

DVM Admissions

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DVM Admissions

Admission Requirements

The criteria for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine are determined and reviewed periodically by the Dean and the Faculty Committee on Admissions. The Admissions Committee is comprised of faculty from the College of Veterinary Medicine with representatives from the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, and the University of North Carolina system.

Applicants are evaluated on their academic performance, their understanding of the veterinary medical profession, their achievements, and their professional potential. The University complies with all Federal and State statutes regarding nondiscrimination. Please contact the [Student Services Office](#) with any questions regarding the DVM Program.

Educational Requirements

"Pre-vet" is not a major; it is a track that can be chosen within a major. Pre-veterinary medical students can pursue any undergraduate major they choose, and the required pre-professional courses can be obtained through the curricula of a number of fields of study. Popular majors for these pre-professional students include animal science, poultry science, zoology, biology, biochemistry, and microbiology. Undergraduate candidates should be pursuing a baccalaureate degree and meeting all of the requirements and course stipulations of that program. An undergraduate degree, however, is not required for admission. Applicants must only complete prerequisite courses to fulfill academic admission requirements.

Whether you're a student, advisor, pre-applicant, or just someone interested in the profession of veterinary medicine, the [The Pre-Vet Advisor e-newsletter](#), created by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), offers helpful information. Previous issues can be found here:

[Pre-Vet Advisor 1](#) June 2011

[Pre-Vet Advisor 2](#) February 2012

[Pre-Vet Advisor 3](#) July 2012

Changes In Policies And Procedures - Changes in the admissions process may be made without announcement as a result of continual review by the Faculty Committee on Admissions.

Eligibility (Requirements for the 2013 Admissions cycle)

Candidates will be considered academically qualified for review if they meet the minimum academic standards at time of application, which are:

	N.C. Residents	Non-Residents
Cumulative GPA	3.0	3.4
Required Course GPA	3.3	3.4
Last 45 Credit Hours GPA	3.3	3.4
Graduate Record Exam	General Test	General Test

The Cumulative GPA includes all college courses. The GPA for the Last 45 credit hours goes back a semester at a time. If a student completed 44 credit hours in his/her final three semesters, the College of Veterinary Medicine would go back 4 semesters to calculate the last 45 credit hours, meaning it may be calculated for 46 hours or more. The Last 45 GPA includes all post-secondary coursework (undergraduate, graduate, professional school, etc.).

Determine your GPA by converting to:

- A = 4.0

DVM Admissions Sections

- [GRE](#)
- [Special GRE Notice for 2012 Admissions Cycle \(10/03/2012 deadline\)](#)
- [Prerequisite Courses](#)
- [Helpful Application Tools](#)
- [Subjective Review](#)

- A- = 3.7
- B+ = 3.3
- B = 3.0
- B- = 2.7
- C+ = 2.3
- C = 2.0
- C- = 1.7
- D+ = 1.3
- D = 1.0
- D- = 0.7
- F = 0.0

An "A+" grade will be converted to 4.0. Multiply the numeric grade equivalent by the number of credits for the course to obtain the quality points. Divide the total quality points by the total number of credits to determine the respective grade point average.

Grades achieved in courses that have been repeated will be averaged.

Alternative Eligibility (North Carolina Residents only)

It is recognized that applicants may not meet the minimum academic standards. In certain cases, applicants who do not meet the minimum GPA requirement (in one GPA category) may be considered for admission based on alternative evidence of academic qualification as determined by the Faculty Committee on Admissions. This classification helps identify applicants who may have had some impediment (medical issue, family illness, unrelated major) to meeting minimum academic standards. It is incumbent on the applicant to provide evidence of academic strength (usually a stronger Last 45 GPA or Required Course GPA) while detailing what strengths he or she would bring to the admitted class in light of the overall academic record.

Consideration under "Alternative Eligibility" applies **only** to the GPA requirement (in one GPA category) and not the other admissions requirements (C- or better in required courses, no more than two required courses remaining in the spring semester of the admissions cycle, lack of prerequisites, etc.). Alternative eligibility **must** be requested at time of application by completing the appropriate section (Question #7) on the Supplemental Application.

Applicants should determine their own grade point averages in all three categories (Required Course, Last 45 and Overall) before submitting an application. To determine a GPA, simply divide the total quality points by the total number of credits using the grade conversion chart listed above.

Effective with the 2011 admissions cycle (October 2010 application deadline), only NC Resident applicants will be considered for "alternative eligibility" (must be a North Carolina resident at time of application).

Effective with the 2012 admissions cycle (October 2011 application deadline), NC Resident applicants will be considered for "alternative eligibility" if the GPA falls below the minimum standard in one GPA category only (GPA categories are Required Course, Last 45 Credit Hour and Cumulative). If an applicant's GPA falls below the minimum GPA standard in two or all three GPA categories, he or she will not be considered for admission. Applicants must be North Carolina residents at the time of application in order to qualify for "alternative eligibility" consideration.

