



College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
University of Missouri

EDUCATING PROTECTORS OF ANIMAL AND  
HUMAN HEALTH SINCE 1946



**A** 2023-2024  
**ADMISSION  
GUIDE**

Revised February 2023

[www.cvm.missouri.edu](http://www.cvm.missouri.edu)

## Overview of Veterinary Medical Admissions and Education

There is only one college of veterinary medicine in Missouri, one of 33 in the nation. Approximately 125 students will be accepted to the class entering the MU College of Veterinary Medicine in the fall out of nearly 2,000 applicants. The selection process is based on individual merit as demonstrated in both the classroom and nonacademic areas.

If accepted, a veterinary medical student must successfully complete four years of professional courses to obtain the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Optional advanced training programs are available during and after attaining a DVM degree. These advanced training programs include graduate programs leading to an MS, MPH or PhD degree, or clinical training programs leading to board certification as a specialist in one of 41 recognized veterinary medical specialties.

National and state licensing examinations are required to obtain a license to practice in most states. Further information can be found at the International Council for Veterinary Assessment (ICVA; [www.icva.net/about-icva/](http://www.icva.net/about-icva/)) and the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB; [www.aavsb.org](http://www.aavsb.org)) websites.

<b>Important Dates and Deadlines</b>	
VMCAS Application Opens	Jan 2023
All application materials (eLRO's, transcripts) must be submitted to VMCAS by <b>September 17, 2023</b>	
Interviews administered	Not before Dec 15, 2023 or after Mar 15, 2024
All acceptance materials received to finalize enrollment	5:00 PM April 15, 2024
Admissions off waitlist	April 16 – August 13, 2024
Orientation week	Mid-August 2024
Classes begin	Late August 2024

The University of Missouri requires all applicants submit an application through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) found at [www.AAVMC.org](http://www.AAVMC.org)

## Undergraduate Course Prerequisites

All applicants must complete 60 semester hours, including the required courses shown below, at a regionally accredited institution recognized by the U.S. Department of Education to qualify for admission.

Only two courses being used to fulfill course prerequisites may be pending completion in the spring/winter semester prior to matriculation. Final transcripts with grades for all course prerequisites must be received no later than July 1 of the matriculation year.

Courses taken on the P/F or S/U grading system are not counted for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine. If a grade of D or F is made in a required course, the course must be repeated and a grade of C- or higher earned.

**Note:** For spring and summer 2020 semester or quarter grades, a pass or satisfactory will be accepted as an exception for course prerequisites requiring a grade of C- or higher. Pass or satisfactory will not be accepted for any other semester or quarter at this time.

Grades completed during the spring 2020 semester or quarter, taken as pass or satisfactory or for a grade A-F, will not be calculated into your cumulative GPA or GPA for last three full-time semesters, only toward your course load completed. Exceptions to this rule may be requested.

Students may use credit by examination to substitute for pre-veterinary requirements only if their institution accepts those credits in lieu of a specific required course. Courses must be listed on a U.S. transcript unless approved by the Office of the Dean.

*Semester\* Credit Hours*

<b>Composition or courses in communication skills .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>College Algebra or more advanced mathematics .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Biochemistry (requires organic chemistry prerequisite).....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Physics I and II .....</b>	<b>5-10</b>
<b>Biological Science** .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Social Science and/or Humanistic Studies.....</b>	<b>10</b>

\* Multiply quarter credits by 0.67 to convert to semester credits.

\*\* Biology Department courses may be selected from zoology and botany or as required in foundation courses for a biology major. Example: genetics, microbiology, anatomy, cell biology.

Animal science courses do not qualify toward the 10 credit hours necessary in biological sciences except for those that are cross listed in both departments or an equivalent arrangement as determined by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The minimum required courses must be completed by the end of the spring semester (spring quarter) of the year for which admission is sought.

### **Elective Courses:**

The College of Veterinary Medicine faculty strongly encourages applicants to include as many of the following courses as possible among their electives. We have found that anatomy and physiology are especially challenging for students lacking a background in those subjects.

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Animal Nutrition
- Animal Reproduction
- Animal Husbandry
- Business or Accounting
- Genetics
- Microbiology
- Psychology
- Statistics
- Cell Biology
- Any Biomed 1000-4000 level course at the University of Missouri.

### **Courses That Are Not Accepted to Meet Intended Requirements:**

Problems, topics, research, seminars or readings courses are not accepted for admission purposes.

College course credits acquired outside the United States are accepted for admission purposes only if they are credited with grades and semester credit hours on a transcript from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Courses taken to meet requirements for a technical degree, such as veterinary technology or practical nursing, are included in the cumulative GPA calculations. However, restricted enrollment technical degree courses are not accepted to meet minimum course requirements nor included in the last three semesters' GPA or average course load.

### **International Students:**

All students who apply through the regular admissions process must have completed the 60 semester hours of required courses at a regional accredited institution recognized by the US Department of Education. Once notified of admission, international students must meet eligibility criteria to obtain the student visa certificate issued by the MU International Center.

