



Road Map to **VET**SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE | KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



vetmed.tennessee.edu/admissions

865-974-8387

UT CVM
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

you can be a **VETERINARIAN**

Did you know a veterinary medicine degree can open a world of possibilities?

Veterinarians make a difference every day. Veterinary medicine offers opportunities to work with animals, people, and the environment.

Typical Careers Include:

- Private practice – small, large, or exotic animal medicine
- Zoo/conservation/wildlife medicine
- Shelter medicine
- Corporate veterinary medicine
- Biomedical research
- Local or federal government – biosecurity, regulatory medicine, food inspection and safety, or research
- Agriculture – animal health
- Military – biomedical research, or care for working dogs
- Academic careers – teaching and research
- Public & global health
- Work with nonprofit organizations

COMMON QUESTIONS

What specializations exist in the field of veterinary medicine?

Currently, there are 22 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recognized veterinary specialty organizations representing 40 individual specialties. These specialties range from anesthesiology and cardiology to pathology, surgery, and zoological medicine. To see the full list of recognized specialties, visit www.avma.org/education/veterinary-specialties

What is the best way to get experience in veterinary medicine?

Job shadowing and volunteering are excellent ways to gain experience in veterinary medicine. At UTCVM, we encourage you to gain varied animal experience, both with and without veterinarians. It is important to log the time you spend gaining experience. Make sure to note the hours, the species involved, the veterinarians you worked/volunteered with, and any unique opportunities.



What high school classes would help better prepare me for college (such as biology or chemistry, agriculture classes or even a general nursing or anatomy class)?

Focus on math and science classes. If available, consider taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate® (IB), or dual enrollment courses.

Where can I gain the most experience while I am in high school?

Consider volunteer or internship programs at veterinary clinics, animal shelters, farms, or zoos, or through experience with Eagle Scouts, 4-H, or FFA programs.

What can I do, aside from academics, to set myself up for the best chances to get into vet school?

While the selection process is rigorous, UTCVM looks for well-rounded individuals who are more than just a GPA. Animal experiences, leadership in clubs and organizations, volunteer positions, research projects, community involvement, and other talents may provide the right combination of skills that make a successful veterinary student and veterinarian.

How important are the first years of college to your GPA?

Begin taking prerequisite courses early in your collegiate career - biology, chemistry, physics, etc. Don't wait until the last semester of college to take all your most difficult classes. Doing so can reflect poorly on your vet school application and can skew your final GPA. Visit college websites or the VMSAR (Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements) for lists of prerequisite courses.

What are the requirements to get into veterinary school as far as GPA is concerned?

Non-Tennessee applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale for applications to be considered. Prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of the spring term prior to enrollment. All prerequisite courses must be completed with a grade of C or better. Prerequisite courses include English composition, humanities/ social sciences, general chemistry with lab, organic chemistry with lab,



biochemistry (exclusive of lab), physics with lab, general biology/zoology with lab, cellular biology, and genetics.

How does UTCVM select students for veterinary school?

UTCVM's selection process consists of evaluations of academic scores, reviews of each applicant's file, and interviews of selected applicants. Interviews are conducted in October for Tennessee residents and in January for out-of-state residents. Complete details about the current admission requirements and procedures are available at tiny.utk.edu/vetmedadmissions.

How many people get into UTCVM each year?

85 students are selected for each class at UTCVM. While priority is given to qualified Tennessee residents, a limited number of highly qualified non-resident applicants will be admitted each year.

How much does it cost to go to veterinary school?

The cost varies by university. You can check UTCVM's current tuition, fees, financial aid, and scholarship information at tiny.utk.edu/vetmedadmissions.

Check out the
Road Map
inside!

Road Map to VET SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL

* Work hard — you can do this!

Look for summer programs for high schoolers offered by veterinary colleges.

* Learn more about UTCVM's Veterinary Summer Experience Program (VSEP) at tiny.utk.edu/VSEP

Talk to your guidance counselor

* have them contact UTCVM to learn more about our program

Take challenging courses

* math & science

* English

* Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or dual enrollment courses

Talk to people in the field

* local veterinarians
* local veterinary societies
* animal shelters

Participate in extracurricular activities

* 4H, FFA, clubs, athletics
* vet schools look for individuals with a diversity of skills & experience

Visit colleges that offer pre-veterinary or animal science programs

* look for colleges with strong math/science programs or universities that have a vet school

COLLEGE

* Halfway there! You can do it!

Meet with your advisor often

* they can help make sure you stay on track towards your goals

Talk to your advisor about vet school prerequisites

* Check prerequisites for the school you plan to apply to
* Don't wait until last semester to take most difficult classes

Continue animal experiences

* Farm animals, Dogs & Cats, Birds, Exotic Animals, and Wildlife

* use Summer internships or volunteer work for large animal or small animal experience

* participate in student research projects

Visit veterinary colleges and consider possible careers

* compare vet schools at aaamc.org
* check out variety of career options on opposite side of this poster

Take note of deadlines & standardized testing requirements

* time to get all final requirements checked off for admission to vet school

Get recommendation letters

* need 3-6 letters
* you've got this!

Enroll in AAAMC Pathways Newsletter

* VetSchool Student Engagement System (VSES)
aaamc.org

Get experience with animals

* volunteer with animal shelters or veterinary clinics, etc.

Good Luck!

We hope to have you join our profession!

TIME TO APPLY FOR VET SCHOOL!

* applications are usually due in the Fall of the year before you would start vet school — check with each school for specific dates

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DID *you* KNOW?

In addition to the classes and clinical training you will gain in vet school, there are lots of other great experiences and fun opportunities available including many student-organized and college-organized events like Spring Fling pictured above. UTCVM has over 25 student clubs including Canine Club, Feline Club, Shelter Medicine Club, and PAWsitive Impact.

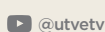
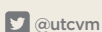
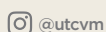
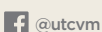
As a part of the curriculum, you will have many electives to choose from to customize your education to fit your interests and talents. You will have access to a variety of volunteer experiences through our outreach programs. The **Companion Animal Initiative of Tennessee (CAIT)** operates a program that offers veterinary care to pets of homeless owners in the Knoxville area and works with animal shelters in the state to provide spay/neuter services for unowned animals. The **Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT)** program uses volunteer teams of people and pets (usually dogs) to provide visitation to schools, hospitals, nursing homes, as well as other businesses and organizations.

Veterinary Social Work, a partnership program between the veterinary college and the UT College of Social Work, attends to the human needs at the intersection of veterinary and social work practice. In addition to supporting the clients and faculty/staff of the UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center, this program teaches the importance of living a balanced life and supports our students throughout their veterinary education.



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