



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This information has been designed to provide you with answers to the most commonly asked questions about preparing for and applying to our professional program. There are deadlines inherent in this process to which applicants much pay special attention.

1. In order to apply to your program, what information am I to send to the school directly and to whom do I send it?

- The GRE scores are to be submitted directly to Purdue University. Please use GRAD code 1631. Scores will be transmitted electronically to our institution.
- Academic transcripts are to be submitted directly to our school and not the university admissions office.

Submit information to: Student Services Center
 School of Veterinary Medicine
 625 Harrison Street
 West Lafayette, IN 47909-2026

2. Does Purdue have a supplemental application in addition to the VMCAS application?

- No. The Admissions Committee uses your information provided on your VMCAS application.

3. What are the deadlines to submit my application and supporting documentation?

- The VMCAS application deadline for Purdue is October 1st. The application service will not be available to applicants to apply after this deadline date.
- All supporting documentation (GRE scores and transcripts) needs to be submitted no later than October 1st.

4. When should I take the GRE?

- Test scores from the GRE must be submitted by October 1st.

5. I have already taken the GRE once. Should I retake it since I did not score well on the test?

- It is your choice whether to retake the GRE and attempt to improve your scores. Our policy is that if you take the test more than once, your scores will be averaged. Past experience would indicate that most applicants do not significantly improve their scores on the retake.

6. I am already enrolled in an international veterinary medical program. (This includes all non-US institutions.) Am I eligible to apply through VMCAS for admission to your school as a first year student?
- No. You already have a position in a veterinary medical program of study. You would be a potential transfer student. Our policy for transfer admission can be found on our website. Our regular admissions process only considers applicants who would be first-time attendees in a veterinary medical program.
7. Are international students eligible to apply to Purdue's veterinary medical program?
- Yes. International applicants meet the same requirements as all other applicants with the exception of the standardized test. If you are from an English speaking country, you will take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). If you are from a non-English speaking country, you will need to complete the TOEFEL exam.
 - Academic transcripts from international schools must be submitted to one of the organizations that evaluate international transcripts for equivalency. Information on these organizations can be found in the information for the VMCAS application.
8. I am a non-traditional student. What procedure do I follow to apply?
- Non-traditional applicants meet the same requirements as all other applicants.
9. I already hold an advanced degree. Will you waive the course requirements that I may not have completed?
- No. The required coursework is designed to bring all applicants to a baseline point to begin the evaluation process. The admissions committee will then look at other factors of the applicant's background.
10. Do the prerequisite courses apply to me now that I have a degree or have been out in the work force for a few years?
- Yes. All applicants must complete the prerequisite course requirements regardless. These courses bring all applicants to a baseline level from which the Admissions Committee's evaluation process begins.
11. How do I know if courses I completed at my campus meet Purdue's School of Veterinary Medicine course requirements?
- The course descriptions posted on our website are provided as guides for you and your academic advisor to determine which courses on your home campus most closely match our course descriptions.

12. What if the credit hours for courses on my campus do not match?

- Credit hours for courses will vary from campus to campus. Focus on whether you need only a one semester stand alone course or a two semester course sequence to meet the intent of our requirement. Keep in mind that it is impossible for us to be familiar with courses on the hundreds of campuses around the country. Your on-campus advisor is your best resource.

13. My basic biology sequence included genetics. Do I have to take a separate genetics course?

- Yes. You cannot double count a course to meet two different requirements. A course devoted to the study of genetics will be more in-depth than a general biology course would include.

14. My campus offers a human nutrition course but no animal nutrition course. Can I substitute human nutrition for this requirement?

- No. The nutrition course must be animal-based.

15. How do I meet the animal nutrition requirement if my campus does not offer such a course?

- The Animal Science Department here at Purdue University offers a web-based course for students to meet the requirement. Contact Dr. Dale Forsyth at 765-494-4808 or dforsyth@purdue.edu to enroll in this course.

