nutrition Science <b>SOCI 101 or 241:</b> Intro to Sociology or Health, Illness and Society (SH) <b>PSYC 101:</b> Intro to Psychological Science  <b>Language Requirement</b> , 2 sequential courses in the same language  Remaining <b>Global Cultural (GC) Key Content Area</b> (The QL, ALA, SH and SCI requirements will likely be fulfilled with the above Pre-Health courses)		

## Applying to Veterinary School

Veterinary school admission is very competitive because there are very few programs. The average applicant takes three application cycles to be admitted. Exposure to veterinary medicine and hands-on animal care experience is **vital** to build a competitive veterinary school application. Accepted applicants nationally have science GPAs averaging 3.5 and overall undergraduate grade point average of 3.6.

### Qualities of Strong Professional School Applicants:

- Apply early (early summer) of the year before the expected year of matriculation.
- Submit application to schools that best match your strengths.
- A high GPA in science and non-science courses – a competitive GPA is above a 3.5-3.6
- Competitive Scores on the GRE.
- Active in volunteer/work experience/extracurricular events
- Has significant animal care or healthcare – shadowing & volunteer work are essential!
- Well known by professors
- Great letters of recommendation and evaluations
- It is recommended that applicants complete prerequisite courses at their home institution. If this is not possible, they should be completed at an accredited 4-year institution.

Students applying to veterinary schools must submit application materials through VMCAS

(<https://www.aavmc.org/students-applicants-and-advisors/veterinary-medical-college-application-service.aspx>)

## Standardized Testing

Veterinary schools require applicants to take the GRE. Some schools will also accept the MCAT in place of the GRE, but it is strongly recommended that students take the GRE. Average GRE percentile scores for admitted students are: Quantitative: 53.5, Written: 61.9, Verbal: 65.1. Learn more about the GRE: <https://www.ets.org/gre>

## Animal Care and Healthcare Experience

Because Veterinary School is so competitive, we encourage students to get as much animal care and healthcare experience as they can before and during the application process. Exposure to veterinary medicine and hands-on animal care experience is **vital** to build a competitive veterinary school application. Vet schools report that successful applicants typically have 400 or more hours of animal care experience.

- Animal experience can include working with livestock, breeding or showing various species, working at a zoo, aquarium or pet shop, volunteering at an animal shelter, etc.
- Human healthcare experience and/or biomedical research experience is also valuable (although students must also have animal care experience)
- Many schools require a letter of recommendations from a Veterinarian, so you are encouraged to start building relationships with local veterinarians early.

## Researching Veterinary Schools

Admission requirements vary by program and institution. To find school-specific requirements visit veterinary school websites directly in addition to the AAVMC Member listings: <https://www.aavmc.org/aavmc-members/full-member-listing>. The AAVMC also maintains a chart of member prerequisites:

<https://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchart.pdf>

## GPA Calculation

- Most professional schools will calculate your Overall GPA as well as your Science & Math GPA for admission. Math/science GPA is calculated using scores from any course taken in the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math (BCPM GPA).
- AP credits are NOT computed into your GPA
- ALL post-secondary coursework will be used to compute your GPA for admission, even if they are not included in your Simmons GPA. Dual-enrollment and transfer courses DO count toward your GPA.
- "W" grades do not count in your GPA. However, avoid "W" grades. Professional schools expect students to consistently carry a full-time course load (16-18 credits).