The Pre-Veterinary Medicine program of study at East Tennessee State University prepares students for application to a 4-year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program. Completion of a bachelor’s degree is strongly recommended for application to veterinary school.

**Careers in Veterinary Medicine**

Veterinarians care for the health of animals. They diagnose, treat, or research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and animals in zoos, laboratories, and racetracks.

Veterinarians in private clinical practices use a variety of medical devices, including surgical tools and imaging equipment, to treat the injuries and illnesses of pets and farm animals.

Veterinarians often work long hours, including nights and weekends. They may also have to respond to emergencies outside of scheduled work hours. In 2010, around a quarter of veterinarians worked more than 50 hours per week.

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**Pre-veterinary medicine is not a major.** Therefore, you must choose a major (and minor, if appropriate) by the time you earn 60 credit hours. Students may major their field of choice. Some schools, however, feel that students who major in biology or chemistry will be the most prepared for entry into veterinary school. Students who have an extensive science background have an easier time with the veterinary school basic sciences than non-science majors. Students should speak with a Medical Professions advisor before/when declaring a major.

**You must meet with your advisor each semester.** You are required to meet with your pre-professional and major advisors each term before registering for the next. Students who receive scholarships or participate in specialized ETSU programs (such as athletics or Honors College programs) must also seek advisement from those departments. Serious consequences can occur if students fail to meet with advisors (e.g., failure to graduate on time, missing appropriate courses to prepare for application, etc.).

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**Employment Opportunities**

- **70,300** jobs in 2012
- **78,700** jobs projected in 2022

**Median Annual Wage**

- **$84,460** in 2012

For more information, see the Bureau of Labor Statistics [http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/veterinarians.htm)

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**Timeline**

- **FRESHMAN**: Complete prerequisite requirements.
- **SUMMER**: Build professional relationships with professors, advisors, and professionals for letters of recommendation.
- **SOPHOMORE**: Community service/volunteer work/job shadowing/engagement in student organizations. Document experiences.
- **JUNIOR**: Choose a major.
- **Gain research experience.**
- **Campus visits to professional schools of interest**
- **SUMMER**: Collect letters of recommendation.
- **GRE Exam**
- **Application**
- **SENIOR**: Interviews

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**Advisement**

**Advisor contact**

Medical Professions Advisement Office
423.439.5602
ARC in Culp Center
What does it take to get into veterinary school?

**GPA**

3.66

**GRE Scores**

312

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average undergraduate GPA of the class admitted to the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013

average score for the class admitted to UT in 2013

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### Core Preparation Courses *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>BIOL 1110/11, BIOL 1120/21</td>
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<td>General Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 1110/1111, CHEM 1120/1121</td>
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<td>Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>CHEM 2010/2011, CHEM 2020/2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>PHYS 2010/2011, PHYS 2020/2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>BIOL 3100</td>
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<td>Cell Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>BIOL 3150/51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry**</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>BIOL 4147 and BIOL 4167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>ENGL 1010 and ENGL 1020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences/Humanities</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

### Additional Recommended Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Immunology</td>
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<td>HSCI 3540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Anatomy</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIOL 3220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIOL 3260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>MATH 1910 and 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probability and Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>MATH 1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>HSCI 3320/21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Different schools may have different prerequisite requirements. It is up to the student to research and ensure the required courses are completed before application to the preferred school(s) of interest.*

**This should be an upper-division course in general cellular and comparative biochemistry. Half of a two-semester sequence will not satisfy this requirement. The biochemistry course must have been satisfactorily completed within 5 years of the time you wish to enter the professional program.**

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### Suggested 2-year course schedule for pre-vet students

**Freshman**

**Fall**

CHEM 1110/11
BIOL 1110/11
MATH 1720/1910
ENGL 1010
PREH 1350

**Spring**

CHEM 1120/21
BIOL 1120/21
MATH 1530
ENGL 1020
ELECTIVE

**Sophomore**

**Fall**

CHEM 2010/11
PHYS 2010/11
SPCH*
PSYC 1310
ELECTIVE

**Spring**

CHEM 2020/21
PHYS 2020/21
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE
ELECTIVE

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Students should maintain a minimum of 17-19 credit hours per semester.

* Consult your advisor before choosing a speech course

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Students are encouraged to begin the application process at the end of their junior year.

Students must register through the [Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)](https://www.vmcas.org). An application will be completed through this service and will then be submitted to the veterinary schools of your choice. Most schools require a supplemental application that will be provided by the school.

Most veterinary school applications require a personal statement as well as three letters of evaluation. One evaluation should be from a veterinarian. Therefore, it is important to establish a strong relationship with the person(s) you are shadowing.

Remember that requirements vary by school, so check with each individual school for specific details.
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Epsilon Delta – National Pre-Health Honor Society (AED)
AED functions as a health pre-professional honor society encouraging excellence in scholarship. It emphasizes the importance of health education and promotes cooperation and contact among professionals.

Animal Health and Science Student Organization (AHSSO)
The Animal Health and Science Student Organization promotes animal health and awareness through the exploration of all animal sciences. This organization provides volunteer and shadowing experiences, career guidance, and research opportunities to help students prepare for graduate and professional schools.

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
HOSA provides students with knowledge and understanding of various health care careers. It also provides students with opportunities to compete in various state and regional events to learn about current health issues.

Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS)
This organization is open to all ETSU students. MAPS aims to provide students with valuable opportunities in the community to enhance their knowledge of the health care field they are planning to enter. Opportunities include job shadowing, volunteering, and research. MAPS is also geared toward forming friendships among members.

What can I do now to strengthen my application to veterinary school?

RELATED EXPERIENCE
It is important for students to have veterinary experience. Veterinary schools look for students who have had supervised experiences in three or more different areas such as large animal, small animal, research, food animal production, exotic, aquatic, wildlife, zoological, and medicine. Applicants will be evaluated on duration, level of duties, and diversity of the experiences. Although a precise number of hours are not usually required by most veterinary schools, students should work in the field as much as possible without sacrificing grades.

EXTRACURRICULARS
The admissions committees of veterinary schools are interested in seeing a range of extracurricular activities, especially those demanding a significant leadership role. Students should demonstrate their ability to balance full academic schedules with extracurricular involvement on and off campus and/or through employment opportunities. ETSU has many organizations that students can join. Students should visit the SORC located on the first floor of the Culp center or www.etsu.edu/sorc for more information regarding extracurricular activities. It is not beneficial to simply join an organization. You must demonstrate leadership qualities!

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE
Veterinary schools are looking for candidates who demonstrate a commitment to community service. Students should seek volunteer projects that focus on giving back to the community. Students are encouraged to also look for volunteer opportunities related to the veterinary field.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE
Please consider personal email addresses when corresponding with professional schools. First impressions are often based on correspondence and email addresses should be appropriate for professional communication. Messages and images sent electronically are reflections of judgment and potential suitability for professional careers. Inappropriate behaviors shared on an accessible venue can be viewed and shared by anyone, possibly compromising your chances of admission to veterinary school.

WATCH WHAT YOU POST!

Visit the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges online at www.aavmc.org to learn more about the profession and schools.

Find the link for VMCAS (the veterinary school application portal) on the AAVMC site or visit the link directly if you are viewing this guide online.

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