

Typical Veterinary School Prerequisite Requirements

Subject	# of Semesters	Simmons Courses to Satisfy Prerequisites
Biology	Biology Major Strongly Recommended	BIOL 113: General Biology or BIOL 115: Advanced General Biology (both SCI) BIOL 218: Zoology (SCI) BIOL 221: Microbiology (SCI, Biology Major elective) BIOL 222: Animal Physiology (SCI) BIOL 225: Cell Biology (SCI) BIOL 336: Genetics (SCI)
General Chemistry	2 semesters	CHEM 113: Principles of Chemistry or CHEM 115: Intensive General Chemistry CHEM 216: General Chemistry II & Quantitative Analysis OR CHEM 226: Analytical Chemistry (for Biochemistry and Chemistry Majors)
Organic Chemistry	2 semesters	CHEM 224: Organic Chemistry I (SCI) CHEM 225: Organic Chemistry II (SCI)
Mathematics	3 semesters	MATH 120: Calculus I (QL, prerequisite for PHYS 114) MATH 121: Calculus II (QL, prerequisite for PHYS 115) STAT 118: Introductory Statistics and/or higher level (QL)
College Physics	2 semesters	PHYS 114: Fundamentals of Physics I (IL) PHYS 115: Fundamentals of Physics II (SCI)
Biochemistry	1 semester	CHEM 345: Biochemistry (recommended) or CHEM 223: Principles of Biochemistry (SCI)
English Composition	2 semesters	ENGL: choose a writing intensive course (Can be fulfilled through ALA or Writing Intensive); WRI 101 fulfills 1 semester

Strongly Recommended Coursework (Required for Some)

Nutrition	1 semester	NUTR 112: Introduction to Nutrition Science
Public Speaking	1 semester	COMM 181: Public Speaking & Group Discussion
Social Sciences	1+ semesters	SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology (GH) or other Sociology course (GH or DEIJ) PSYC 101: Introduction to Psychological 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
Year 1 WRI 101: Writing Boston	SIM 100: Simmons Explore (2 cr.) CHEM 113/115: General Chemistry BIOL 113: General Biology	CHEM 224: Organic Chemistry I BIOL 218: Zoology	<i>Exposure to Veterinary Medicine</i> <i>Community Service</i>
Year 2	CHEM 225: Organic Chemistry II MATH 120: Calculus I BIOL 222: Animal Physiology	CHEM 216: General Chemistry II OR CHEM 226: Analytical Chemistry (Chemistry & Biochemistry majors) MATH 121: Calculus II BIOL 225: Cell Biology (prereq for BIOL 336)	<i>Continue Service</i> <i>Animal Care/ Healthcare experience</i>
Year 3 Simmons 200: Extend, 2 cr.	PHYS 114: Physics I BIOL 336: Genetics <i>GRE Preparation</i>	PHYS 115: Physics II BIOL 221: Microbiology <i>GRE Preparation</i> <i>GRE Exam strongly recommended by mid-April</i>	<i>Animal Care/ Healthcare experience</i> <i>Apply by June/July</i>
Year 4 Capstone (in major)	CHEM 345: Biochemistry <i>Vet School Interviews</i>	<i>Vet School Interviews</i>	<i>Take a break before Vet School</i>

<p>Additional Recommended & Required Coursework:</p> <p>These courses are offered in both Fall and Spring semesters, and therefore offer students greater flexibility when adding them to their academic plan.</p>	<p>STAT 118: Introductory Statistics (or higher, QL) ENGL: choose a writing intensive course (often ALA) COMM 181: Public Speaking & Group Discussion NUTR 112: Introduction to Nutrition Science SOCI 101 or 241: Intro to Sociology or Health, Illness and Society (GH or DEIJ) PSYC 101: Intro to Psychological Science</p> <p>Some Key Content Areas (ALA, GH, and SCI) and Key Skills Areas (DEIJ, QL, IL, WI, and Leadership) requirements may be fulfilled with the above Pre-Health courses.</p>
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Grow into Chemistry Timeline Example

This timeline allows students to ease into the rigorous Chemistry sequence required for veterinary school. It allows time to adjust to a college curriculum and take a health science-focused survey of Chemistry course prior to starting the Pre-Vet Chemistry sequence with CHEM 113: General Chemistry I in the sophomore year. **Please note that this timeline will require at least one growth year between graduation from Simmons and starting veterinary school.** Approximately 80% of Simmons Pre-Health students and 50% of students nationally take at least one growth year.

Year & PLAN Requirements	Fall	Spring	Summer
<p>Year 1 WRI 101: Writing Boston</p>	<p>SIM 100: Simmons (2 cr.)</p> <p>BIOL 113: General Biology</p>	<p>BIOL 218: Zoology</p> <p>CHEM 110: General, Organic and Biological Chemistry</p>	<p><i>Exposure to Veterinary Medicine</i></p> <p><i>Community Service</i></p>
<p>Year 2</p>	<p>CHEM 113: General Chemistry I</p> <p>MATH 120: Calculus I</p> <p>BIOL 222: Animal Physiology</p>	<p>CHEM 224: Organic Chemistry I</p> <p>MATH 121: Calculus II</p> <p>BIOL 225: Cell Biology (prereq for BIOL 336)</p>	<p><i>Continue Service</i></p> <p><i>Animal Care/Healthcare experience</i></p>
<p>Year 3 Simmons 200: Extend, 2 cr.</p>	<p>CHEM 225: Organic Chemistry II</p> <p>PHYS 114: Physics I</p> <p>BIOL 336: Genetics</p> <p><i>GRE Preparation</i></p>	<p>CHEM 216: General Chemistry II OR CHEM 226: Analytical Chemistry (Chemistry & Biochemistry majors)</p> <p>PHYS 115: Physics II</p> <p>BIOL 221: Microbiology</p> <p><i>GRE Preparation</i></p> <p><i>GRE Exam strongly recommended by mid-April</i></p>	<p><i>Animal Care/Healthcare experience</i></p> <p><i>Apply by June/July</i></p>

Year 4 Capstone (in major)	CHEM 345: Biochemistry <i>Vet School Interviews</i>	<i>Vet School Interviews</i>	<i>Take a break before Vet School</i>
Additional Recommended & Required Coursework: 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)	*STAT 118: Introductory Statistics (or higher, QL) *ENGL: choose a writing intensive course (often ALA) COMM 181: Public Speaking & Group Discussion NUTR 112: Introduction to Nutrition Science SOCI 101 or 241: Intro to Sociology or Health, Illness and Society (GH or DEIJ) PSYC 101: Intro to Psychological Science Some Key Content Areas (ALA, GH, and SCI) and Key Skills Areas (DEIJ, QL, IL, WI, and Leadership) requirements may 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

Some 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, Written: 57, Verbal: 64. 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).