Veterinary School Application
Animal Science Advising Center

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What is VMCAS?

- Centralized Application process for applications for most of the US veterinary medical colleges
- Application requires GRE score and transcripts
- VMCAS Applications due September 17th at 12:00 Midnight
- VMCAS STRONGLY recommends you submit your application and have all transcripts and references received by September 2, 2018

## VMCAS 2018 Fees

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Choosing Target School(s)

- Cost?
- Location?
- Ranking
- Specialized units/programs
- Available seats
- Acceptance rate for UCD students
- How many schools?

Dream School
2-4 Schools for which you are competitive
Back up School
2017-2018 not available but should be similar

** UC Davis increased from 144 to 150
AAVMC Cost Comparison Tool

- Auburn University
- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Louisiana State University
- Michigan State University
- Mississippi State University
- North Carolina State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Oregon State University
- Purdue University
- Texas A&M University
- The Ohio State University
- Tufts University
- Tuskegee University
- University of California - Davis
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Illinois - Urbana
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Tennessee
- University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Virginia-Maryland Regional College
- Washington State University

Figures for tuition, fees, cost of attendance (living), and average annual increase in tuition are derived and calculated from AAVMC internal data reports with data collected from 2011-2018. Users should anticipate continued escalations in the cost of education.

Estimated loan interest includes the cost of fully financing a DVM education based on the average graduating loan debt of 2015 graduates borrowing at a rate of 8%.

Data on the amount of average institutional scholarship aid awarded to students is derived from an AAVMC survey of its member institutions on net tuition conducted in 2015. Institutional aid is understood to be college-funded scholarship, fellowship, or grant aid awarded to students.

Residency tuition discount does not include special circumstances such as non-resident contract positions or tuition remissions where a portion of non-resident tuition may be refunded upon post-graduation employment within the state.
Good Options for UC Davis Students

US Veterinary Schools

• University of California, Davis
• Western University (Southern California)
• University of Illinois
• Ohio State University
• Midwestern University (Arizona)
• Washington State University
• Kansas State University

Accredited International Schools

• University of Sydney School of Veterinary Science
• Royal Veterinary College (RVC) (London)
• University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine
• The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (Edinburgh)
• St. George’s University
International Schools Application Process

• VMCAS allows students to apply to international school 19 AVMA accredited schools, as well as 4 AAVMC Affiliate Members.
• Through UCAS students can apply for up to 3 accredited veterinary schools for £25
  • However it’s not recommended because it can be rather confusing as it is really set up for UK students
  • You can apply to graduate programs as well
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

- Apply through UCAS for veterinary schools in the UK
- Deadline for UCAS: October 15th
- Requires personal statement and reference letters
- Much cheaper alternative for students who are applying
- Can apply to both VMCAS and UCAS

For more information, visit www.ucas.com
Tuition Costs for International Vet Schools

- University of Glasgow (No Physics required!)
  - Cost of Attendance International Fee: £26,750 / $29,905 a year for 5 years

- Royal Veterinary College
  - Cost of Attendance for International Students: £33,000 / $36,892 a year

- University of Edinburgh, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
  - Cost of Attendance for International Students: £30,200 / $33,762 a year

- University of Sydney (No Physics required!)
  - Cost of Attendance for International Students: $38,500 a year

- Cost of Attendance UC Davis Veterinary School: $31,655

- Exchange Rate for US Dollar: 5/30/2017
  - $1.12 US Dollar = €1.00 Euro
  - $1.28 US Dollar = £1.00 British Pound
University of Sydney

- 11th in the World Rankings
- Accredited by RCVS
  - Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)
  - Must have 12 weeks of Animal Husbandry Extramural Studies (AHEMS) and 26 weeks of Clinical EMS
- No interviews
- Begins in early February
- Minimum GPA of 2.80
- Prerequisites
  - O’chem (CHE 8 A/B)
  - Biology
  - Biochemistry
  - NO PHYSICS!
Royal Veterinary School

- 3rd in the World Rankings
- Accredited by RCVS (similar to University of Sydney)
- Interview with family and friends in San Francisco
- Prerequisites
  - CHE 8 A/B
  - PHY 7 A/B/C
Royal Dick Veterinary School (Edinburgh)

• 23rd in the World Rankings
• Prerequisites:
  • Biology/Zoology
  • Physics (PHY 7 A/B)
  • Biochemistry
  • O’chem and Inorganic chemistry (CHE 8 A/B)
• Mathematics/Statistics
• Genetics
• Microbiology
• Cell Biology
Application Statistics 2017 UCD Vet School

- Offered Admission: 179
- Accepted Offer: 150
- Average GPA for CA Residents
  - Cumulative: 3.70
  - Overall Science: 3.67
  - Last 67 Quarter Units: 3.80
- Average GRE Score: Quantitative 71%
- Veterinary-Related Experience Hours: 180 hrs. (minimum)
  - 1475 average hours
- UC Davis Students: Admitted Entering 2017
  - Total Admitted from UC Davis: 47
  - ANS (32), ABI (5), BIS (3), WFC (2), NPB (2), PTX (1), ANM (1), PSC (1)
  - GPA Range: 3.19–4.00
Applying to UC Davis w/minimum GPA (2.5)

2017.......lowest overall GPA = 3.186
2016.......lowest overall GPA = 3.446
2015.......lowest overall GPA = 3.184
2014.......lowest overall GPA = 3.463
2013.......lowest overall GPA = 3.239
2012.......lowest overall GPA = 3.347
2011.......lowest overall GPA = 3.064

VMCAS takes ALL grades in to account, no repeat replacement grades!
Looking to Improve Your Chances of Getting into Veterinary School?