Non-resident applicants will not be able to apply for this consideration. Therefore, non-resident applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [statistical data](#) from the previous admissions cycle to assess the competitiveness of their application.

Please contact the Student Services Office if you have a question concerning Alternative Eligibility.

Graduate Record Exam

The **GRE®** score is the total from the verbal, quantitative, and written analytical portions of the general test. The general portion of the test includes questions designed to measure skills and knowledge gained over a long period of time. If an applicant takes the test more than once, the highest total score is used from a single testing date, not the highest of each section.

Competitive applicants submit scores that meet or exceed the 50th percentile.

GRE® Score reporting is cumulative. Current GRE Board Policy states that your scores are reportable for 5 years (until September 15 following the fifth anniversary of your test date). **Therefore, the GRE® test must have been taken within 5 years of October 1 in the year of application.** All scores earned during this time will be reported to each institution you designate. For information about registering for the **GRE®**, contact the Educational Testing Service at 1-800-GRE-CALL or visit their web site at <http://www.gre.org/>.

The ETS code for NC State University is **5496** (no department code is used). The test score must be received electronically by NC State University on or before October 2, 2012. Therefore, it is recommended that you take the test no later than September 1 in order for the complete scores to reach us by the October 2nd deadline. Scores are sent from ETS to NC State electronically. Paper copies of **GRE®** scores submitted by applicants are not accepted. Scores that arrive electronically after the October 2nd deadline will not be accepted.

SPECIAL NOTICE for 2013 ADMISSIONS CYCLE (October 2, 2012 deadline)

Applicants to the DVM Program must have reportable scores on file by the October 2nd deadline.

The Student Services Office will accept scores in the current or previous format as long as they meet the ETS score reporting requirements.

NC State will accept scores in either format beginning with the 2013 admissions cycle (October 2, 2012 deadline).

Prerequisite or Required Courses for the 2013 Admissions Cycle

For the equivalent course at another college or university, check the NC State University [course catalog](#) or ask **the advisor at your college**. Use the course descriptions listed here to guide you on your assessment if a course taken at your home institution meets our prerequisites.

Required Course	Semester Hours Required	NC State Equivalent Course Examples
Animal Nutrition	3	ANS 225 Principles of Animal Nutrition (3) or ANS 230 Nutrition of Domestic Animals (3) or ANS 415 Comparative Nutrition (3) or NTR/PO 515 Advanced Comparative Nutrition Human, Plant and species specific (Equine, Swine, etc) Nutrition courses will NOT satisfy this requirement
Biochemistry	3 or 4	BCH 351 General Biochemistry (4) or BCH 451 Principles of Biochemistry (4)
Biology (lab required)	4	BIO 181 Intro Biology I (4) or BIO 183 Intro Biology II (4)
Calculus or Logic	3	MA 121 Elements of Calculus (3) or MA 131 Calculus for Life and Management Sciences (3) or MA 141 Calculus I (4) or LOG 201 Logic (3) The acceptable logic course in lieu of Calculus is a mathematical sciences logic course, not a philosophy course. Please view the course description of LOG 201 for clarification.
Chemistry, General (labs required)	8	CH 101 Chemistry - A Molecular Science (3) with lab CH 102 (1) and CH 201 Chemistry - A Quantitative Science (3) with lab CH 202 (1)
Chemistry, Organic (labs required)	8	CH 221 Organic Chemistry I (3) with lab CH 222 (1) and CH 223 Organic Chemistry II (3) with lab CH 224 (1)
Composition & Writing or Public Speaking or Communications (any combination of these courses)	6	Any combination of the following: ENG 101 Academic Writing and Research (4) COM 110 Public Speaking (3) COM112 Interpersonal Communications (3) COM 211 Argumentation and Advocacy (3) This category doesn't include literature courses (English, American, etc.). However, we do accept courses that meet "writing across the curriculum" requirements at many liberal arts institutions. An applicant doesn't need prior approval for "writing across the curriculum"courses but should be prepared to prove the requirement if asked during the admissions cycle.
Genetics	3 or 4	GN 311 Principles of Genetics (4) or GN 413 Advanced Genetics (3)

