DVM MS or PhD Combined Degree Option

The Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine offers the option to simultaneously pursue a veterinary degree and graduate training leading to a MS or PhD degree. This offers highly qualified and strongly motivated students the opportunity to prepare for academic and research careers in the biomedical sciences. Students typically are able to meet the requirements of both the MS and the DVM degree in four to five years and both the PhD degree and the DVM degree in six to seven years. Applicants must be admitted to the Graduate School following acceptance into the College 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. Students should identify a faculty member with expertise in their area of research interest to serve as their major professor. Application to the Graduate School must be made through the academic department and/or interdisciplinary graduate program with which the major professor is affiliated. Subsequent course registration is the responsibility of the student, his/her major professor, and the academic department/graduate program.

Students have a wide choice of research training opportunities. Areas of concentration in basic veterinary sciences include physiology, pharmacology, toxicology, anatomy, embryology, pathology, immunology, microbiology, and epidemiology (also see Graduate School Bulletin for descriptions of veterinary college 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, medicinal chemistry, 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.

Graduate study may be scheduled during the summers after year 1 and year 2 of veterinary school. Students pursuing DVM/MS or DVM/PhD degrees can 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 graduate degree following receipt of the DVM degree. Students with prior graduate research training are encouraged to consider pursuing a concurrent graduate degree because they may be able to complete their PhD as they finish their DVM.

For further information regarding the DVM/MS or DVM/PhD program, address inquiries to pvmstudentservices@purdue.edu.

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