

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many applicants are accepted each year?

Currently, we offer admission to approximately 143 applicants from a pool of 1,100 to 1,200. The majority (95 percent) of admitted applicants are California residents. A very limited number (5 percent, or 7 to 10 applicants) of highly qualified nonresidents are accepted each year.

2. How can I become a competitive applicant?

Have the highest possible grades and GRE scores, be as deeply and broadly experienced as possible, and be able to demonstrate your understanding of and commitment to a veterinary career through evaluations by professionals who know you.

3. What criteria does the Admissions Committee use to select applicants admitted to the DVM program?

The Admissions Committee is dedicated to selecting the most qualified students from the applicant pool. Evaluation is based on three criteria:

- 1) Academic factors (50 percent): Objective evaluation of grade point averages and Graduate Record Examination scores.
- 2) Non-academic factors (approximately 30 percent): Subjective review—using your personal statement, letters of evaluation and interview—of your veterinary or other related experience, understanding and dedication to the veterinary profession, motivation to become a veterinarian, personal attributes, extracurricular activities and educational quality.
- 3) Interview (0 to 20 percent).

See the section “Criteria for Selection” for a detailed explanation.

4. What should I do to increase my chances of being accepted?

Earn high grades and perform well academically. Obtain high (70th percentile or higher) scores on the GRE. Gain as much veterinary experience as you can, especially in your area of interest in veterinary medicine, so that you can show a clear understanding of the veterinary profession. In addition, give your potential evaluator(s) ample opportunity to observe you in a clinical setting in order to be able to write a thorough letter of evaluation. Acquire diverse veterinary experience working with a variety of animal species (small and large) to broaden your knowledge of the many aspects of veterinary medicine and to gain a comprehensive understanding of the veterinary profession.

5. What are the academic course requirements for admission to veterinary school?

You must complete a minimum of 108 quarter units or 72 semester units of course work at an accredited college or university. This course work must include 12 quarter units of required English; 12 quarter units of required humanities/social sciences; 4 quarter units of required statistics; and all required science courses. A listing of basic requirements is available on our Web site (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu). Required courses do not have the same unit values at every college; therefore, be sure to check the ASSIST.org Web site (www.assist.org) for a listing of equivalent courses at the college you attend.

6. How do I know if the college courses I'm taking will satisfy the prerequisites for veterinary school?

If you are taking science courses at California public colleges, refer to the ASSIST Web site (www.assist.org) to review a listing of science courses equivalent to our requirements. To produce an articulation agreement, select UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, then select your college. The courses named under your college will satisfy our required science courses. If you are taking the required science courses at a private college or school outside California and you are unsure if they meet our requirements, you may send us copies of the course descriptions and we will review them for you. These courses must closely match the course descriptions listed in the *UC Davis General Catalog*. We do not have articulation agreements for statistics, English or



First-, second- and third-year students learn pathology, microbiology and other fundamentals in the laboratories of the multipurpose teaching building, opened in 2007.

humanities/social science courses. We will accept ANY course in statistics (business, medical, psychology, etc.) and ANY courses considered humanities/social sciences. The English requirement must be met by taking at least one quarter/semester of English composition and ANY additional courses in English, speech, classics, rhetoric, linguistics, etc. You do not need to request an articulation evaluation for nonscience courses.

7. I took courses on the semester system, but UC Davis is on the quarter system. How do I convert the units?

Unit value may not match exactly from college to college; therefore, course content must be evaluated. If you are attending a California public college, always refer to the ASSIST Web site (www.assist.org) to produce a listing of courses at your school so you can be sure that you are taking the correct courses. To convert semester units to quarter units, multiply the number of semester units by 1.5.

8. Does it matter how long ago the required course work was taken?

No, we do not have an expiration date on course work. There is no specific time limit on acceptance of required courses; they count regardless of how long ago they were completed. You may elect to take a course again to refresh yourself on the course content if many years have passed since taking it originally. Grades for courses that have been retaken will be averaged in your cumulative GPA.

9. I received a "C" or lower grade in one of the required science courses. Can I repeat the course for a higher grade?

Required science courses may be repeated only when the original grade was below a C-. The repeated grades will replace the original grades up to a maximum of 8 quarter units. Repeated required science courses in excess of 8 quarter units will be averaged with the original graded units. Repeated courses where the original grade received was a C- or better will not be calculated in the required science GPA but will be averaged with the original grade in the cumulative GPA.

10. Are my chances of admission better if I attend UC Davis as an undergraduate and/or take required science courses there?

No. Your chances of being admitted to our DVM program are not better if you attend college at UC Davis. You may attend any accredited college or university. We do not select applicants based on the college they attend. We do not have a list of preferred colleges. However, we do consider the overall educational quality of your college experience, challenge of the curriculum, length of time it took for you to complete a degree program, your course load (full time vs. part time), continuity of program, employment during education, and so forth.

