

PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE

MINOR



Veterinarians diagnose, treat and research diseases and injuries of animals. They serve the healthcare needs of household pets, livestock, zoo and laboratory animals. A veterinarian may administer immunizations, conduct physical exams, provide emergency care, perform surgical and/or dental procedures, and advise owners on proper animal care. Veterinarians apply their knowledge and skill in a variety of settings such as private practice, corporate veterinary medicine, commercial or government research facilities, zoos or animal shelters. They serve an important role in establishing public health policies and food supply safety.

Veterinarians must have strong critical thinking and decision making skills to evaluate the results of diagnostic tests and decide on the best course of treatment. They must also be able to communicate effectively with regulatory agencies as well as with animals' owners.

To practice as a veterinarian, a student must hold a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree from an accredited veterinarian college and pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam.



No specific major is required. As long as you successfully complete the prerequisite courses you can compete for admission, regardless of your major. The profession will be stronger and more enriched by being made up of people with a wide variety of backgrounds. Allow yourself to explore a wide range of different interests early in your college career. When you find something you enjoy, chances are you will do well in it. Let your curiosity be your guide.



Perks of the Profession

EXCELLENT INCOME

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a median annual income of \$93,830 (2018 data).

GREAT JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of veterinarians is projected to increase by 18% from 2018-2028 which is much faster than the average for all occupations.

SPECIALIZATION

After completing the DVM degree, there are numerous postgraduate programs leading to specialty certification in diverse disciplines including zoological medicine, surgery, dentistry, pathology, sports medicine and internal medicine.

DVM programs attended by JMU alumni:

- Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
- Cornell University
- Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine
- Kansas State University
- Mississippi State University

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®



Students in the Pre-Veterinary Medicine minor must take courses in:

- General Biology (2)
- Genetics (1)
- Microbiology (1)
- Advanced Biology (4)
- Chemistry (5)
- Physics (2)
- Statistics (1)
- Calculus (1)
- Psychology (1)
- Social & Behavioral Sciences (1)
- Medical Terminology (1)

Contact Information

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OTHER LINKS

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
www.aavmc.org

American Veterinary Medical Association
www.avma.org

American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians
www.aawv.net

American Animal Hospital Association
www.aaha.org

JMU Pre-Veterinary Medicine Minor

Admission to veterinary medical school is very competitive. In addition to prerequisite coursework, students will most likely need to:

- Pursue both animal and veterinarian experiences including paid or volunteer work.
- Participate in research opportunities and/or leadership experiences.
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and a science GPA of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 grading scale). To be competitive applicant, students generally need a higher GPA.
- Obtain letters of recommendation, with at least one from a veterinarian.
- Complete the GRE, a standardized test assessing communication and quantitative skills.

At JMU pre-professional health advisors are available to guide students in course selection, the application process and in choosing activities required for a veterinary medical school applicant to be competitive. Pre-veterinary medicine students have the opportunity to apply for a semester-long internship with Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services in which they will receive hands-on training and experience in the diagnosis of health problems and causes of death for locally raised livestock and poultry.

On average, 11 JMU students apply to veterinary medical college each year with 63% matriculating to their program of choice.