Pre-Veterinarian Advising Sheet

Veterinarians are professionals who diagnose medical problems and care for pets and farm animals. They dress wounds, set broken bones, perform surgery, prescribe and administer medicine, and vaccinate animals against disease.

Veterinarians also:
- Advise owners about the care and breeding of animals,
- Engage in research, food safety inspection and education,
- Work with physicians and scientist on research to prevent and treat diseases in humans,
- Specialize in epidemiology or animal pathology, thus helping to prevent the outbreak and spread of animal diseases like rabies,
- Play a leading role in government public health efforts by overseeing food production to ensure its safety, and
- Examine slaughtering and processing plants and enforce government food purity and sanitation regulations.

According to the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, the majority of veterinarians in the United States are in private practice though there are many others who are involved in preventive medicine, laboratory animal medicine, research and development, and teaching. Some veterinarians choose to specialize in small animal, others in large animals.

Veterinarian Education
The DVM or VMD (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) program typically takes four years to complete. Graduate veterinarians may apply for a license to practice. Each state has its own licensing rules and procedures for practicing within the state. There are 28 schools of veterinary medicine in the United States.

Standardized Tests
Most veterinary schools require students to take at least one standardized test. The majority of schools require the Graduate Record Examination (GRE); students need to contact the schools to find out which tests are required for admission. For more information about the GRE, visit their website at: http://www.gre.org.

Clinical Experience
Veterinary medical colleges weigh heavily a candidate's veterinary and animal experience in admission decisions. Formal experience, such as work with veterinarians or scientists in clinics, agribusiness, research, or in some area of health science, is particularly advantageous. Less formal experience, such as working with animals on a farm or ranch or at a stable or animal shelter, is also helpful. Students must demonstrate ambition and an eagerness to work with animals. Many schools require experience in more that 1 type of animal setting.

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS)
VMCAS is a centralized service which allows applicants to use a single application process to apply to multiple veterinary programs. Three of the veterinarian schools do not participate in VMCAS. It is the responsibility of the applicant to find out which schools participate and send individual applications to those that do not participate. For more information about VMCAS, visit their web site at: http://www.aavmc.org/

Suggested courses for most Veterinarian School:	Suggested GCC courses:
General Chemistry with Lab	CHEM 101 and 102
One year Organic Chemistry	CHEM 121 or 105 and 106
One year Biology	BIOL 101 and 102
One year Physics	PHYS 105 and 106
One year English	ENGL 101 and 102 or 104
Statistics	MATH 136

Note: Information is subject to change without notice. Check with the individual campus for the most up to date information.

Salary Information

The median wage in 2014 for Veterinarians in California was $100,696 annually, or $48.41 hourly (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov). The median is the point at which half of the workers earn more and half earn less.

Recommended Websites:

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges   http://www.aavmc.org/
Veterinary Medical College Application Service   http://www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm

Important Sources of Information

- AAVMC (Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges) aavmc.org
- *Veterinary Medical School Admission Requirements*, by the AAVMC is updated yearly and published by the Purdue University Press (www.thepress.purdue.edu/)
- AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) www.avma.or