11. Does it matter where I attend college as an undergraduate?

No. It is impossible to fairly compare the academic programs of all colleges; therefore, we do not rank colleges or have a preference. Choosing a college is an important personal decision. Attend a college that provides a challenging curriculum in an environment where you will succeed academically. Consider schools that offer strong science programs with majors that interest you and opportunities for extracurricular activities, and decide which school suits your needs best.

12. May I complete some of my courses at a community college?

Yes. The lower-division required science courses (general biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry and general physics), statistics, humanities/social sciences and required English courses may be completed at a community college. ALL upper-division course work (biochemistry, genetics and physiology) MUST BE TAKEN at a four-year university at the junior/senior level. If you plan to transfer from a community college to UC Davis as an undergraduate student to complete the remaining preveternary requirements, contact the UC Davis Undergraduate Admissions Office or speak with a counselor at your current college to inquire about the transfer process.

UC Davis Information

Campus Web Sites

- **General Information:**
www.ucdavis.edu/
- **Costs of attendance:**
www.pbo.ucdavis.edu/studentfees
- **Academic programs:**
<http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog/Programs.html>
- **Special services for disabled students:**
<http://drc.ucdavis.edu>
- **Financial Aid Office phone contacts:**
<http://faoman.ucdavis.edu/phone.htm>
- **Accreditation:**
<http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog/appendix/accredit.html>

Campus Visits

Arrange tours of the general campus by calling Visitor Services, (530) 752-8111.

Tours of the William R. Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital are available by reservation, (530) 752-1507.

Student Housing

On-campus housing and child care information/referral services are available for graduate students and students with families. For more information or an application contact: Student Housing Office, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis CA 95616-8712; (530) 752-2033; hearing/speech-impaired: (530) 752-6TTY; housing@ucdavis.edu; www.housing.ucdavis.edu.

Davis offers a variety of off-campus housing options. Apartments are the most plentiful source of student housing, followed by houses, rooms in private homes, condominiums and mobile homes. The ASUCD Community Housing Listing Service (www.chl.ucdavis.edu) maintains a listing of rentals in Davis and surrounding communities as well as selected referral sources for students wishing to live in the community.

The Davis Conference & Visitors Center Web site (www.yolocvb.org) has valuable information about the City of Davis and community services for new members of the Davis community.

UC Davis Principles of Community

The University of California, Davis, is first and foremost an institution of learning and teaching committed to serving the needs of society. Our campus community reflects and is a part of a society comprising all races, creeds and social circumstances. The successful conduct of the university's affairs requires that every member of the university community acknowledge and practice the following basic principles: We affirm the inherent dignity in all of us, and we strive to maintain a climate of justice marked by respect for each other. We acknowledge that our society carries within it historical and deep-rooted misunderstandings and biases, and therefore we will endeavor to foster mutual understanding among the many parts of our whole.

We affirm the right of freedom of expression within our community and affirm our commitment to the highest standards of civility and decency towards all. We recognize the right of every individual to think and speak as dictated by personal belief, to express any idea, and to disagree with or counter another's point of view, limited only by university regulations governing time, place and manner. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity and respect.

We confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, status within or outside the university, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension or hatred. We recognize and cherish the richness contributed to our lives by our diversity. We take pride in our various achievements, and we celebrate our differences.

We recognize that each of us has an obligation to the community of which we have chosen to be a part. We will strive to build a true community of spirit and purpose based on mutual respect and caring.

13. What should I choose as an undergraduate major? Do I have to major in preveterinary medicine or animal science?

You may study or possess a degree in any major you like. You must, however, take the prerequisite courses listed in our *Guide for Prospective Students* regardless of the courses required in your major. A major in the sciences may better prepare you for the veterinary curriculum. Since many students will not be accepted to veterinary school due to limited available space, students should be prepared to pursue an alternate career goal and should seek a bachelor's degree rather than simply taking preveterinary study courses. The majority of students accepted to our program pursue studies in the life or health sciences. Biology, animal science, zoology, and chemistry are the most common majors.

14. Do all of the prerequisite courses need to be complete before I submit the VMCAS application?

No. However, the majority of your required science course work must be completed by the time you submit your VMCAS application so that we can appropriately evaluate your required-science GPA. If you are accepted to our DVM program, you must complete all required course work before you begin the program in late August. The grades you receive for courses that are pending when you submit your application (i.e., fall term grades) will not be used in your GPA calculations that are used for consideration of admission.

15. Is it advantageous to take science courses beyond the required course work?

Taking additional courses will not increase your chances of being accepted to the DVM program. However, having a background in the sciences and taking extra science courses may be beneficial in the veterinary curriculum should you be admitted to the program.

