

## VETERINARY MEDICINE

Most pre-veterinary students at Miami major in Biology or Zoology, but any major may be chosen. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs are equally acceptable to vet schools, so choose the degree that best fits your interests. The important point is that courses required for application to the veterinary school(s) of the student's choice must be included in curriculum plans. **You should make an appointment during your first year at Miami to visit with a pre-vet advisor** to discuss your plans as a pre-vet student.

Pre-vet students usually apply to the vet school in their state of residence, if one is available. The acceptance rate for in-state applicants is generally far higher than for out-of-state applicants, especially at state-affiliated universities. The Miami pre-vet advisors can help students from states without vet schools to decide where best to apply. Most vet schools have similar requirements; check their individual websites via [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org) for specific information.

Miami University courses that meet the typical vet school requirements for admission are:

Typical Requirements	Miami Equivalent
Biology (General):	BIO/MBI 115 <u>and</u> 116 (both have labs)
Biology (Genetics):	BIO 342 (no lab)
# Biology (Physiology):	BIO 305 (lab)
Chemistry (General):	CHM 141(lec)+144(lab) <u>and</u> 142(lec)+145(lab)
Chemistry (Organic):	CHM 241(lec)+244(lab) <u>and</u> 242(lec)+245(lab)
# Chemistry (Biochem):	CHM 432 (preferred) or 332
Physics (General):	PHY 161 <u>and</u> 162 (lab)
# Microbiology (General):	MBI 201 <u>or</u> 161 (lab) <u>or</u> 121(lec)+123(lab)
Math (Precalc or Calc):	MTH 104 <u>or</u> 123 <u>or</u> 125 <u>or</u> 141 <u>or</u> 151 <u>or</u> 153
# Public speaking/communications:	STC 135 <u>or</u> 136 <u>or</u> 231 <u>or</u> 332 <u>or</u> 339
English:	ENG 111
Humanities/Social Sciences (16 hours)	

Only four courses, marked by a #, are specifically required by **The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine**, but you should take all or most of the listed courses in order to be eligible for other vet schools. A few schools require a course in Animal Nutrition, which is not available at MU—there are several good online versions, so speak to a pre-vet advisor about how to deal with this requirement.

Chemistry 141/142 and BIO/MBI 115/116 are pre-requisites for other courses on this list, so it is strongly recommended that you take them during your first year. Do NOT use AP credit for these courses if you plan to apply to vet school--take them at the college level. It is ok to use AP credits for most other courses on this list, but if you are unsure, check the websites of the vet schools in which you are interested.

All required courses must be completed with a grade of **C** or better—if you receive a C- or lower you must retake the course to have it count for vet school admissions. Some vet schools, including OSUCVM, require that you complete all of the specifically required courses except one by the end of the first semester of the year in which you intend to apply.

Vet schools look favorably on taking rigorous courses, on taking full course loads each term, and on taking pertinent additional courses as electives. These can include courses in anatomy, physiology, histology, development, cell biology, animal behavior, immunology, statistics, communications, sociology, or computer science. STA 261 (basic statistics) is highly recommended as an elective.

The typical years in which pre-vet students take required science courses are:

Year 1: BIO/MBI 115 and 116; CHM 141, 142, 144(lab), and 145(lab)

Year 2: BIO 203 (pre-req for BIO 305); CHM 241 and 242, 244(lab), and 245(lab); MTH

Year 3: MBI 121, 161 or 201; BIO 342; BIO 305; CHM 432

Year 4: PHY 161, 162

Each student is responsible for meeting vet school admission requirements; students should check websites or write directly to vet schools for specific information on admissions.

Other factors considered by schools of veterinary medicine in selecting students are:

1. Evidence of motivation over an extended period of time.
2. Clinical veterinary experience with a number of different species (volunteer or paid). You could be shadowing or participating in care, but you should be able to observe what a vet (not a tech) is doing. This is critical. The average number of hours of veterinary experience for students accepted at Ohio State University is about 1800, but quality of experience counts more than quantity. Other animal-oriented experiences, e.g. in agriculture, at a shelter, at a zoo, are important but less vital. Research experience is also good but also less vital than clinical experience.
3. Demonstrated ability to communicate fluently, both verbally and in writing, with a variety of people. Veterinary medicine requires working with people as well as animals.
4. Realistic understanding of: the daily routine for a veterinarian, typical salaries, prospects for group practice versus individual practice, awareness of veterinary occupations other than standard small and large animal practices, etc.
5. **Strong** letters of recommendation; a least one must be from a veterinarian.
6. Indications of work ethic, e.g. volunteer or work experiences, strong course loads, etc.
7. Indication of academic ability, i.e., transcripts and letters of recommendation. Ohio State University requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 for in-state students to obtain an interview without petitioning; the mean GPA for accepted students is about 3.6.
8. Scores on graduate exam (GRE or MCAT). For Ohio State University, the minimum test scores required are: GRE - 1000; MCAT - 24.
9. Nonacademic activities such as community service, working to pay for college, work with campus organizations, leadership experience, etc.
10. Performance at personal interview. This is also critical—get some practice!

Additional information is available from pre-vet advisors, the Mallory-Wilson Center, and online.

1. Mallory-Wilson Center, 106 Pearson Hall  
The MWC exists to help MU students gain admission to professional health programs by providing extra advising and a Premedical Studies co-major. The co-major is for pre-vets as well as pre-meds, and is useful but not vital—it helps you with the application process.
2. Websites: <http://www.aavmc.org> (links to all schools)  
<https://muhub.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/prevet> (MU Pre-Vet Club)  
<http://sites.google.com/site/prevet101> (all kinds of great info)  
<http://admissions.osu.edu/apps/prof/vetmed.asp> (OSUCVM)