PRE-VETERINARY PROGRAM OF STUDY at AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

Your decision to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree is one of the most serious choices of your life. Your undergraduate pre-professional preparation will be critical to your overall plan to be accepted into a DVM program. As an animal lover, you will find this career to be very rewarding as well as challenging. Your education will continue throughout your working career, well beyond your securing your degrees.

Since Georgia has a College of Veterinary Medicine in Athens, this summary document will be focused on that program. Their web page at http://vet.uga.edu/admissions/ reads: “A successful applicant to UGA’s veterinary program is one who has had a well-rounded undergraduate education. “ It further says: “Your major can be in biological sciences or animal sciences or chemistry or business or even art; basically any subject that interests you, as long as you complete the pre-requisite courses with a C (2.0) or better by the end of the spring semester before enrollment.” You should be aware that competition for admission to veterinary schools is very intense and the 2.0 value listed above is usually surpassed.

Only 11% of those who now apply are admitted to the program, and each year the number of applicants increases, while the number of positions remains constant. Thus, competition for admission is becoming even more intense. You can see the current UGA statistics at the following link: http://vet.uga.edu/admissions/statistics

Applications are only accepted through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS).

SELECTION OF A MAJOR

Pre-veterinary is not a degree at AU but rather a pre-professional selection. Veterinary schools choose to admit applicants possessing a wide variety of interests and with majors in different fields. Within the Department of Biological Sciences, you may choose degrees in Biology, Ecology, or Cell and Molecular Biology. The degree track sheets are available in the Department and on-line. Whatever the degree you choose, most veterinary programs require a:

1. strong foundation in natural sciences - biology, chemistry, and physics
2. solid background in the social sciences and humanities
3. well-developed skill in communicating with pet owners
4. varied and extensive experience in the care of animals

Within this broad framework, students can major in whatever subject or subjects they find most interesting and challenging, and in which they perform best. However, it should be emphasized that non-science majors, even more than science majors, need to do well in their science courses. Chemistry majors, for example, have ample opportunities to prove themselves by performing well in upper level chemistry courses. If a non-science major earns a “C” in inorganic chemistry, they may not have other opportunities to show that they can succeed in veterinary courses.

PRE-VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS

There are some variations among schools, but almost all of the U.S. veterinary schools will accept as minimum preparation one year each of English, inorganic chemistry, general physics, general biology, and organic chemistry, all with the appropriate laboratories. Many also require a semester of biochemistry, and two years of humanities/social sciences. Requirements for specific veterinary schools (other than UGA) should be confirmed by visiting the web site of each school. Note that some schools may restrict applicants from Georgia, since our state has a program. Do your research well, especially before applying to a program outside of the U.S.
PREQUISITE REQUIREMENTS OF UGA’s COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

BIOLOGY
- One academic year (8 hours) of general biology for majors with appropriate labs
- One academic year (8 hours) of advanced biology (3000/4000 level) for majors with appropriate labs. Recommended: comparative anatomy, microbiology, cell biology, or genetics.

CHEMISTRY
- One academic year (8 hours) of general chemistry with the corresponding labs.
- One academic year (8 hours) of organic chemistry with the corresponding labs.
- One semester (3 hours) of biochemistry.

PHYSICS
- One academic year (8 hours) of physics with the corresponding labs.

ENGLISH
- One academic year (6 hours) of English.

HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCES
- Two academic years (14 hours) equivalent to University System Core Classes.

TEST REQUIREMENTS
- Take the Graduate Record Exam with the Analytic Writing portion.

VETERINARY EXPERIENCE
- A minimum of 250 veterinary experience hours is required for all applicants. The 250 hours must be completed at the time the VMCAS application is submitted. To count toward veterinary experience, you must be under the direct supervision of a veterinarian. If you are not under the supervision of a veterinarian, the experience is considered animal experience.

NOTE:
- All required courses (all semester scaled) should be completed by the end of the Spring before entry into your veterinary program.
- Applicants must have earned a grade of C or better in all required courses and they should have been completed within the last 10 years.
- Very few online courses will be accepted for this program, so please check with the school at: dvmadmit@uga.edu.
- Application requirements are at: http://vet.uga.edu/admissions/requirements#course_req
- As referenced above: one academic year is equal to two semesters, three quarters, or two quarters and a semester.

It should be stressed that the final responsibility for planning your academic program and meeting the associated deadlines rests with the student and not with the advisor. Pay attention to deadlines listed on the AU http://www.augusta.edu/registrar/ and UGA websites: http://vet.uga.edu/admissions/deadlines