Students Interested in Applying to Veterinary Medical School

The majority of veterinary medical schools do not require students to obtain a specific degree; however, they require students complete specific pre-requisites to apply for admission. For additional information, please refer to https://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchart.pdf. Although many programs will consider applicants that have completed 90 credits of undergraduate courses, the more coursework completed at the college level, the stronger the application. According to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), the majority of applicants are accepted into veterinary medical school after four years of undergraduate study. Therefore, completing a bachelor’s of science degree is highly recommended. At Mercy College, students have at least two degree options to pursue in preparation for application to veterinary medical school.

Biology Major Option:
Most veterinary medical schools require several biology courses including microbiology, genetics, and biochemistry. Veterinary medical schools prefer courses that are taken at four-year institutions with rigorous science programs. Those students who pursue the Biology major may be able to take a few veterinary technology courses as electives to fulfill their Biology degree and strengthen their veterinary medical school application.

To be eligible to take Veterinary Technology courses to fulfill the open electives, students must earn a minimum grade of B or better in ENGL 111 Written English and Literary Studies I, MATH 116 College Algebra and MATH 201 Pre-Calculus. The student must also earn a grade of B or better in all natural science and veterinary technology courses that are pre-requisites to any veterinary technology course. Students must have an overall 3.2 cumulative index in natural science and veterinary technology courses for admittance into clinical courses. Recommendations and/or evaluations will be considered only for students with a minimum cumulative index of 3.2 or higher in Veterinary Technology and Natural Science courses.

Students may only repeat a veterinary technology or pre-requisite natural science course once. Any student who earns a B- or below in a perquisite natural science course or veterinary technology course must repeat the course the next semester it is offered at Mercy College in order to progress to any course for which it is a prerequisite. For any veterinary technology lecture course that has a laboratory course as a co-requisite, both the lecture and laboratory courses must be taken concurrently. In the event that a student must withdraw from the lecture course, the student must also withdraw from the co-requisite laboratory course.

Students must obtain a satisfactory evaluation in all categories, including professional and ethical behavior, and required skills in a veterinary technology course, to obtain a passing grade in the course and to be eligible to receive a recommendation for veterinary medical school from the Veterinary Technology faculty.

Students that graduate with a Biology Major are not be eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE). They may take the following Veterinary Technology courses as open electives providing they meet the above criteria:
VETC 101 Introduction to Veterinary Technology
VETC 256/256A Anatomy of Domestic Animals (Lecture and Lab)
VETC 300 Physiology of Domestic Animals
VETC 306/306A Clinical Laboratory Techniques and Analysis (Lecture and Lab)
VETC 320 Pharmacology and Toxicology
VETC 341 Small Animal Diseases: A Case-Based Approach
VETC 397 Independent Study in Veterinary Technology (Research focused course)

**Veterinary Technology Option:**
Students may also choose to major in Veterinary Technology, and in addition, complete the Veterinary Medical School prerequisite courses. The Veterinary Technology degree includes courses in humanities and social sciences as well as biology and animal sciences. Graduates of the Veterinary Technology Program earn a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Technology and are eligible to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE) for licensure as a Veterinary Technologist. In addition to having the option of working in the veterinary medical field as a Licensed Veterinary Technologist (LVT) after graduation, graduates may be able to work as a veterinary technologist while enrolled in Veterinary Medical School.

The Veterinary Technology major uniquely prepares a student for Veterinary Medical School by offering many of the courses required for application, including veterinary science courses. Students who choose to complete the Veterinary Technology degree prior to applying to Veterinary Medical School would need to complete additional courses either during the summer between terms in the Program or after the completion of the Program to complete Veterinary Medical School admission requirements. (Please refer to [https://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchart.pdf](https://www.aavmc.org/data/files/vmcas/prereqchart.pdf) for more information.)

**NOTE:** financial aid may not cover the tuition of summer courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 360 Genetics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 201 Pre-calculus*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 122 Statistics*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 161/161A Chemistry II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 260/260A Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 261/261A Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 354 Biochemistry</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 160 Physics for the Life Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 161 Physics for Life Sciences II</td>
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*Maybe taken to fulfill General Education requirement

The Veterinary Technology Program courses may provide students with an advantage when applying to veterinary medical school (see [https://www.avma.org/public/Careers/Pages/vet-school-admission-101.aspx](https://www.avma.org/public/Careers/Pages/vet-school-admission-101.aspx)) by offering a total of 60 credit hours of veterinary based courses including two 360 hour externships (360 hours in a general small animal medicine and surgery hospital and 360 hours in a specialty or referral veterinary facility). In addition, the faculty of the Program provides the Program students with specific academic advisement as well as assistance in the Veterinary Medical School application process.

**Important Links**

Veterinary Medical School Pre-requisite Chart

The American Veterinary Medical Association “Veterinary School Admission 101”

Statistics of Students Accepted into Veterinary Medical School

Exploring the Cost of a Veterinary Medical School Education

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University student listserve and newsletter
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/GetUpdates.cfm

The American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association
http://www.apvma.org/index.html