PREPARING FOR VETERINARY MEDICAL SCHOOL (DVM programs)

ADMISSION CRITERIA
- A strong GPA (3.5+)/Science GPA 3.5 or more
- General GRE exam & Certain coursework [see below]
- 60-150 hours of experience &/or shadowing
- Wide range of experiences with animals (large/small, domestic/wild)
- Excellent, personal recommendations (min. of 3, some want 1 from a vet)
- Evidence of leadership

A *competitive* applicant for veterinary programs will have taken the recommended coursework (below), have a GPA of 3.6 or higher in all course work, have evidence of leadership skills, and have up to 600 hours of experience with animals.

There is significant variation in the pre-requisite coursework needed at the undergraduate level for different schools. Check individual school requirements well before applying. Below is a listing of undergraduate coursework required by most programs as well as some additional coursework required by some programs.

Minimum Pre-Requisites:
Biol 130 - Cells to Organisms
Biol 150 - Organisms to Ecosystems
Biol 260 - Genetics
Chem 116 - Energetics and Dynamics
Chem 250- Organic Chemistry 1
Chem 340/Biol 444 - Biochemistry I
Phys 141 & 151 - Principles of…Physics
Biol 170 or Math 107 – a statistics class

Additional courses for some programs:
Math 120 – or pre-calculus or Math 140
Chem 252 – Organic Chem II
Biol 226 – Microbiology
Biol 242 – Comparative Physiology
Humanities courses - 2-4 courses, FRST counts

VETERINARY EXPERIENCE

Gain enough experience to convince yourself, your letter writers, and an admissions committee that you know you *really* want to become a vet. Veterinarian shadowing (~60 hours, as much as 150) with both small and large animal vets is required, but your experience should go beyond job shadowing to include working directly with a variety of animals. Train a service animal, work as a vet assistant, volunteer in animal shelters, kennels, or animal hospitals, do livestock farming, or intern at a zoo. Keep a journal!

COSTS and PROGRAM LENGTH
The length of veterinary programs is typically 4 years. The average cost per year for tuition, fees, books and equipment in 2019 (not including living expenses):
Public Resident: $37,000   Non-Resident: $56,000

PROGRAMS attended by recent LU ALUMS
U. Wisc.-Madison, U. Illinois, U. Iowa, Oregon State, U. Philadelphia, Purdue, Cornell

Other Notes
- Maintain good credit – this is essential for obtaining loans.
- You must be able to meet physical technical standards to gain admittance (*e.g.* https://www.purdue.edu/vet/dvm/admissions/technical-standards.php
- See the AAVMC.org website for more excellent information.