

Academic Preparation for Vet School

Minimum Required Coursework for Veterinary School Admission. Most veterinary schools in the U.S. require the successful completion of one year of English composition, one year of general chemistry, one year of organic chemistry, one year of general biology, and one year of physics (and the sciences must have lab components). Some require up to a year of college level mathematics; most require multiple humanities and/or social sciences; many require additional upper division biology courses. For instance, The University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine requires 3 semester hours of biochemistry, 8 hours of upper division biology coursework, and 14 hours of humanities or social sciences as well as the courses already listed (see http://vet.uga.edu/admissions/requirements#min_req).

Because the admission requirements for different schools vary, and because the admission requirements may change, students must investigate the different schools available and make themselves aware of the particular requirements for the programs in which they are interested.

AP, IB, and CLEP Credit to Fulfill Science Prerequisites. Veterinary schools vary greatly in how they view AP credit. For instance, the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia has no problem accepting AP credit for their prerequisites. Students must investigate their target schools' policies about use of AP credit for admission prerequisites. The safest approach is to decline AP or IB credit for general chemistry, general biology, and general physics and take the actual college courses instead.

Online Science Coursework. Most professional schools do not accept online coursework for the core science requirements. Many professional schools relaxed the requirement for “in-person” science courses for students at institutions that did not offer students a choice due to the pandemic, but most schools have returned to requiring “in person” lab coursework.

Pass/Fail Grades and Audit Credit. Students should consult the websites and admissions personnel of the individual PathA programs they are interested for their policies regarding audited courses and courses graded on a pass/fail basis.

Vet School Matriculation Without a Bachelor's Degree. Many veterinary schools do not require a bachelor's degree for admission, but instead require completion of a minimum of 90 credit hours of prerequisite coursework. However, students should realize that such early admission to veterinary schools requires that an applicant take the GRE and apply to veterinary school at the end of their second year of undergraduate study rather than at the end of their third year. Building a strong application in this short time frame is more difficult, so students interested in this option are encouraged to have a back-up plan in place for completing a bachelor's degree in case early acceptance is not achieved.

Suitable Majors and Minors for Pre-Vet Students. Most veterinary schools in the U.S. prefer applicants who complete a bachelor's degree before they matriculate, and some veterinary schools prefer that their applicants earn a science degree. The Bachelor of Science in Biology degree offered by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences fits well with this track, but students are urged to investigate veterinary schools to see what each prefers before choosing a major field of study. Pre-veterinary students whose target schools do not prefer a degree in Biology may major in any discipline s/he chooses, but s/he must also complete the required courses for admission to their preferred veterinary programs. Before officially declaring a major, therefore, a student should create a personalized 4-year plan (4YP; <https://aas.mercer.edu/for-students/creating-a-4-year-plan/>) that includes all required coursework to see how well the degree and prerequisites fit together. Students need to be aware that extra semesters might be required for degree programs that do not fit well with the pre-veterinary classes.

Chemistry and Biology Minors: While pre-vet is not an academic major or minor, those students who complete 16 credit hours in chemistry (with 6 or more hr in courses numbered 200 or higher in residence at Mercer) fulfill the Mercer University College of Liberal Arts & Sciences requirements for a minor in chemistry.

Students who complete 18 credit hours in biology (with 6 or more hr in courses numbered 300 or higher in residence at Mercer fulfill the CLAS' requirements for a minor in biology.

Minors in Business: Many pre-veterinary students see the value of education in a field of business, as such training can further their professional goals as veterinarians operating their own clinics. Options can be found in the University Catalog.

Mercer Coursework Fulfilling Veterinary School Admission Requirements/ Recommendations

1. **English Composition:**

CLAS, CHP, TSM, SSBE students: INT 101/ GBK 101 and INT 201/ GBK 202

EGR students: Usually TCO 141 and EGR 107 meet this requirement; confirm with target schools.

2. **General Chemistry:** CHM 111 and CHM 112

Note: CHM 111 is only offered in the fall; CHM 112 is only offered in the spring;

3. **Introductory Physics:** PHY 141 and PHY 142 **or** PHY 161 and PHY 162

Note: Most veterinary schools do not prefer one of these series over the other.

4. **Introductory Biology:** BIO 171 and 172

Note: BIO 171 is only offered in the fall; BIO 172 is only offered in the spring.

5. **Organic Chemistry:** CHM 221 and CHM 222

Note: CHM 221 is only offered in the fall; CHM 222 is only offered in the spring.

6. **Biochemistry:** BMB 465

Note: The prereqs for BMB 465 are successful completion of CHM 222 and BIO 172.

7. **Mathematics:** STA 126 and/or MAT 191

Note: check target veterinary schools' requirements, as this varies.

8. **Social Sciences:** PSY 101 and SOC 101 (or upper division PSY that focuses on group psychology)

Note: check target veterinary schools' requirements, as this varies.

9. **Additional Biology Coursework:**

Recommended: Microbiology (BIO 303), Genetics (BIO 310/280), Eukaryotic Cell Biology (BIO 460/L), Development (BIO 450/L), Biochemistry II (BMB 466), Plant and Animal Physiology (BO 260), Vertebrate Zoology (BIO 301).

