Veterinary Science
Pre-Professional Program
2025-2026

Nature of Work: Veterinary medicine is a health profession dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of animal diseases and injuries. Veterinarians use scientific knowledge and decision-making processes to enhance the health, welfare, and productivity of animals. They contribute to human as well as animal health by engaging in research, food safety inspection, education, regulatory medicine, and public health. This comprehensive health profession is increasingly important as animal and human populations grow. Most veterinarians in the United States and Canada work in private practices. Specialties within veterinary medicine include research, education, laboratory animal medicine, zoo animal medicine, equine sports medicine, wildlife animal medicine, animal-assisted activities, marine biology, and aquatic animal medicine.

Professional Training: Prospective veterinarians must graduate from a four-year program at an accredited college of veterinary medicine with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M or V.M.D) degree and obtain a license to practice. The United States and Canada have 33 colleges of veterinary medicine.

Job Outlook: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports, "Employment of veterinarians is projected to grow 19 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. About 4,800 openings for veterinarians are projected each year, on average, over the decade." Veterinarians will especially be needed in fields related to food and animal safety, disease control, and public health. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings: In their May 2024 salary survey, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports the median annual wage for veterinarians as $125,510 with the lowest 10 percent earning less than $70,350 and the highest 10 percent earning more than $212,890. (See www.bls.gov)

Note: Each college of veterinary medicine has slightly different entrance requirements; check with the academic adviser regarding particular schools of interest. Almost all students take four years and obtain a baccalaureate degree; applicants to colleges of veterinary medicine without a baccalaureate degree face a difficult task of gaining admittance.

PRE-PROFESSION:
VETERINARY SCIENCE

Rigby Hall
(509) 527-2551

Websites
Walla Walla University
University Bulletin
Pre-Profession: Veterinary Science

Faculty
Advisor
Cecilia Brothers

Professional Organizations
American Veterinary Medical Association

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Suggested Degree Path

See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete their core classes for a Veterinary Science pre-profession.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab (BIOL 141)	4
Intro to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
Precalculus I (MATH 121)	4
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab (BIOL 142)	4
Intro to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Precalculus II (MATH 122)	4
General Studies	5
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Biology & Lab (BIOL 143)	4
Fundamentals of Speech Comm. (SPCH 101)	4
General Studies	8
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 141 & 144)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 211 & 214)	4
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
General Studies	5
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 142 & 145)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 212 & 215)	4
Biostatistics (BIOL 250)	4
General Studies	4
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Chemistry & Lab (CHEM 143 & 146)	4
General Physics & Lab (PHYS 213 & 216)	4
General Studies	8
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Organic Chemistry I & Lab (CHEM 321 & 324)	5
Cell Biology I (BIOL 381)& Lab	4
General Studies	7
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Organic Chemistry II & Lab (CHEM 322 & 325)	5
Cell Biology II (BIOL 382)& Lab	4
General Studies	7
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Studies	16
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Foundations of Biochemistry (CHEM 431)	4
General Studies	12
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Foundations of Biochemistry (CHEM 432)	3
Animal Physiology (BIOL 464)	4
General Studies	9
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
General Studies	16
Total	16

Recommended Electives:

- BIOL 222 – Microbiology OR BIOL 445 Advanced Microbiology
- BIOL 466 – Immunology
- BIOL 383 – Cell Biology III

Additional Requirements for entrance into a veterinary medical college:

1. Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), depending on the school;
2. A minimum of 300 hours of documented veterinary medical exposure, professional animal experience, or experience at biomedical research laboratories;
3. Service and leadership activities