16. May I use Advanced Placement (AP) credit to fulfill the prerequisite courses?

If you have taken the Advanced Placement examination, and the number of units awarded and subject title appear on your college transcript for that course, AP credit may fulfill lower-division course work: general biology, general chemistry, general physics, organic chemistry, English, statistics and humanities/social sciences. If the AP units do not appear on your college transcript, we will accept an official copy of your AP score report.

17. May I take courses pass/fail?

We do not encourage taking courses pass/no pass. Grade point averages are very important in the evaluation process; therefore, the pass-fail grading option should be avoided, particularly in the required sciences.

18. Are courses taken online or through extension programs acceptable?

Yes, as long as the courses are taken through an accredited college program and are equivalent in content to our required courses.

19. Do I need to have a bachelor's degree to be accepted to veterinary school?

No, you do not need a degree to be accepted to our DVM program. You must complete 108 quarter units (72 semester units) of undergraduate course work at an accredited college before you enter the DVM program. This course work must include all of the required courses in science, English, humanities/social science and statistics. The majority of accepted applicants have completed three or more years of preprofessional course work or possess a college degree at matriculation. Applicants who have completed degrees do not receive preference over those who have not.

20. I'm a nontraditional and/or older student, and veterinary medicine is a second career. What steps should I take to pursue my new career choice?

Start by making sure veterinary medicine is right for you. Read our *Guide for Prospective Students* and review our admission statistics to take note of competitive GPA's, GRE scores and experience hours. Get experience working/volunteering with a veterinarian to gain hands-on experience and confirm that veterinary medicine is the appropriate career change for you. This can be done part time or full time based on your individual circumstances. If prerequisite course work needs to be complete, locate colleges where the required courses are offered. Visit the ASSIST.org Web site for current articulation agreements to find out what courses you need to take at your selected college. Courses may be taken during regular college sessions or summer sessions, or as evening classes, or Extension/Open Campus classes. You must meet all preprofessional requirements regardless of the undergraduate or graduate degrees you may already possess. Take the Graduate Record Examination and review our Web site for information about the application process.

21. Is there a minimum or maximum age to be admitted?

No, we do not have age limits. The average age of applicants accepted is 24 to 26. The age range is typically 20 to 42.

22. What is the deadline to take the GRE?

The GRE must be taken by October 1 of the year you submit your application. Tests taken after this date will not be evaluated with the current year's application. Information regarding the GRE is available at www.ets.org.

23. My GRE scores are more than 5 years old. Do I need to retake the exam?

Yes. The GRE must be taken within a five-year period prior to applying to veterinary school and must include the Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing sections.

24. My GRE scores are not competitive (below 70 percent). Should I retake the exam to improve my scores?

Yes, you should retake the examination to improve your scores if they are not competitive (typically in the 70th percentile for all three sections). When you take the GRE multiple times, we consider the highest scores in each section for examinations taken within the five-year period. You should allow yourself plenty of time to study between taking exams to improve your scores. You may be able to make improvements by simply studying on your own or it may be beneficial to take a GRE-preparation course.

25. May I take the VCAT or MCAT instead of the GRE?

No. We do not accept any substitutions for the GRE.

26. How many veterinary experience hours do I need?

A minimum of 180 hours of experience with a veterinarian are required to have your application considered for admission; however, admitted applicants have an average of 3,000 hours of quality "hands-on" experience in the veterinary field. You are expected to have a realistic and appropriate perspective regarding the responsibilities of the veterinary profession. You must have experience in your area of interest in veterinary medicine. It's beneficial to have exposure to both large and small animal species. Your experience may come from a job or volunteer service. You may acquire experience by working with veterinarians in private practice, farms, ranches, animal shelters, zoos, aquaria, laboratories, etc.

27. Do I need a letter of verification from every veterinary practice where I have worked or volunteered?

No. You must record on your application the name, contact information, approximate number of experience hours and duties performed for all veterinarians. We do not require letters of verification from these individuals.



A five-story laboratory building houses several research programs. Its design fosters collaboration between faculty researchers, graduate students and professional students.

UC Nondiscrimination Policy

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and university policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The university also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in university programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding the university's student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to Margaret Heisel, (510) 987-9572.

Notice of Availability of the UC Davis Campus Security Report

As provided by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998, you are entitled to request and receive a copy of the Security Report for the University of California, Davis, campus. The report includes statistics for the past three years concerning crimes and incidents reported to campus security authorities (whether the crime occurred on campus, in off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by the university, or on public property adjacent to campus). The report also provides campus policies and practices concerning security—how to report sexual assault and other crimes, crime prevention efforts, policies/laws governing alcohol and drugs, victims assistance programs, student discipline, campus resources and other matters. You may obtain a copy of this report online by accessing the following Internet address (<http://police.ucdavis.edu/clery/index.htm>) or by submitting a request to the UC Davis information practices officer.

