Program Information

Veterinary science courses have been taught at Michigan State University since the institution’s founding in 1855. The College of Veterinary Medicine was formally established as a four-year, degree-granting program in 1910. The College, a fully accredited veterinary medical College, has long been a leader in efforts to increase diversity and inclusiveness in the profession. The College’s organizational structure includes the Departments of Small and Large Animal Clinical Sciences, the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, and three basic science departments jointly administered by Michigan State University’s three medical schools.

The abundance and variety of animal agriculture and companion animals in Michigan provide the College with one of the largest clinical and diagnostic caseloads in the country. Educational and research opportunities are considerably enhanced by this large caseload.

About the Program

Curriculum Reinvention

The Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine is embarking on a process to reimagine the DVM curriculum. The goal is a learner-centered curriculum that prepares career-ready, high-value graduates and is attentive to costs for students and the College.

For more information about the new curriculum, visit cvm.msu.edu/students/curriculum.
Preparing to Apply to Veterinary School

During high school, you should complete college preparatory courses and participate in activities that focus on animals and veterinary medicine, like volunteering at your local Humane Society, participating in 4-H, or shadowing a local veterinarian.

During college, you will need to complete a preveterinary curriculum at a two-year or four-year college or university. Your curriculum will include introductory biology, physics, chemistry, college algebra and trigonometry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, an advanced biology elective, English composition, two social science courses, and two arts and humanities courses.

A bachelor’s degree is not required. We encourage those who have completed all requirements to apply early.

You also should gain additional veterinary experience through clinical, research, or industry experiences during college. A minimum of 150 hours of veterinary experience is recommended to apply.

Applying to the DVM Program

You can apply after completing 50 percent of the prerequisite courses. All prerequisite courses must be completed by July 1 of the year following application.

To apply, you must have three letters of recommendation. One letter must be from a veterinarian with whom you have shadowed, assisted, or worked. Recommendations cannot be completed by a family member.

Applications are submitted through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). You can find more information about the application at cvm.msu.edu/vmcas.

Selection Criteria

In Phase I, your academic criteria are evaluated. This includes your science prerequisite grade point average (GPA) and your GPA from your last 3 semesters (minimum 36 credits).

In Phase II, non-academic criteria are evaluated. This includes a review of:

- College values as they relate to your non-academic experience
- Animal and veterinary experiences
- Extracurricular activities and volunteer work
- Employment
- Research experiences
- Life experiences
- Background status according to federal guidelines

In Phase III, you will participate in Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI).

Final selection considers results from Phases I, II, and III.