

# Pacific Union College

## Pre-Veterinary Medicine for Admission to UC Davis

### INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROFESSION

**General Areas of Service:** Veterinarians are highly trained medical professionals who provide for the health needs of all kinds of animals while maintaining sensitivity to human health, well-being and quality of life. The majority of veterinarians in the United States are engaged in private practice, treating small companion animals such as dogs, cats, and birds.

Other veterinarians work in a wide variety of fields relating to public health, animal disease control, environmental protection, industry, education and research. Federal government employs veterinarians to monitor communicable disease programs, conduct research, protect public health through food quality control services, and deal with free-ranging wildlife, laboratory animals and other populations of animals covered by federal laws.

State governments employ veterinarians whose duties include enforcing the regulations established to protect both animals and humans. These duties include the areas of meat and poultry inspection, public health, and animal control.

Other employers are local governments, colleges of veterinary medicine, medical schools, research laboratories, animal food companies, and pharmaceutical companies. A few of the largest zoos employ full-time veterinarians.

Veterinarians now hold about 60,000 jobs. About one third are self-employed and most of the others are salaried employees of a practice. The Federal Government employs about 2,800.

**Professional Training:** All States and the District of Columbia require that veterinarians be licensed. To obtain a license, applicants must have a doctorate degree in veterinary medicine and pass a State board examination. Most states allow an individual to apply for licensure upon receiving the doctorate degree without a residency and without completing a prescribed number of hours of practice.

The doctorate degree requires a minimum of 6 years of study consisting of at least 2 years of pre-veterinary study and 4 years of veterinary medicine. Most successful applicants have completed 4 years of college.

**Job Outlook:** The outlook for veterinarians is good, especially for those with specialty training in toxicology, laboratory animal medicine, animal behavior, or pathology. Prospects for veterinarians who specialize in farm animals are also better than average because most veterinarians prefer working in metropolitan areas.

Demand for veterinarians is expected to increase through the year 2005 as the baby boomer generation moves into the 34-59 year age range, the group for which pet ownership is the highest.

**Earnings:** The average starting salary of recent veterinary medical college graduates was about \$41,000 according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the average income of veterinarians in private practice or working for the Federal Government was about \$57,000.

**Application to UCD:** Must be postmarked by October 1.

### ADMISSION INFORMATION FOR UC DAVIS

**1. Minimum Credits Required.** Applicants must have completed 108 quarter units in specified courses listed below; however, most applicants will have completed a degree.

**2. Admission Tests.** All applicants are required to take two Graduate Record Examinations (GRE): (1) the General Aptitude Test and (2) the Subject Test in Biology no later than the October administration of the year prior to desired admission. The combined score for the two tests should be at least 80.

**3. GPA.** The published minimum GPA in both the sciences and accumulated college course work is 2.5; however, in practice the applicant needs at least a 3.3 for a realistic chance of acceptance.

**4. Residence.** Residents of the State of California will be given priority for admission; however, a few highly qualified non-resident students are considered each year.

**5. Criteria Used for Selection.**

1. GPA and GRE scores (50-60%)
2. Narrative (5-20%)
3. Letters of Evaluation (5-20%)
4. Interview (0-20%)

**6. Veterinary and Animal Experience.** Because veterinary medicine is an animal-oriented profession, substantial experience (a minimum of 180 clock hours) with animals is required. This may include the care, knowledge and experience gained working in a veterinary, agricultural, research and/or biomedical setting.

**7. Specific Course Requirements.**

*The following courses must be completed at least one year before you plan begin your Program.*

General Chemistry	Organic Chemistry
Biological Foundations	General Physics
Genetics	Biochemistry
Systems Physiology	Developmental Biology
English (12 units) may include Speech.	
Humanities and Social Science (12 units)	
Statistics	

*At PUC a major in biology fits well with pre-veterinary medicine. Students interested in this program should request a Curriculum Guide Sheet for Biology, B.S. Be sure to include BIOL 419 Developmental Biology and CHEM 381 and 482 (Biochemistry I and II) as electives to meet UCD requirements. Majors other than Biology can also be chosen.*

**For More Information:**

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1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
1101 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 710, Washington, DC 20005

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