Applying to Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Degree Programs

**Application Information**

UTSA does not offer advanced degrees in veterinary medicine. However, students are able to take pre-requisite coursework while completing any major at UTSA. Students are encouraged to take coursework in the basic sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and humanities to prepare for their veterinary medicine program. Students should choose a major of their interest and purposefully take coursework in preparation for their application to a DVM program.

A common timeline for students attending Veterinary school is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apply</th>
<th>Veterinary School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTSA</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>SO</td>
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<tr>
<td>JR</td>
<td>SR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y1</td>
<td>Y2 Y3 Y4</td>
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This timeline is subject to change based on student competitiveness and readiness to apply.

Applicants use the Texas Medical and Dental Schools Application Service (TMDSAS) to apply to the only in-state veterinary program at Texas A&M University. The application time frame is May 1-Oct 1 for entry in the following Fall semester.

Admission to Texas A&M’s DVM program is increasingly competitive and is often determined on a holistic basis, including the following:

- **Academic Ability (49% of admissions)**
  - Grade point averages (33%):
    - Minimum Overall: 2.9 on a 4.0 scale
    - Minimum Last 45 Hours: 3.1 on a 4.0 scale
    - Minimum Science GPA: 2.9 on a 4.0 scale
  - Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. (16%)

- **Professional Preparation criteria (51% of admissions)**
  - Animal and Veterinary Experience (11%): Minimum of 100 hours under direct supervision of a veterinarian, clinical or research, paid or volunteer. Plus, experience handling animals in a kennel or shelter.
  - Interview (20%)— highly qualified students are invited for interviews

More information related to Texas A&M admissions can be found on their website at: [http://vetmed.tamu.edu/dvm/future/selection-process](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/dvm/future/selection-process)

**Veterinary Medicine Pre-requisites**

Requirements vary, please refer to the admission website for your school of interest for specific prerequisite information. You may also contact the University Health Professions Office to discuss which UTSA courses fulfill veterinary medicine school prerequisites.

**Health Professions Advising**

Newly-admitted UTSA students are assigned an advisor (called a primary advisor) based on their major. For students pursuing Veterinary pre-requisites, this advisor will be assigned in one of UTSA’s Advising Centers but students will also meet with Health Professions Advisors to determine pre-requisites and requirements related to their pre-veterinary studies.

Students are encouraged to meet with a Health Professions Advisor throughout their tenure at UTSA.

When to meet with a Health Professions Advisor:

- Orientation
- At least once per academic year to discuss course work, holistic admissions, GRE preparation, academic standing
- In the semester prior to application

What to expect from a Health Professions meeting:

- Discussion of GPA competitiveness
- Testing and Application timeline
- Health Professions Pathways
- Holistic applicant assessment
Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Test

The GRE is one of the measures required by many veterinary medicine programs to determine a student’s academic ability in relation to graduate education.

Some general information about the GRE:

- Three sections:
  - Verbal Reasoning (Two 30 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
  - Quantitative Reasoning (Two 35 minute sections with 20 questions per section)
  - Analytical Writing (30 minutes)
- Scoring:
  - Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning: Scores range from 130-170
  - Analytical Writing: Scores range from 0-6 in half point increments

More information about the GRE can be found on the American Educational Testing Services website (http://www.ets.org/gre/).

Shadowing/Volunteering/On-Campus Involvement

Admission to veterinary medicine programs is becoming increasingly holistic. As such, students are strongly encouraged to participate in veterinary and animal-related activities, community service and on-campus leadership experiences. Experience in these areas contributes to a student's understanding of and commitment to veterinary careers and facilitates personal development prior to the application process.

Ways to get involved:

- UHPO keeps a list of volunteer opportunities in the San Antonio area in our office and on our website, located here: http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/volunteer.html.
- UTSA student organizations participate in service and veterinary-related activities. Information about getting involved on-campus can be found on RowdyLink: https://utsa.collegiatelink.net/.
- Students are encouraged to shadow or work with veterinarians to learn more about the profession. Veterinary technician jobs can help students gain valuable exposure.
- Pre-Vet students are encouraged to apply for leadership roles in their community and/or on-campus to develop necessary communication and teamwork skills.
- Attend UTSA’s Health Professions Day, to meet with representatives from various vet schools.

Veterinary Fast Facts and Helpful Websites

- Texas has only one veterinary medicine program in the state, which is at Texas A&M University—College Station. To learn more about the program, students are encouraged to visit: http://vetmed.tamu.edu/dvm/future.
- There are 30 accredited veterinary programs in the United States. Information about these programs across the country can be found on the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges website: www.aavmc.org or the American Veterinary Medical Association website: www.avma.org.
- Typically, around 500 students apply to Veterinary School in Texas each year. Texas A&M accepts around 125 students per year. Other schools across the United States may be selective.
- More information for pre-veterinary medicine students can be found on the American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association website: www.apvma.org.
- Information about a career in veterinary medicine and related careers can be found on www.explorehealthcareers.org.