

GPA Categories Defined

Cumulative GPA includes grades for all college courses taken between high school graduation and the time you submit your VMCAS application.

Required Science GPA is the average of all of the science prerequisites listed in our *Guide for Prospective Students*, but does not include English, humanities/social sciences or statistics courses.

Last 45 semester units GPA includes grades for approximately 45 semester (68 quarter) units of course work taken prior to submission of the VMCAS application from the time of the October application deadline and going back in your transcript 45 semester units. This will be approximately two years of full-time course work.



While a dog is being spayed at the Gourley Clinical Teaching Center, a second-year student monitors patient anesthesia.

Criteria for Selection

The selection process is designed to admit the most qualified applicants who can both succeed academically in a rigorous, intensive four-year professional science program, and demonstrate dedication, commitment and an unquestionable understanding of the veterinary profession.

I. Academic Factors (50 to 60 percent)

Academic performance is the major factor in selection for admission. Currently, 50 percent of our decision to accept an applicant to the DVM program is based on academics consisting of grade point averages (GPAs) and Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Combined, GPAs and GRE scores are the best predictors of successful completion of the veterinary curriculum. The majority of admitted students have earned GPAs of 3.4 to 3.6 in cumulative college course work, required science courses and their last 68 quarter units (45 semester units).

- A. College course work grade point averages (GPAs)
 - 1. Cumulative GPA in undergraduate/graduate course work
 - 2. GPA of required preveterinary medical science courses
 - 3. GPA of last two years of undergraduate/graduate work (minimum of 68 quarter units or 45 semester units)
- B. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores
 - 1. General Test (Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing)

Average GRE scores for admitted students are in the 70th to 80th percentile. A statistical profile of admitted students is available on our Web site. Because GPAs and GRE scores are weighted equally in the admissions process, a below-average GPA may be balanced by above-average GRE scores (greater than 70 percent). Conversely, GRE scores that are below average may be balanced by higher-than-average GPAs.

II. Nonacademic Factors (40 to 50 percent)

In addition to academic achievement, 40 to 50 percent of the selection process is based on your veterinary experience, understanding of the veterinary profession, motivation and dedication to a career in veterinary medicine, maturity, potential to be an outstanding veterinary professional, extracurricular activities, career diversity and educational quality. The Admissions Committee evaluates these attributes by carefully considering the following:

A. Personal statement

Your personal statement indicates your motivation, understanding of the veterinary profession and the responsibilities of being a veterinarian, demonstrated interest in serving the public through the profession of veterinary medicine, and other qualities needed for successful academic and professional work.

B. Veterinary and animal experience

Substantial experience with animals is required, and applicants must demonstrate knowledge of animal health care needs. Experience should be broad and deep, and should entail more than having provided routine rearing and feeding of companion animals or family pets. Applicants should engage in an array of activities that show an appreciation for and understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a veterinarian and the scope of the veterinary medical profession. The requirement for animal, veterinary and biomedical science experience is a minimum of 180 hours (4.5 weeks) at the time of application. Admitted students have an average of 2,500 to 3,000 hours of veterinary-related experience, which includes working with veterinarians.

C. Letters of evaluation

Three letters of evaluation are required. Letters should be requested from individuals who understand academic and professional demands, know the applicant well (have observed the applicant in a clinical or academic setting), and can evaluate the applicant's personal qualities and potential as a veterinary professional.

D. Interview

During the selection process, the Admissions Committee may request personal interviews and require, in some cases, submission of additional applicant materials for further evaluation. Interview scores are approximately 20 percent of the application evaluation.