Veterinary

Q: What should I major in?
A: Honestly, it doesn’t matter. You should major in whatever subject interests you. There is no general, pre-vet major offered at Texas A&M. Majors like Animal Science, Biomedical Science, and Wildlife and Fisheries are the most common for applicants because many of the prerequisite courses are included in your degree plan. A non-science major does not put you at a disadvantage. You will have to work with your academic advisor to incorporate some of the prerequisite classes into your schedule, but a non-science major can make you look unique. No one major looks more competitive than another major. Know that your GPA in the prerequisite and science courses is particularly important as that is what schools will use to compare between applicants of all majors.

Q: Can I take a course at a community college?
A: Yes, taking a class at community college is acceptable. Know that while the grade earned at a community college does not count on your TAMU transcript, the grade earned will be calculated into your GPA when you apply. So any course you take at community college will count towards your GPA. Use this to your advantage and get A’s in any courses you take at community college to help raise your GPA.

You want to take as many science courses at A&M as possible. Veterinary school prerequisites include a large number of upper level science courses, so even if you take a few courses at community college to help ease your schedule, you should be able to accumulate a large number of science classes taken at TAMU.

Q: I made a 3/4/5 on my AP test. Should I accept the credit?
A: Accepting AP credit can be beneficial. Talk to your academic advisor before accepting any AP credit. You want to make sure the credit you are accepting counts towards your degree. Note that once you accept AP credit, you cannot un-accept it so make sure you meet with your academic advisor and fully discuss this. Accepting AP credit will not detract from a veterinary school application.

Q: When should I take the GRE?
A: You should take the GRE in the spring or summer of the year you are applying. For students looking to matriculate to vet school in the fall immediately following graduation, this would mean taking the GRE in the spring of your junior year or the summer before senior year. Visit this website for more information on the GRE.

Q: What do veterinary school application committees consider other than my GPA when I apply?
A: The biggest factor in a veterinary school application besides GPA and GRE score is animal and veterinary experience. The vet school is looking for both animal care and veterinary experience. You must have experiences with both large and small animals in each of these categories. Animal care includes general time spent with animals like volunteering at a shelter. Veterinary experience must be supervised by a DVM. A competitive application will include work history, leadership skills demonstrated through on and off campus involvement, community service and involvement, and academic achievements and awards. Your application should paint a picture of you as an individual, highlighting your professional, academic, and personal qualities.

Q: How do I get shadowing hours?
A: The best way to get shadowing hours is to do it in your hometown. The opportunities in College Station are limited because there are a large number of students in the BCS area. If you know any veterinarians, ask them if you can shadow them. Volunteer at an animal shelter or a zoo and find out who their veterinarian is. Try to schedule yourself during times that the vet will be there and build a relationship with the veterinarian so that you can continue to gain veterinary experience. It takes some networking and outreach on the student’s part to find opportunities to gain animal care and veterinary
experience. Start early and try to get a wide variety of experiences.

Q: What scholarship opportunities are available for pre-vet students at Texas A&M?
A: Click here for the OPSA scholarship page.

Q: Does the Texas A&M Veterinary School have a preference for Texas A&M undergraduates?
A: No. The Texas A&M College of Veterinary medicine does not show preference to Texas A&M undergraduates. However, like all professional schools, TAMU Veterinary School is always looking for intelligent, compassionate, and capable applicants. An undergraduate education at Texas A&M is a great foundation for a competitive veterinary school application. TAMU’s strong academic reputation and emphasis on selfless service provide great opportunities for you to excel as an applicant. Although there is no preference during the application process, each year 50-60% of the vet school entering class are A&M students.