



Pre-Veterinary Medicine prep at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC)

What is Pre-Veterinary Medicine?

Most pre-veterinary medicine students are science majors (biology or chemistry), but a student can major in almost any discipline provided the required science courses are completed when applying to schools of veterinary medicine. These professional schools expect non-science majors to perform very well in science courses.

What Is the Pre-Veterinary Medicine curriculum?

Course requirements vary considerably among the numerous professional graduate programs. Prerequisites for entry into these programs typically include; 9 credits of biology (BIOL 101, 102, at HACC), 16 credits of chemistry (CHEM 101, 102, 203, 204 at HACC), mathematics through calculus (MATH 121, at HACC), and psychology (PSYC 101, at HACC). Students should refer to HACC transfer check sheets, if available, and work with their HACC advisor in preparation for transfer to the Bachelor Degree granting institution. Additionally, students are expected to complete all requirements for a Bachelor Degree with pre-veterinary advising.

What are the characteristics of a successful Pre-Veterinary Medicine student?

There are approximately 30 accredited schools of veterinary medicine in United States and Canada, only 1 in Pennsylvania. All are highly competitive, have strict course prerequisites, and require students to plan a strategy early in their college career. To be competitive when applying to these professional schools, students should accumulate a grade point average of at **least** 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale) for their Bachelor Degree and perform above average on the GRE and/or Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). It is also competitive that pre-veterinary medicine students participate in an internship experience in order to become acquainted with the field prior to making formal application to selected professional programs. Leadership, community/human service and a willingness to volunteer contribute to the "personal qualities" of successful pre-veterinary medicine students. All interested students should visit the American Veterinary Medicine Association website, www.avma.org, for further information. In general, veterinary schools tend to be somewhat regional in their acceptance of students. Students will be advantaged by transferring from HACC to a Pennsylvania Bachelor Degree granting school with a pre-veterinary option where students are advised by pre-veterinary advisors in prerequisite courses, (GRE) and/or (MCAT) preparation, application procedures and current trends in admission. It would be a further advantage to transfer to a Bachelor Degree granting school that has an affiliation with a school(s) of veterinary medicine.