1. **Apply to Overseas Schools**
   - Apply to international veterinary schools (i.e. Ross University, St. Georges, and St. Mathews)
   - U of Sydney, Royal Veterinary College, U of Edinburgh

2. **UC Davis Open Campus**
   - Open to public
   - Provides access to UC Davis upper division science courses to raise overall and science GPA

3. **Pursuing a Master’s Degree**

4. **Attend Community College**

5. **Attend Post Baccalaureate Programs**
   - Help student transition from undergraduate to professional schools after they have completed their degree
   - Raise GPA to be more competitive
Last minute strategies...

- Take lower division, science courses Summer I
  - AST, GEL, PLS, SAS

- Let someone review your answers to narrative prompts

- Practice the MMI and traditional interviews!
  - Historic traditional interview questions can be found on Student Doctor Network

- Summer veterinary experiences

- Letters of Recommendation
Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

- Only standardized examination required for entrance to all but one US Veterinary School
- Only General Test is Required
  - 3 sections – GRE Quantitative Reasoning
- Seven 30-minute tests (3.5 hours of testing)
- Scores are valid for up to five years after completion
- Must be taken no later than September 1st of the year you apply to veterinary school
  - DO NOT WAIT UNTIL AUGUST TO TAKE IT
    - August would be good for a second time!
- Take this seriously – do not go into it cold
- Cost of the test - $205, there are fee waivers available

More information on GRE Website: https://www.ets.org/gre/
VMCAS Personal Statement

- VMCAS has changed the personal statement for the upcoming Fall 2018 cycle (1000 Characters)
- Be unique!
- Prompts are as follows:
  - There are many career choices within the veterinary profession. What are your future career goals and why?
  - In what ways do veterinarians contribute to society and what do you hope to contribute?
  - Considering the breadth of society we serve as veterinarians today; what attributes do you believe are essential to be successful within the veterinary profession? Of these attributes, which do you possess and how have you demonstrated these in the past?
- Grammar
- No negative comments!
- Keep in mind your audience
- Proof read – have a friend read (or even us)
- UC Davis will include additional “Diversity Statement”
Great Examples- “Career Question”

“As an aspiring veterinarian, my future career goal is to enhance food production systems and combat other sustainability challenges that affect both human and animal health…..

To supplement this career path, I would like to become board certified in epidemiology and work on research regarding preventative measures that limit disease transmission”

NOT: “I have loved animals since I was born….”

OR: “I want to work with animals, I don’t like people much…..”

OR: “I will graduate from vet school and open my own, low-cost clinic”
Great Examples:

“In what way do veterinarians contribute…?”

“The veterinary field is very diverse; earning a veterinary degree does not mean a person needs to pursue general practice. Veterinarians can be responsible for advocating for animal welfare, protecting human and environmental health, and educating the general public”

NOT: “Veterinarians work hard to save all the animals!”
VMCAS Letter of Recommendations

- Three electronic letter of recommendations are required
  - One has to be from a veterinarian
  - Check your schools in advance!
  - You may need one from an advisor, professor, etc.
    - There may even be ranking
- Letters pulled in order received
  - Multiple letters may actually hurt you rather than help you
- Narrative letters *not currently read!* (by UC Davis)
- Evaluation by Recommenders
The MMI

- Multiple Mini Interviews
- Short questions
  - Can be prompts, puzzles, scenarios, etc.
- Several veterinary schools use the MMI (UCD included)
- Practice but don’t practice too much!
- Several resources are available:
  - Us
  - Health Professions Advising
    - Workshops
  - Friends
- Example: You have just accidentally run over your neighbor’s cat while reversing your car. You have 5 minutes to break the bad news to her.
Other Tips

• Enter course names EXACTLY as they appear on official transcript
• Your Primary School is UC Davis
• Enter GE courses as science if they will help

Other Resources

• Health Professions Advising
• Each School’s website
• VMCAS
• The Animal Science Advising Center
Health Professions Advising: VMCAS Workshop

- 2 hour session
- Educational and interactive portion
  - Topics include: Admissions 101, Exploring Careers, Financing a Vet Education, Suturing, Mock MMI, etc.
  - Incoming first-years are welcome
  - Questions can be sent to healthprofessionsadvising@ucdavis.edu
Saint George’s University

- Grenada, West Indies
Island is 12 by 21 miles
2 Seasons, wet and dry
Official Language: English
Malaria-free since 1962!
“Spice Island”
Diverse
Veterinary Medicine (765)

• Established 2003
• 29 UCD graduates, 10 currently enrolled

Cost $182,930 (UCD $138,930 vs. Western University $196,670)

3 Year Program

• August and January start date
• Apply through VMCAS, holistic review
• CHE 8 and PHY 7A/B
• Foundations Program
• Final year in affiliate schools (29) US, UK, AU, CN
• Two terms, two breaks
School of Veterinary Medicine

- AVMA accredited
- No tracking
- Graduation Ceremony in New York, New York
- Largest lecture halls 800-900 students
- Students and faculty represent 140 countries
- UC Davis: Highest for DVM Admits

98 Full scholarships awarded between MD and DVM
Housing

- Students MUST live on campus first year
  - Exceptions: Brought Family members, spouse, pet
  - Office for “significant others”
- 1780 Spaces, new dorm being built
  - Singles (studio)
  - 2,3,4,5 separate bedrooms, shared kitchen and bath
  - No ovens on campus
  - Cleaning service 2x per week
Transportation

Scooters, cars, buses
Buses from main campus
to Grenada every 10 min ($1)

Food

No Dining Commons, meal plans
Other Programs

• See SGU
  • Apply, get accepted, upon arrival, Hotel and Air Paid

• 12 day program
  • Classroom Instruction/Labs
  • Leadership Training
  • Hikes/Beach/Snorkeling
Questions?

Animal Science Advising Center
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asac@ucdavis.edu