		Animal Breeding and Livestock Improvement courses will not meet the requirement.
Humanities and Social Sciences	6	Any combination of Humanities and/or Social Sciences. Humanities courses include history, foreign language, literature (English, American, etc.), music, art, and theater. Social Science courses include psychology, sociology, anthropology and political science.
Microbiology (lab required)	4	MB 351 General Microbiology (3) and MB 352 General Microbiology Lab (1) or MB 411 Medical Microbiology (3) and MB 412 Medical Microbiology Lab (1) The Student Services Office acknowledges that some institutions offer a 3 credit Microbiology course with the lab included. A 3 credit course with lab included will satisfy the requirement.
Physics (labs required) (must be at least a two-course series)	8	PY 211 College Physics I - mechanics, heat, wave motion and sound (4) and PY 212 College Physics II - electricity, magnetism, light and modern physics (4) or PY 205 Physics for Engineers and Scientists I (4) and PY 208 Physics for Engineers and Scientists II (4)
Statistics	3	ST 311 Intro to Statistics (3) or ST (BUS) 350 Economics and Business Statistics

IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS CRITERIA REMINDERS - 2013 Admissions Cycle

- **Required courses must be completed for a letter grade of a "C-" or higher. If an applicant needs to repeat a course, he or she will have fulfilled the requirement if a "C-" or higher is achieved when the course is repeated (whether on the second or subsequent attempts). However, the "repeated average" will be calculated into the Required Course and Overall GPA. An applicant must take this into consideration to determine if he or she should apply for "alternative eligibility." The numerical equivalent of a "C-" grade is 1.7. The "C-" or better grade for prerequisites must be recorded on transcripts received by the application deadline. An applicant may not wait until the fall or spring semesters of the application cycle to repeat a course (see next criteria reminder).**
- **Required courses must be completed for a letter grade with the exception of AP courses (see next criteria reminder). Courses completed in the following grading systems will not be counted as meeting the prerequisite requirement: Audit, Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.**
- **Advanced Placement (AP) courses can be used to fulfill prerequisites. The applicant's undergraduate institution must list the AP course by name (Biology, Calculus, English, etc.) on its transcript indicating the number of credits granted. Please note that AP courses are not considered when calculating grade point averages.**
- **All but two (2) of the required courses or labs must be completed by the end of the fall semester of the application cycle. The remaining courses or labs must be completed in the following spring semester. Required courses or labs can't be completed in the summer semester immediately preceding matriculation. This is a TOTAL of 2 (two courses, two labs, or one course and one lab) in separate prerequisites (i.e., Microbiology and Microbiology lab = 1, Microbiology and Microbiology lab + Statistics = 2, Microbiology and Microbiology lab + Statistics + Physics II Lab = 3).**
- **Requirements are not waived in lieu of work experience.**
- **Labs completed in Biochemistry, Animal Nutrition and Genetics will be computed into all grade point average calculations (including the Required Course GPA).**
- **There is no time expiration or time limit on required courses. Courses could have been completed 5, 10, 15, etc. years ago in an applicant's post-secondary academic career.**
- **Alternative eligibility doesn't permit applicants to be short on prerequisites.**
- **Applicants offered admission must submit transcripts by July 1 showing conferral of degree, completion of courses (whether prerequisites or not), or both (if applicable).**
- **Quarter hours can be converted to semester hours by dividing the number of quarter hours by 1.5.**
- **For non-admitted applicants, all application materials are sealed for three years after submission, then destroyed. Credentials can't be reused from one admissions cycle to the next. Applicants reapplying must submit new credentials (including transcripts) each time they apply.**

Animal Nutrition Prerequisite

A course in animal nutrition became a requirement effective with the 2008 admissions cycle. If you attend a college that does not offer an animal nutrition course, you may want to consider taking one via distance learning, such as an internet course or correspondence course offered by an accredited college or university. Animal Nutrition courses are offered via distance education at:

- [North Carolina State University](#)
- [Oklahoma State University](#)
- [Purdue University](#)
- [Rutgers University](#)

Helpful Application Tools- 2013 Admissions Cycle

Please use the checklist, timeline, and prerequisite worksheet to prepare for the admissions cycle.

- [Checklist](#)
- [Timeline](#)
- [Prerequisite Worksheet](#)

Subjective Review

All applicants should complete both the standard VMCAS application form by the 1:00 pm, October 2, 2012 deadline and the NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine [supplemental application form](#) by the **1:00 pm Friday, October 5, 2012** deadline.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to an upgrade of the Student Information System, the supplemental application will not be available from September 28th at 5pm until October 1st at 7am. To accommodate for this outage, the NCSU Supplemental Application deadline has been moved back to 1pm on Friday, Oct 5th.

This deadline extension only applies to the NCSU Supplemental Application. The VMCAS deadline remains October 2, 2012 at 1:00pm.

The supplemental application is designed to provide an opportunity for the applicant to express relevant background information and qualifications that are not included in the VMCAS application.

1. Veterinary Experience A minimum of 400 hours of **clinical, medical, agribusiness, health science or medical related scientific research** experience is required by the time of application. However, supervised experiences in three or more different areas are **highly recommended for a competitive application**. Experience in three (3) different areas (small animal, large animal, research, food animal production, exotic, aquatic, wildlife, zoological medicine, etc.) of the veterinary medical profession is **preferred**. The work can be either paid or voluntary and must be completed under the supervision of a veterinarian (or PhD scientist if scientific research). Applicants will be evaluated on duration, level of duties, and diversity of the experiences.

