



# Admissions FAQ in Response to COVID-19

## Are application deadlines being extended?

The VMCAS application window opened in January of this year, providing students with an even longer window of time to prepare and submit their applications. Therefore, our application deadlines will remain the same: the VMCAS application is due September 15 and the UC Davis supplemental application is due October 15.

## Can I take online courses or labs?

Yes, we have always accepted online courses and labs.

## Can I take a course for pass/fail (or credit/no credit)?

Typically, we only accept prerequisite courses for credit (or pass) when the institution itself provides no other grading options for courses. Non-prerequisite courses, e.g. psychology, calculus, etc., are not held to this expectation.

Given the disruption of the pandemic on spring quarter/semester courses, we will accept credit for prerequisite courses whether taken for a grade or pass/fail. Please note that this exception is currently *only* for spring quarter/semester. When given the option to take a course for a letter grade, however, we encourage students to take the course for a letter grade as this factors more easily into the GPAs.

Having credit for a course instead of a letter grade will not affect how your application is considered or reflect poorly on you. Credit will be granted, but these just won't count toward your GPA calculations.

## Do I still need to take the GRE?

Yes, we will continue to require the GRE for admissions. Since many testing sites throughout the country are closed, ETS is offering a test-at-home option. You can learn more about this option on the [ETS website](#).

## What if I'm unable to take the GRE before the August 31 deadline? Can't this requirement be waived?

No. Being unable to take the GRE by August 31 would unfortunately mean that you will need to reapply in the future.

The GRE quantitative score is one of the main metrics used in our application evaluation process. Any application submitted without a GRE score would be incomplete and not considered for admission.

## What if I can't get official transcripts sent to VMCAS?

As of April 30, 2020, VMCAS has added the following statement to their website:

"Effective immediately, the VMCAS 2021 application will include a "COVID-19 Transcript Hardships" option that enables applicants to upload unofficial transcripts. This measure has been introduced to allow applications to move through the verification process without institutional delays that may result from the pandemic emergency. Students must first reach out to their schools to confirm the availability of an official transcript. If the school can send an official transcript then the student will not need to

pursue the exception process. If the school is unable to send an official transcript, then the student can follow the exception process. Once students are able to obtain an official transcript, they should obtain it and submit it to VMCAS. This option is only in effect during the VMCAS 2021 application cycle.”

We encourage you to review the [VMCAS COVID-19 Student and Applicant Information](#) page for the most up-to-date information

### How can I gain veterinary experience hours during this time? What if I can't find somewhere to gain experience?

We understand that given the pandemic, gaining hands-on experience may be difficult right now. Animal clinics/hospitals/shelters are still open as are some zoos, rescues, and animal sanctuaries. There may be restrictions on the number of individuals allowed to be in one facility at one time, particularly if the facility is small or indoor only. Therefore, facilities that are larger and/or outdoor may be more likely to accommodate shadow, volunteer, and/or intern positions.

We are unable to provide specific suggestions on where to gain experience and suggest contacting clinics, agencies, shelters, etc. in your area to determine who is accepting volunteers. If you are a current college student, career or pre-health advising centers are excellent resources that may help.

Finally, given the uncertain nature of the pandemic, it may be possible that you are unable to gain veterinary experience hours in the foreseeable future.

If you intend to apply this cycle and the pandemic has impacted your ability to gain these experiences, we encourage you to take advantage of the optional explanation essay in the VMCAS application to explain the pandemic's impact on your hours. This would be especially beneficial if you are just short of the 180 hour requirement.

If you are substantially below the 180 hour requirement, however, we encourage you to consider to apply in the future. Aside from being able to gain experience over an additional year, this may be a great time to focus on strengthening other areas of your future application, particularly academics. Regardless of how many hours an applicant has, it's only with competitive GPAs and a quantitative GRE score that an application will be thoroughly evaluated for admission.

### Can I gain veterinary experience hours through online programs or online courses?

Much of what is learned through veterinary experiences is the intangible (individual mentoring, insights into practice, partaking in the workflow of a clinic or vivarium) and is likely not to be captured by a video experience – especially one with many attendees. Online group “rounds” or lectures are not likely to capture the essence of a DVM experience and we will not count these toward veterinary experience hours.

It is worth noting that some companies like Loop Abroad advertise online “abroad” courses that provide pre-vet students with veterinary experience; these types of experiences *will not* count for veterinary experience hours for our DVM program.

### I haven't been able to get as many veterinary experience hours as I was planning. How will this impact my chances of being admitted?

In order to answer this question, understanding our admissions process, how applications are evaluated, and how applicants are invited for interviews is required. If you haven't already looked at our [Application Process & Timeline](#), please do so in order for our response to make more sense.

The quality and quantity of veterinary experience hours are truly scrutinized in our holistic review process. It's only at that point that additional components of the application beyond the metrics of the GPAs, quantitative GRE, and eLors are taken into consideration. In this scenario, unique and impactful experience hours could be really beneficial to your application. A holistic review takes everything into account. So, if other areas of the application were lacking, a large amount of hours may not necessarily strengthen your application.

To meet the minimum 180 hours is your first priority. Any hours beyond that may potentially strengthen your application, depending on the other factors.

#### [Will there still be an in-person interview in December?](#)

While we find value in the MMI process and make admissions decisions based on a candidate's ability to demonstrate their emotional intelligence during this time, there is a possibility that face-to-face interviews will be replaced with a virtual format. Therefore, depending on the guidelines outlined by the Center for Disease Control, state, and county, face-to-face interviews may not occur for the 2021 application cycle. More details on the status of interviews will be available in September.