16. My campus does not offer a speech course. How can I meet this requirement?

- If you hold a bachelor's degree at the time of submission of your application, we will assume that you have fulfilled your campus's communication requirement. If you do not, you will need to complete a communication course as outlined in the course descriptions provided on this website. If your campus does not offer a course that closely matches our requirement, then you will need to provide official documentation from your campus indicating how you have fulfilled with requirement.

17. Can I substitute courses (e.g. an animal course for a biology course)?

- No. The faculty of our school has approved the courses they believe to be the basic foundation courses needed in order for a student to be successful in our curriculum.

NOTE: Completion of required courses for one veterinary school/college does not guarantee compliance for another. You must complete the courses for each veterinary school to which you wish to apply.

18. My school is on a quarter system. How does that equate to Purdue's semester system?

- Three-quarters equates to two semesters for our purposes.

19. How will AP credit count toward my coursework?

- You may use AP credit to meet required coursework provided that the credit has been posted to a collegiate academic transcript and the subject area is clearly indicated for which credit was granted.

20. Can I have required coursework in progress when I apply to your program?

- Yes. You may have the last of your required coursework in progress when you apply. In other words, your required coursework must be completed by the end of the spring semester prior to fall matriculation. Courses may not be taken during the summer. Our Admissions Committee has determined that summer session is too late for course completion and receipt of summer grades for finalization of admission for fall semester.
- In addition you need to report on the VMCAS application in the appropriate section the courses you have in progress for fall semester and those you plan to complete during the spring semester. This section needs to be completed thoroughly in order to avoid having a required course marked as deficient.

21. I have finished all my required coursework. Are there any other courses that I should consider?

- Yes. There is a list of recommended courses outlined on the website along with the required course listing and descriptions.

22. How do I establish residency to be considered in the in-state applicant pool?

- The State of Indiana allows Purdue University the authority to determine residency status for the purpose of charging tuition and fees. Establishing residency for this purpose is very difficult to accomplish and involves the predominant purpose for which you came to Indiana. If your predominant purpose for coming to Indiana is education, then residency will probably not be granted; however; there are exceptions. More detailed information can be found on the Registrar's website.

23. Is there an absolute minimum amount of veterinary, animal and research experience required for applicants?

- No. We are seeking students from a wide variety of backgrounds and with interests in a diverse range of veterinary careers including private practice, academic, government, industry and research. Your focus should be on the quality of the experience; not quantity.

24. What are some examples that would meet the animal experience requirement?

- Animal experience can include work on a livestock farm, with a humane society, zoo or kennel, showing animals as 4-H projects, wildlife rehabilitation, and working with animals in other kinds of competitions or businesses. Personal pets are not included.

25. If I receive a 'C' grade in a required course, is it worthwhile to retake the course?

- A 'C' grade is not a bad grade. If you do retake the course, the two grades will be averaged which makes the net effect minimal. You must retake a required course if you received a 'D' grade or below because you have not completed the course with an acceptable grade as defined by our Admissions Committee.

26. If I receive a poor grade in any course during my undergraduate career and retake it, will the poor grade be dropped from my grade point index?

- No. Your cumulative grade point index for our program is calculated using all grades received in your courses.

27. Since your program requires a minimum of 18 credit hours of rigorous courses each semester, what kind of undergraduate credit hour load should I be taking?

- It is best if you carry a full-time undergraduate credit hour load i.e. 15-16 credit hours. This will help you develop the time management and organizational skills and the successful study skills needed to be successful in our program.

28. What is the average starting salary for 2011 graduates from Purdue Veterinary Medicine and national from all Veterinary Colleges?

- The average starting salary for the DVM Class of 2011 was \$65,000. The national average for that same time as \$66,000.

29. What is the average debt load for students graduating from Purdue Veterinary Medicine as compared to the national debt average?

- The average debt load for students who graduated in 2011 from Purdue Veterinary Medicine was \$121,000. The national debt average for that same time was \$132,000.