28. What information should I include in the personal statement on the VMCAS application?

The personal statement should help the admissions committee(s) learn something personal about you as an applicant, your background and interest in veterinary medicine, your understanding of the veterinary profession and your career goals and objectives.

29. How many letters of evaluation do I need?

Three letters of evaluation are required for your application to be considered for admission. It is not necessary or beneficial to submit more than three letters. One to two evaluations should be from veterinarians with whom you have worked and who can evaluate your potential as a veterinary professional. Of these letters, one should be from a veterinarian in your area of veterinary interest (small animal, large animal, equine, etc.). Other letters may be written by veterinarians, professors, college instructors, research supervisors, or your academic adviser. You do not need to have a letter written by a veterinarian from UC Davis. Letters are submitted to VMCAS electronically. Make sure you read the VMCAS application instructions thoroughly for directions on electronic submission.

30. Are interviews required?

Yes. All applicants being seriously considered for admission will be invited for an interview. Interviewees are selected based on academic achievement and subjective information provided in their application. Interview notifications are typically e-mailed in February. Interviews are conducted in person on the UC Davis campus in late February through March. Candidates are interviewed individually by three to five members of the Admissions Committee and take 20 to 30 minutes.

31. Where do I get an application for admission?

Applicants to UC Davis apply through the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service (VMCAS). The online application is available at www.vmcas.org beginning in June. Follow the VMCAS application instructions very carefully. In addition, review the application information available on the UC Davis Web site for specific instructions regarding our requirements.

32. When is the deadline to submit an application?

The application deadline is October 1 for matriculation the following September. We accept applications only during the application period available through VMCAS which is typically June through October 1. Your chances of admission are not increased by submitting your application earlier than the deadline.



Experts from the Wildlife Health Center and Oiled Wildlife Care Network repair the wing of an injured night heron. UC Davis veterinarians are often called upon to respond to cases that require rescue experience or special skills.

33. May I have my application reviewed by an adviser prior to submitting it?

Unfortunately, we are unable to review applications prior to submission. Our *Guide for Prospective Students* and the VMCAS Web site are very comprehensive. Thoroughly reading both will assist you in preparing an application.

34. May I apply again if I am not accepted after my first application?

Yes. We expect you to make improvements in your application and re-apply. Review the statistics of the students previously admitted to the DVM program and compare your application. Retake the GRE if your scores are lower than the average of those admitted. Acquire additional veterinary experience if yours is limited. (The average admitted applicant works/volunteers approximately 3,000 hours to gain experience.) Review and rewrite your personal statement if necessary to clearly describe your knowledge and dedication to the veterinary profession. Make sure you get high grades in all continuing college course work

35. Do I need to submit a new application the next year I wish to apply?

Yes. You must submit a current online application, official college transcripts, GRE reports, and three letters of evaluation for each year that you wish to be considered for admission.

36. What does it cost to attend veterinary school?

The current annual enrollment and registration fees are available on our Web site (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu).

37. Do you accept applicants who are not residents of California?

A small number (7 to 10) of uniquely qualified nonresidents may be offered admission annually. Nonresidents accepted have an average cumulative GPA of 3.80 and GRE scores ranking above the 80th percentile. In addition, they possess excellent veterinary experience and letters of evaluation.

38. How can I establish California residency?

Rules and regulations for establishing residency in California are explained on the UC Davis Web site (<http://registrar.ucdavis.edu>).

39. Do you accept transfer students from other veterinary schools?

No, we do not accept transfer students.

40. Does UC Davis have the only veterinary school in California?

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is the only public veterinary college in California. A private college of veterinary medicine is located at Western University in Pomona, Calif.

We hope this answers many of your questions regarding admission to the DVM program. Please remember to periodically visit our Web site (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu) for updated information.

Llamas, raptors and fish are among the many species whose health needs are addressed by the faculty.



Other Important Information You Should Know

STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), including procedures for inspection, correction, and disclosure of information in student records; a description of what constitutes directory information and the consequences of blocking release of directory information; and procedures for imposing/removing such a block: <http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/html/rightsrecords.html#Disclosure>.

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, including the availability of scholarships and financial aid programs—how to apply, eligibility criteria, award criteria, and rights/responsibilities of aid recipients: <http://faoman.ucdavis.edu/>.

STUDENT GRADUATION/TRANSFER RATES, including the percentage of students entering as freshmen who either graduate or transfer to another educational institution: <http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/UCDWebCatalog/appendix/retention.html>.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT, including undergraduate population by gender; varsity team data including participant numbers, operating expenses, coaches (gender, average salaries, job status); student aid; and recruiting expenses: <http://athletics.ucdavis.edu/>. See links to specific information.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you may obtain the above information by submitting a written request to the UC Davis Information Practices Officer; Office of Administration; University of California, Davis; One Shields Avenue; Davis CA 95616; and labeling the outside of the envelope "Campus Security Report Request."