

## Veterinary Medicine Timeline and Checklist

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Register for the Pre-Health Program.
- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Make an appointment with the pre-health advisor to discuss how to sequence classes, experiences that will help you prepare for veterinary school, and the different resources on campus.
- Investigate career information to identify what it means to be a vet and the admission requirements for veterinary medicine.
- Start taking the core courses that need to be completed before applying to veterinary school. Focus on academic coursework and how to be a successful college student.
- Look for meaningful opportunities to become involved in research, job shadowing, volunteering, clubs, and mentoring.
- Start to develop relationships with faculty, staff advisors and faculty mentors at DePaul
- **SUMMER: Work, volunteer, research, or intern in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Take summer courses if desired or necessary.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

- Attend the informational meetings for the Pre-Health Program.
- Meet with the pre-health advisor to make sure you're progressing through your requirements.
- Continue taking the core courses that need to be completed before applying to veterinary programs. Focus on coursework and achieving a high GPA.
- Continue to investigate the career information to identify the admission requirements for veterinary school.
- Look for opportunities to be involved in meaningful activities (volunteering, research, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend local graduate school fairs and open houses.
- Apply for research opportunities that you can participate in over the school year or summer.
- Once you complete general biology and general chemistry with a C or above, and are ready to apply within the next year to veterinary medicine programs, email the Pre-Health advisor for a PAC faculty mentor.
- **SUMMER: Work or volunteer in the health field.**
- **SUMMER: Participate in summer enrichment, research, or internship program.**
- **SUMMER: Learn more about the GRE and research GRE prep courses opportunities.**
- **SUMMER: Familiarize yourself with the VMCAS.**

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Year (or the year prior to applying)

- Meet with pre-health advisor and PAC faculty mentor to make sure all coursework is on track.
- Begin compiling a list of specific veterinary medicine programs that will meet your professional objectives.
- Complete pre-veterinary coursework.
- Make sure you have established well maintained relationships with your staff advisors, professors, PAC faculty mentor, and healthcare professionals. Start to consider from whom you can receive letters of recommendations.
- Look for opportunities to continue to be involved (volunteering, shadowing, etc.) that will strengthen your application.
- Attend a personal statement writing workshop and begin writing your statement early. Be prepared to make multiple drafts as this statement is critical in the review of your application.
- If you are prepared and ready, register for the Graduates Records Examination (GRE).
- Take the Graduate Records Examination (GRE).
- Prepare a "plan b" if you are not admitted to the schools of your choice.
- **SUMMER: If you are intending to start your chosen program immediately following graduation, you should begin the application process, including requesting letters of recommendation from your professors. The VMCAS will open up early June.**
- **SUMMER: Double check dates and deadlines and review, edit, and submit VMCAS application early.**
- **SUMMER: Submit transcripts, complete supplemental applications, and contact those who will be submitting LORs for you to check on progress.**

### 4<sup>th</sup> Year

- Prepare for interviews by participating in a mock interview
  - Meet with your PAC faculty mentor to discuss status of your application.
  - Continue to maintain a strong GPA
  - If admitted, make final decisions about your choice of school and notify schools you will not be attending.
  - If admitted to a Veterinary Medicine program, apply for financial aid (FAFSA) by March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - If admitted, pay seat deposit for the institution of your choice
- Let the pre-health advisor know what schools you were admitted to and which school you matriculate to.

### Veterinary Medicine Checklist

\_\_\_ **1. RESEARCH** each Veterinary College you are interested in. The first step for preparing for Veterinary school is finding out what programs you are interested in. The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC.org) has information about the different program that is part of the VMCAS along with their requirements, dates, and deadlines.

\_\_\_ **2. PREREQUISITES:** each school requires different prerequisites. Research each school carefully to make sure you have met all the requirements for the application.

REQUIRED		HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
General Biology (12 Quarter Hours)	Speech (4 Quarter Hours)	Zoology (4 Quarter Hours)
General Chemistry (12 Quarter Hours)	Genetics (4 Quarter Hours)	Animal Nutrition (4 Quarter Hours)
Organic Chemistry (12 Quarter Hours)	Anatomy (4 Quarter Hours)	Cell Biology (4 Quarter Hours)
Physics (12 Quarter Hours)	Physiology (4 Quarter Hours)	Microbiology (4 Quarter Hours)
English Composition (9 Quarter Hours)	Biochemistry (4 Quarter Hours)	Histology (4 Quarter Hours)

**\*This is a typical example of what a Vet school may require- make sure you check each school for their specific requirements.**

\_\_\_ **3. REGISTER** for the Pre-Health Program.

\_\_\_ **4. GPA:** The higher your GPA, the more competitive you will be. The average GPA for Veterinary School in the Illinois area is a cumulative GPA of a 3.6. The general guideline for applying to Veterinary school is a minimum of 3 applications, however, typically between 5-7 applications gives you a better chance of being accepted.

\_\_\_ **5. KNOW** the application start date and deadline along with all prerequisites for each school you are interested in. The VMCAS application opens early June (<https://portal.vmcas.org>). Each school may have a supplemental application and a different deadline so check your timelines carefully and apply early.

\_\_\_ **6. EXPERIENCE:** Most schools do not require specific hours for shadowing. However, they expect you to invest your time seeking a wide variety of shadowing experiences in private, academic, government, industry and research veterinary careers. (Personal pet experience is not included in shadowing).

\_\_\_ **7. BE INVOLVED:** The more well-rounded your academic career the more competitive you will be. Be involved in activities such as research, community service, work, and extracurricular activities that are meaningful and unique.

\_\_\_ **8. GRE:** Register for the GRE 2-3 months prior to taking it and take the GRE at least 6-8 weeks prior to the application start date. Start studying at least 3 months prior to taking the GRE. A score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile is Verbal 151, and Quantitative: 150, Analytics: 4.0. The average score of students located in programs near Illinois are: Verbal 157 and Quantitative: 156.

\_\_\_ **9. RECOMMENDATIONS:** A DePaul University student may request a committee letter from the PAC if they are signed up. Some schools will recommend having a committee letter other schools will not accept them so check the requirements carefully. However, depending on the school you will be required to submit 3-5 recommendations. Typically recommendations will come from veterinarians, science faculty, faculty, employers, and supervisors in a field related to animal care.

\_\_\_ **10. COMPOSE:** Start to write your personal essay prior to the application in a word document. Each specific school may have a supplemental essay as well. Once you have completed your essay make sure you edit it carefully and have others edit it as well.

\_\_\_ **11. REQUEST** official transcripts to be sent to you to aid you in filling out the coursework one month prior to your application open date.

\_\_\_ **13. APPLY/TRIPLE CHECK/SUBMIT:** Most Veterinary Medicine schools are on the VMCAS but not all of them. The earlier you apply the better. Some schools have rolling admissions and some schools will take more in-state than out of state candidates. Get all your application material ready a month prior to the application open date, fill out the application, double/triple check for errors, and then submit.