



School of Veterinary Medicine

DVM/MS or PhD Program

A combined degree program is offered jointly by the Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate School. This program is designed to provide research training to highly qualified and strongly motivated students to pursue academic and research careers in the biomedical sciences. Students typically are able to meet the requirements of both the MS/DVM degree in four to five years or the PhD/DVM degree in six to seven years. Applicants must be admitted to the Graduate School following acceptance into the School of Veterinary Medicine. To be eligible for Graduate School, the veterinary student must hold a baccalaureate degree, or equivalent credits, and possess an outstanding undergraduate record. Application to the Graduate School must be made through one of the academic departments of the School of Veterinary Medicine (Basic Medical Sciences, Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and Comparative Pathobiology). Subsequent course registration is the responsibility of the student, his/her major professor, and the academic department.

Students have a wide choice of research training opportunities. Areas of concentration in the basic veterinary sciences include physiology, pharmacology, toxicology, anatomy, embryology, pathology, immunology, microbiology, and epidemiology (also see Graduate School Bulletin for descriptions of veterinary school programs). They may also elect one of the numerous disciplines and interdisciplinary areas in which Purdue has expertise. Examples of such interdisciplinary areas include biomedical engineering, cancer biology, infectious diseases, molecular biology and neurosciences.

A research training program is tailored to the background and career goals of the individual student. Veterinary students typically enter the MS or PhD program during the first two years of veterinary school. They will select a major professor and an advisory committee. The student and his/her advisory committee will prepare a "plan of study" early in the program. The plan of study can include a maximum of nine credit hours of DVM courses.

Graduate study may be scheduled during the summers after Year 1 and Year 2 of veterinary school. Students in the DVM/MS or PhD program will generally enroll in the DVM non-practice track for their fourth year of study. Nearly half of the coursework of the non-practice track in Year 4 may involve research for the graduate degree. The student will typically complete the research program following receipt of the DVM degree. Students with prior graduate research training are encouraged to apply to the combined degree program. They may be able to complete their PhD as they finish their DVM.

For further information regarding the DVM/MS or PhD program, address inquiries to the SVM Office of Student Services and/or the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.