

# VETERINARY SCHOOL GENERAL TIMELINE



*This is a general timeline for traditional pre-veterinary students who plan to matriculate into veterinary school after graduating from a four-year university. It is to be used for general guidance and should not be used as an ultimate guide. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic counselors to map out a strategic academic blueprint.*

## YEAR 1

- Talk to your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to strategically plan out your college career.
- Try to gain some type of experience in veterinary medicine.
- Become a part of your school's pre-vet club (if it exists) and/or any other campus organizations. Try joining a club that will help hone your interpersonal and leadership skills.
- Make sure to research into veterinary schools to learn about their specific requirements.
- It will be important to develop relationships with your professors because you will need them to write you letters of recommendations.
- Make sure you are keeping up with pre-veterinary and school-related courses.

## SUMMER AFTER YEAR 1

- Take summer courses if needed and/or for enrichment. Talk to your pre-health advisor to determine the best way to take advantage of your summer. As a pre-veterinary student, you should use your summers productively to build up your resume.
- Try obtaining experience working with veterinarians in a professional setting.

## YEAR 2

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to make sure you are on track to get into veterinary school.
- If you have not done so already, obtain a volunteer, research, intern, or work position which will give you exposure to veterinary medicine. Talk to your counselors and/or advisors to see what the best opportunities available are for you.
- Continue to develop relationships with your college's faculty. Remember that you will need letters of recommendation from people who can comment on your academic abilities.
- Continue to partake in campus organizations such as the pre-vet club.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-veterinary and school-specific courses. Remember your GPA is one of the most important, if not most important, factor in your veterinary school admissions.
- Most veterinary schools require the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE). Some schools also accept the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Find out which schools require what and which test you want to prepare for. Most likely, it will be GRE.
- Consider when you want to enroll in veterinary school. If you want to enroll soon after you graduate college, you need to start applying after your third year. If you want to take a year off (called a gap year), you can apply after your senior year.

## SUMMER AFTER YEAR 2

- By now you should have had some exposure to veterinary medicine. Continue working, interning, or volunteering at your current position. Consider obtaining experience in both research laboratories and veterinary clinics.
- Consider taking summer courses if needed and/or for enrichment. Make sure to take advantage of every summer.
- If you want to apply for veterinary school the summer after your third year, you should know by now when you want to take your standardized tests.

## YEAR 3

- Continue talking with your academic counselor and/or pre-health advisor to make sure you are on track to get into veterinary school. You should have determined by now whether you want to apply after your third year or fourth year of college.
- Continue to gain experience working in a veterinary medicine setting.
- If possible, try to obtain leadership positions. Consider running for a leadership position of a campus organization or being part of your school's student body association.
- Think about which professors and/or professionals you want to ask for letters of recommendation. It is crucial that you consider this way before they are due. If you want to apply to veterinary school after third year, it is best to ask professors for recommendations during your third year.
- Make a list of all the veterinary schools you are considering and make sure you have a good grasp on the specific requirements of all your potential schools.
- If you want to apply the summer after your third year, you should take either the GRE or MCAT this year. Make sure to register and adequately prepare for them.
- Make sure you are keeping up with and doing well in your pre-veterinary and school-specific courses.

## SUMMER AFTER YEAR 3

- Continue working in a veterinary medicine setting.
- If planning to enroll in veterinary school after your senior year, make sure to start to apply/prepare for veterinary school during this time. Some schools start accepting applications in August while others do not accept them until October.
- If you have not done so, consider taking the GRE or MCAT this summer.
- Make sure you are keeping up with your pre-veterinary and school-specific courses.

## YEAR 4

- Continue meeting with your counselor or advisor to make sure you are doing everything you need to get into veterinary school.
- If you applied for veterinary school already, start preparing for potential interviews.
- If you received acceptances, research the different schools to see which one fits you best.
- If you are applying for veterinary school after the spring of your senior year, make sure that you take the GRE (or MCAT) and start preparing your application materials. Make sure to ask for your letters or recommendations as early as possible. If there are any questions, consult your counselor or advisor.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you are keeping up and doing well in your pre-veterinary and school-specific courses. Complete all your requirements and declare for graduation.

## SUMMER AFTER GRADUATION

- If you are enrolling in veterinary school in the fall, prepare for veterinary school by purchasing books, making living arrangements, talking with current students, etc.
- If applying during this time, make sure to collect all your application materials and apply. You want to apply as early as possible.
- Continue your involvement in meaningful extracurricular activities if possible.
- Talk to your counselor and/or advisor to make sure you have done everything you possible could do to succeed.