

Career Profile: **Veterinary Medicine**

Description:

Veterinarians provide healthcare for pets, livestock, zoo, and laboratory animals. Veterinarians in clinical practice diagnose animal health problems; vaccinate against diseases, such as distemper and rabies; medicate animals suffering from infections or illnesses; treat and dress wounds; set fractures; perform surgery; and advise owners about animal feeding, behavior, and breeding.

Pre-requisites for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine:

The pre-requisites for admission vary by veterinary medical school. Many of the colleges do not require a bachelor's degree for entrance; however most of the students admitted have completed an undergraduate program. Appropriate admission tests also vary by school; generally students must complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT), or the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), depending on the preference of each college.

Students interested in applying to veterinary medical schools should complete the following BYU courses:

Biology	InBio 380
Chemistry	Chem 351, 352, 353, 481, 482
Math	Math 119 or higher and Stat 221
Electives	Biol 291, 392R Engl 316 InBio 270, 380 MMBio 221, 222 NDFS 330 PDBio 484 TMA 150

Pre-professional Experience:

Many veterinary colleges require veterinary-related work experience. Pre-professional work or volunteer experience can be obtained in places such as a veterinary clinic, research laboratories, farms, zoos, or wildlife parks. Having a wide range of experiences is beneficial, especially experience with research and large animals.

Applying to Veterinary Medical School:

Applying to colleges and schools of veterinary medicine requires planning and time. In addition to completing prerequisite course work and test requirements the application process also requires evaluations, a personal statement, a list of your veterinary and pre-professional experiences, and any associated fees. Specific application requirements and application deadlines will vary slightly among individual colleges.

Licensure:

Every state and the District of Columbia require that veterinarians be licensed before they can practice. To receive licensure applicants must complete the national board examination in addition to specific state examinations. The North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) is administered by computer and consists of 360 multiple-choice questions, covering all aspects of veterinary medicine. State examinations cover State laws and regulations. Some States also do additional testing on clinical competency.

Earnings:

Median annual earnings of veterinarians were \$63,090 in 2002. The middle 50 percent earned between \$49,050 and \$85,770.

Veterinary Technician:

Veterinary technicians work alongside the veterinarian. Veterinary technicians are licensed and can prepare animals for surgery and administer anesthetics under the supervision of the veterinarian. Veterinary technicians often have degrees in biology or zoology and are highly skilled assistants to the veterinarian.

Resources BYU Offers:

Beverly Roeder
Professor
386 WIDB
422-6873

The Integrative Biology Office
401 WIDB
422-2582

Related Websites:

The American Veterinary Medical Association
<http://www.avma.org>

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
<http://www.aavmc.org>

Resources available in The Career & Learning Information Center (WSC 2590):**Books:**

- The Top 100: The Fastest Growing Careers for the 21st Century
- America's Fastest Growing Jobs Sixth Edition
- Careers for Animal Lovers & Other Zoological Types