Select programs negotiated by the University of Missouri with other international institutions may have different or additional criteria.

## Requirements for Application

Applicants must meet all academic requirements regardless of degrees held. Among those requirements is a cumulative GPA of 3.00 as reported by VMCAS (grades for repeated courses are averaged) from a regionally accredited college or university recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Each student must submit a complete application to VMCAS by their published deadline that includes the following:

- An official transcript(s) from all institutions of higher education ever enrolled, including any college courses taken while enrolled in high school. If using credit by examination (AP) credit, courses receiving credit must be listed on official transcript. If courses accredited from exam score are not listed on official transcript, your college registrar's office must provide score break-down to VMCAS to be included with your application.
- Three letters of recommendation are required. At least one letter of recommendation must be written by a veterinarian. None can be written by family, this includes family by marriage. Applicants are allowed to submit up to six evaluations. Additional letters submitted outside the VMCAS application or after the VMCAS deadline are not accepted.

### Requirement for Observation of the Profession:

Applicants are required to spend *a minimum of 40 hours* observing one or more veterinarians actively engaged in their normal work environment. Required hours with a veterinary professional (engaged in small or large animal practice, public health, laboratory animal medicine or research) can be obtained while employed, volunteering or observing. Observation must be as a third person, not as a client of the veterinarian. Competitive applicants will have significantly more than the 40 required hours.



## Preparation in High School

Preparation for application to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine is best begun while in high school. The selection process for entrance evaluates academic and nonacademic criteria.

### **Academic Preparation:**

No fixed requirements exist for the high school curriculum. However, a high school student is generally advised to take four years of mathematics, four years of English (grammar and composition), two years of biology, and as much chemistry and physics as possible. Basic computer skills are useful. Speech or drama will also help prepare the student for communication skills expected of veterinarians.

### **Nonacademic Preparation:**

Involvement in extracurricular activities, such as school clubs, athletics, band, FFA, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church activities, and any other organized activity requiring the development of teamwork, interpersonal skills, and diversity are encouraged and scored for selection purposes.

Applicants are expected to have had experiences with a variety of animals. Some of this experience must be while observing veterinarians in an actual veterinary medical practice. Many veterinarians will permit prospective veterinary medical students to spend time observing activities in their practice. High school students considering veterinary medicine as a career are encouraged to seek out such opportunities to see the actual practice of veterinary medicine. Agricultural, biomedical, research, and public health experience is also highly regarded.

## Preparation in Undergraduate College

### **Selection of Colleges:**

The Admissions Committee accepts credits and grades from any regionally accredited institution of higher learning recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. To ensure proper counseling and support, it is advised that undergraduate work be completed at an institution with an active pre-veterinary medical club.

Students enrolled in the University of Missouri are not given preference when applying for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine unless they are participants of the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Scholars or AgScholars programs.

## **Undergraduate Majors:**

A student should select an undergraduate major based on their interests and talents. Since many applicants are not accepted into veterinary medical college, a student should enroll in the school/college offering the degree major selected as a career alternative to veterinary medicine. There is no preference or consideration given to any particular major as long as the prerequisite courses are successfully completed.

## **Applicant Evaluation**

While the actual procedure may vary each year, applicants are evaluated academically and nonacademically through a holistic review. All Missouri residents who meet requirements and selected out-of-state residents will be interviewed and given a nonacademic score by the Admissions Committee. Factors included in selection of out of state applicants for interviews and full scoring include GPA, course load, veterinary and animal experience, leadership experience, diversity and life experience, and the like. Admissions decisions are made based on both academic (40%) and nonacademic (60%) scores.

### **Academic Evaluation:**

An academic score will be assigned to each student by using cumulative grade point average, the last three full-time semesters GPA while working toward an undergraduate degree (summer not included) and average undergraduate course load. Cumulative GPA must be at least 3.00/4.00 as reported by VMCAS. Grades for repeated courses are averaged for calculation of GPA. The academic score will constitute 40 percent of the total score.

### **Non-Academic Evaluation:**

Each Missouri resident and selected out-of-state applicants will be scored by the Admissions Committee based upon nonacademic factors. The committee will evaluate the following:

- Motivation and concepts of the veterinary profession
- Animal/medical/biomedical research/public health experience (a higher value will be assigned to observation or experience with a veterinarian)
- Communication skills
- Leadership
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience (while enrolled in college)
- Diversity and life experience
- Overall impression, including letters of reference

The nonacademic evaluation will constitute 60 percent of the total score.

### **Six Year Academic Elimination Option:**

Applicants may elect to have all courses taken and grades received prior to and including spring 2018 ignored in the academic evaluation. If the applicant elects to eliminate courses and grades six or more years old, the required 60 semester hours of academic credit and all required courses must have been taken within the past six years prior to application. New courses that will fulfill course category requirements are preferred. If the applicant elects to eliminate courses and grades more than six years old, another evaluation using all courses and grades will not be done during the same year of application as part of the same application evaluation.

