

Biology Major- Pre-Veterinary Medicine Option 2024-25

Document available online at <https://ib.oregonstate.edu/undergraduate/advising/college-advising-guide>.

Biology majors may obtain an option in pre-veterinary medicine by satisfying the requirements below with a 3.0 GPA. Courses used to satisfy these requirements also satisfy the Biology and Society, Organismal Biology, Physiology, Writing Intensive Course (WIC), Physics or Computational and Quantitative Applications, and Experiential Learning or Integrative Biology Elective requirements in the biology major. Students completing the requirements listed below will meet the prerequisites for most AAVMC accredited veterinary schools in the U.S. and abroad. Students should always consult the requirements of all schools to which they plan to apply, and many schools will not accept online prerequisite courses (particularly those with online labs) or prerequisite courses taken during study abroad. **Previous versions of this option are different and are tracked in MyDegrees. All courses and prerequisites are subject to change, and the listing of term is based on projected Corvallis campus offerings.**

Core Coursework

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
VMB 110	Pre-Veterinary Medicine (1cr)	F	-	-
PHL/REL 444	Biomedical Ethics* (4cr)	All*	Sophomore+	* BC: Science Technology and Society; Ecampus all but summer term
BI 319	Theory, Practice, Discourse Life Science (3cr)	All	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-) & ST 351	-
PH 201	General Physics (5cr)	F, Su	MTH 112 (C-)	-
PH 202	General Physics (5cr)	W, Su	MTH 112 (C-) and PH 201	-
PH 203	General Physics (5cr)	SP, Su	MTH 112 (C-) and PH 202	-
Z 350	Animal Behavior (3cr)	W, Sp	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	-
Z 422	Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy (5cr)	F	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-) & CH 332 (C-)	-
Z 431	Vertebrate Phys I (4cr)	W	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-) & CH 332 (C-)	-
Z 432 & 442	Vertebrate Phys II (3cr) AND Z 442 Lab (2cr)	Sp	Z 431 (C-)	-

Experiential Learning or Science Elective

Select both tracks or two courses from track II

Track I Experiential Learning Credits

Complete any combination of three credits

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
BI 309 OR BI 409	Teaching Practicum OR Advanced Practicum (1-3cr)	F, W, Sp	By departmental approval*	*See form here
BI 401	Research and Scholarship (1-3cr)	All	By departmental approval*	*See form here
BI 406	Projects: Curatorial Assistant (1-3cr)	All	By departmental approval*	*See form here
BI 410	Internship (1-3cr)	All	By departmental approval*	*See form here

Track II Science Elective

Select two courses from the following, or one in combination with three credits from track I)

Course	Description (Credits)	Term(s)	Pre-requisites	Comments
ANS 311	Animal Nutrition (3cr)	F	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	-
BHS/VMB 415	One Health in Practice (3cr)	W	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	-
BI 485	Monster Biology (3cr)	W	BI 311*, BI 370*	*May be concurrent
BI 495	Disease Ecology (3cr)	W*	BI 370	*Alternate odd years
FW 427	Principles of Wildlife Diseases (4cr)	All*	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	*Ecampus only
MB 480	General Parasitology (3cr)	?*	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	*See catalog
MB 491	Fish Diseases in Conservation Bio & Aquaculture (3cr)	?*	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	*See catalog
TOX 411	Fundamentals of Toxicology (3cr)	F	BB 450*	*May be concurrent
VMB 438	Diseases of Wild & Aquaculture Invert. (3cr)	?*	-	*See catalog
Z 371	Vertebrate Biology (3cr)	F	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	Z 372 lab recommended
Z 425	Genetics and Development (4cr)	F	BI 311, BB 314	Junior+
Z 438	Behavioral Neurobiology (3cr)	Sp	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-) & CH 233/263 (C-)	-
Z 473	Herpetology (4cr)	F*, Sp*	BI 221, 222, 223 (C-)	*Ecampus only

OSU Pre-Veterinary Medicine Resources and Information

Veterinary/Animal Experience

Animal care and clinical veterinary shadowing experiences are essential in preparing for veterinary school. Applicants must have experiences in both large and small animal settings, at least 500 (but frequently more hours) is a good goal for applying.

Shadowing is a good way to begin getting experience and to decide if veterinary medicine is for you. Contact offices and clinics either in Corvallis or at home to see what opportunities are available.

Volunteer or Work Experiences are important to obtain the skills and competencies necessary to be competitive for more formalized experiences in veterinary medicine. Resources that may be helpful include:

- [IB Internship and Volunteering Lists page](#)
- [OSU Goat Club](#)
- [OSU Sheep Club](#) (and ask about the OSU lambing crew)
- [OSU Jobs Page](#) searching for animal or other relevant terms
- Search on [Indeed](#) with terms such as kennel attendant, pet groomer or veterinary assistant

Applying to Veterinary School

Applying to Veterinary Colleges: View guidelines at the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges \(AAVMC\)](#). The [AAVMC's Admissions Requirements Directory](#) has information on prerequisites and admission requirements for accredited programs including around the [Graduate Record Exam](#) (GRE). [Application webinars listed here.](#)

OSU DVM Program Application: [Visit the OSU Pre-Veterinary website for application information.](#)

References: At least one DVM reference is required for the majority of AAVMC accredited DVM programs, and some will also stipulate at least one academic (progressor). Applicants should select references who can speak to specific skills, abilities, and leadership in a professional and/or academic setting.

Campus Resources

Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) and Listserv: [Visit the PVMA website for more information.](#)

OSU College of Veterinary Medicine Information: Tess Collins, Admissions Coordinator tess.collins@oregonstate.edu, (541) 737-6985.

Biology Careers Page: [Veterinary Medicine](#)

Research Opportunities: Research, while not required, provides the opportunity to develop analytical and communication skills, as well as an understanding of research methods and the scientific process. Undergraduate research experiences can be a key element of a well-rounded application for veterinary school. See information about [Research Experiences and credit opportunities here.](#)

Study Abroad Coursework: Although specific professional courses should not be done abroad, study abroad is a great and very feasible opportunity for pre-vet students. Work with your advisor to create a schedule that allows you to study abroad and apply courses to your degree.

International Opportunities: International programs in pre-veterinary medicine are available through OSU. These programs can be integrated in to a 4-year degree with the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Option and include diverse study abroad and internship choices. See information on [going abroad in Biology and Zoology](#) here.

Leadership: Leadership Experiences are valued by veterinary schools as a way to develop interpersonal skills and working as part of teams. There are a variety of ways to incorporate leadership experiences as an undergraduate, including club officer roles, coordinator for an organization (public, private or non-profit), peer mentoring or ambassador work. Students may also consider leadership courses or the leadership minor.