2. Animal Experience All other animal related experiences will also be evaluated, such as working with livestock, breeding/ showing dogs or similar, working at a zoo, aquarium or pet shop, equestrian activities, volunteer time at an animal shelter/rescue, etc., and these should be included in the "Animal Experience" section of the VMCAS application.

Like veterinary experience, animal experience will be evaluated on duration with at least 100 hours or more contact time **highly recommended**; multiple activities of long duration are preferred. **This category doesn't include pet ownership.**

While applicants are expected to obtain veterinary and animal experience on their own, [NC State University's Pre-College Programs](#) offers opportunities in a variety of disciplines - each aimed at helping students prepare for college while experiencing NC State life. Disciplines include agriculture, cultural education, design, engineering, leadership, math, science, technology, and writing. Some current programs are excellent experience opportunities in veterinary medicine.

3. Educational Experience Consideration will be given to academic excellence, the course load per term, employment concurrent with school attendance, and participation in intercollegiate athletics. This will also include evaluation of accomplishments such as honors, awards and advanced degrees.

4. Evaluation Forms/Recommendations Three (3) recommendations are required using the VMCAS Electronic Evaluation system (eLOR). Each evaluator should include a written narrative that supports his or her overall evaluation of the applicant. Applicants must submit letters through the eLOR system. Although VMCAS allows a maximum of 5 submissions, NC State only requires 3 letters of recommendation and prefers to only receive 3 letters per applicant.

It is **highly recommended** that two recommendations (2) are submitted by veterinarians or PhD scientists ***with whom the applicant has worked in a veterinary or research setting***. The letters must describe the nature of the work relationship. The third letter can be from an academic advisor, employment supervisor or other evaluator of the applicant's choosing who has some working knowledge of the applicant. Applicants should not ask relatives to submit letters on their behalf.

Evaluations should support experiences listed and validate maturity, commitment and work ethic ***with specific examples***. The admissions committee may contact references directly if further information or clarification is required. You will be asked to provide contact information on the NC State supplemental application for veterinarians with whom

you have worked who did not provide an electronic evaluation.

[Information for Reference Writers](#)

5. Personal Statement The admissions committee will give consideration to the following three aspects of your personal statement, and each aspect should be clearly defined. Your VMCAS personal statements should help the committee understand:

- (1) something about you as a person,
- (2) how your interest in veterinary medicine developed within the context of your veterinary and animal-related experiences, what prepared you for a career in veterinary medicine, and your understanding of the profession, and
- (3) your career goals and what you currently anticipate doing with a degree in veterinary medicine. Your career goals may change after your experiences within the program, but the committee would like to know what your current interests are and how you would anticipate using your training as a veterinarian. The statement will also be evaluated for maturity, experience and communication skills.

The personal statement should be written with a realistic view of the profession. It's recommended that applicants avoid a romantic approach and write a succinct statement that indicates the preparation gained for the program (think cover letter for a desired position).

6. Diversity Diversity, i.e., those unique attributes that a prospective veterinary medical student contributes to the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine or to the veterinary medical profession, is an important consideration during the selection of prospective veterinary medical students.*

Examples of those unique attributes include, but are not limited to (alphabetical order):

- Career interest in area with national shortage
- Graduate school course work and graduate degrees (master and doctorate-level)
- North Carolina residency (3 or more years duration)
- Other career and/or life experiences
- Personal/economic hardship
- Under-represented minority group
- Under-represented North Carolina counties

* The Admissions Committee believes that a diverse student body is beneficial because a greater variety of life experiences and viewpoints allows students to learn more from each other, and thus be better prepared to enter a diverse workforce and deal with a diverse client population. In addition, a graduating class with diverse interests is better able to serve the needs of our state and nation by providing expertise in a variety of veterinary, medical and health-related fields.

7. Extracurricular and Community Activities The level, depth of accomplishment, and leadership roles in clubs (college/university, hobby), athletics (intramural, club) and community organizations will be taken into account.

Fall Transcripts

Transcripts reflecting fall course work will be due to NC State University within 15 working days from the last day of the semester, term or quarter, but not later than January 9, 2013 for the fall 2012 semester. Student grade reports and other unofficial documentation will not be accepted in lieu of official transcripts. Any candidate submitting fraudulent information or who fails to include required materials will be disqualified immediately.

Priority for Admission

While applications for nonresidents are accepted, distinct admission priority will be given to residents of North Carolina. Questions regarding residency should be directed to: Residency Officer, The Graduate School, North Carolina State University, Campus Box 7102, Raleigh, NC 27695-7102.