



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF PARENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. Can I apply to veterinary school immediately after high school?

No. There is more preparation for this program than just high school.

2. Who should I talk with to find out what I need to do?

Your first step is to talk with undergraduate advisors about degree programs in their schools/colleges and determine which best fits your interests. Ask yourself this question – “If I am not able to gain admission to veterinary medicine, what other career options interest me?” In other words, what is your back-up plan if veterinary medicine doesn’t work out? Not everyone will be admitted into the DVM program. You should have other career alternatives in mind, just in case.

3. Does attending Purdue University for undergraduate study give me an extra edge on gaining admission to the veterinary medical program?

No. Purdue has the only veterinary school within the State of Indiana; therefore, our mission is to serve the entire state. Applicants will be considered for our program as long as they have attended an accredited undergraduate college/university.

4. Is there a preferred major in order to be admitted to the veterinary program?

No. The required courses are very basic and are usually included in any major on the Purdue campus with the exception perhaps of liberal arts (and even there you may find ways to overlap pre-vet requirements with elective categories in their curricula). Many of the students on our campus are in majors in the College of Agriculture (e.g. animal science, wildlife science, biochemistry, food science, etc.). Other students enroll in the biology major in the College of Science. Occasionally someone will be enrolled in pharmacy or engineering, etc.

5. How does the DVM program differ in preparation from the Veterinary Technology program?

The best analogy that clarifies these professions is that the DVM program prepares you to be the doctor and veterinary technology prepares you to be the nurse.

6. Do you consider my high school transcripts and test scores for admission to veterinary medicine?

No. For our purposes we will consider your academic performance at the collegiate level in your undergraduate program. Your high school academic performance is important when first applying to the university in your undergraduate program.

7. How many students are admitted to a class?

We admit between 65-70 students each fall. Two thirds of the students will be Indiana residents, and the other third will be non-resident and international students.

8. What are the advantages to attending Purdue for undergraduate study?

- Access to quality academic advising.
- Participation in the Pre-Vet club.
- Opportunities to volunteer for hands on experiences in community practice, neo-natal foal team, cholic team, etc.
- Networking with other pre-vet and veterinary medical students and faculty.

9. How many years does it take to complete the DVM degree?

4 years. This is after you have completed the 2-3 years of undergraduate required coursework that lays the foundation needed for success in our program.

10. What is the student-to-teacher ratio for the DVM program?

Ratio = 3:1

11. Where does Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine rank among the other schools in the country?

Organizations that rank any category of schools use various criteria. Each of the veterinary schools has unique aspects about their educational programs, specialty areas, faculty, geographic location, etc. It's really like comparing apples to oranges. If you ask the question from the perspective of who is our competition for applicants to our program, then the answer is the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, and the University of California – Davis.

12. For animal experience, in what kinds of activities do I need to be involved?

Animal experience includes 4-H animal projects, livestock farms, humane societies, zoos, kennel work, racetracks – any activity that allows you to gain hands-on experience in working with animals in general. This does not include family pets. It's advisable to keep a journal of your activities. Include dates, time spent, types of activities, who supervised, etc.

13. What is included in veterinary experience?

These are activities or tasks supervised by a veterinarian.

14. Is AP credit acceptable for courses?

We will accept AP credit for courses as long as the course is posted to a collegiate academic transcript and clearly indicates for what subject matter credit is received (e.g. “calculus” is specific as to course, “math” is not). Keep in mind that there are some dangers in using AP credit to bypass beginning coursework on campus. You should discuss your particular situation with your academic advisor.

16. Do I need to finish an undergraduate degree in order to apply and be admitted?

No. You may apply after you have finished the required coursework; however, the statistics indicate that the majority of both resident and non-resident students gain admission after four years of study.

17. What happens to students who never gain admission?

Not everyone can or will be admitted to the professional program. All applicants need to explore other career alternatives and establish a back-up plan.