### **Personal Attributes and Experience Desired**

The Admissions Committee expects applicants to:

- a. have experience working with a variety of animal species;
- b. be familiar with the veterinary medical profession;
- c. be community minded and have demonstrated leadership abilities;
- d. be an effective communicator;
- e. have developed time and stress management skills;
- f. be sincerely motivated; and
- g. have realistically evaluated their plans for financing their education since demands of the professional curriculum usually preclude part-time employment during school sessions.

Shortages of veterinarians are not evenly distributed within the profession. However, the committee does not select students by the type of work they say they wish to do as veterinarians. Interests of students frequently change during their four years of professional studies.

Approximately 95 percent of accepted students have completed degrees. No preference is shown for applicants with undergraduate or graduate degrees.

### **Personal Interviews**

Missouri residents who meet admissions requirements, present a complete and verified application, including verification of residency if required, are invited to interview. Missouri residents will be notified regarding interview details as they become available.

Out-of-state (OOS) applicants who are chosen to interview are notified by mid-November, with interview details to be arranged.



## The Pre-Veterinary Medicine Scholars and AgScholars Programs

### Definition:

These programs guarantee acceptance into the MU College of Veterinary Medicine upon satisfactory completion of undergraduate requirements at the University of Missouri.

### Eligibility:

High school seniors and MU freshmen with an ACT composite score of at least 30 or an equivalent SAT score are eligible to apply for the Pre-Veterinary Medical Scholars Program. The minimum ACT score for AgScholars is 27 and experience in livestock production and health must be demonstrated.

### Veterinary Medical Mentors:

Students qualifying for the scholars programs will be assigned a faculty mentor in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Scholars programs students may be invited to participate in veterinary medical research projects and other appropriate events in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

### How to Apply:

Application forms are available in the Office of Academic Affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. The application deadlines are March 15 for high school seniors and Sept. 15 and March 15 for MU freshman.



## Residency:

Students who attend the University of Missouri CVM have the option of applying for Missouri residency after completing their first year. If residency status is approved, then the student will pay nonresident tuition in year 1 only, followed by the much lower in-state tuition rate/fees estimated at \$30,666/year in years 2 through 4, saving roughly \$120,000 in nonresident fees.

Residency status is determined by the MU Residency Office, not by the College of Veterinary Medicine. Questions concerning residency status should be directed to:

Residency Office  
University of Missouri  
123 Jesse Hall  
Columbia, MO 65211  
Phone: (573) 882-3852  
Email: [residency@missouri.edu](mailto:residency@missouri.edu)

If you were born or attended high school outside the state of Missouri, you or your parents currently reside out of state, or you have attended a non-Missouri college or university, it is highly recommended that you contact the MU Residency Office prior to applying.

The number of nonresident positions is variable based on annual applicant pools.

## Notification of Selection:

All necessary information to prepare for entering the College of Veterinary Medicine is sent to accepted students either at the time of notification of acceptance or before the beginning of the fall session.

Each accepted applicant is required to sign a statement agreeing to accept a position in the class and to send a check for \$500, which is applied toward first semester fees, by 5:00 PM, April 15.



## Financial Aid

Several loans and some scholarships are available to veterinary medical students from various sources.

Please note: Students admitted into the CVM who have not completed 72 undergraduate hours will not be eligible for federal student loans. Private student loan options may be available.

For more information, contact:

**Manda Riley**  
**Financial Aid Representative**  
**Phone: 573-882-3981**  
**E-mail: [rileyae@missouri.edu](mailto:rileyae@missouri.edu)**  
**Website: [cvm.missouri.edu/financial-aid/](http://cvm.missouri.edu/financial-aid/)**  
**Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM**



If you have questions after reading this pamphlet, contact:

Admissions Manager, Kathy Seay  
**VetAdmissions@missouri.edu** or **573-884-3341**

Tours are available for high school and college students and their families interested in applying to the MU College of Veterinary Medicine. Availability might vary with pandemic restrictions. For an appointment, contact:

Coordinator of Student Recruitment, Douglas Tindall  
**tindalld@missouri.edu** or **573-884-5044**



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The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, or status as a protected veteran. Discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions is also prohibited. The University's nondiscrimination policy applies to all phases of its employment process, its admission and financial aid programs, and to all other aspects of its educational programs and activities. Further, this policy applies to sexual violence and sexual harassment occurring both within and outside of the University context if the conduct negatively affects the individual's educational or work experience or the overall campus environment. Retaliation directed to any person who pursues a discrimination complaint or grievance, participates in a discrimination investigation, or otherwise opposes unlawful discrimination is prohibited.

In addition, MU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in our education programs or activities, pursuant to Title IX and 34 CFR Part 106.

The University of Missouri complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need accommodations in connection with the Admission process, please notify us at 573-882-1902 as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made. TTY users: Please call through Relay Missouri at 1-800-735-2966.