



College of Veterinary Medicine

Michael J. Blackwell, Dean

James J. Brace, Associate Dean, Academic Programs

Robert N. Moore, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Programs

Leon N.D. Potgieter, Associate Dean, Hospital Operations

Dennis R. Geiser, Assistant Dean, Outreach and Organizational Development

<http://www.vet.utk.edu/>

MAJOR Veterinary Medicine

The College of Veterinary Medicine, established in 1974, offers a professional curriculum leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Residency training programs in the various clinical specialties are also offered.

The primary objective of the college is to enable students to attain essential information, skills, attitudes and behaviors to meet the varied needs of society and the veterinary profession. The professional curriculum provides an excellent basic science education in addition to training in diagnosis, disease prevention, medical treatment, and surgery. Graduates are qualified to pursue careers in the many facets of veterinary medicine and related health professions.

About two-thirds of the veterinarians in the United States are engaged exclusively in pet or companion animal practice. A growing number are concerned with the health problems of zoo animals, laboratory animals, wildlife, and aquatic species. A number of veterinarians are involved in the health care of food and fiber animals ensuring the supply of safe and healthy food.

Veterinarians also find rewarding careers in the U.S. Public Health Service, the Armed Forces, and in state, county, or local health agencies. A large number of veterinarians are employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by state departments of agriculture for important work in livestock disease control, meat and poultry inspection, serum and vaccine production, and the protection of our country against the importation of foreign animal diseases. With the events of September 11, 2001, veterinarians are making significant contributions to biosecurity and homeland defense.

Excellent research opportunities exist for veterinarians – research directly benefiting animals and research conducted with animals that benefits humans. Such opportunities are available at colleges and universities and with governmental agencies, private research institutions and biological and pharmaceutical companies.

The college jointly administers a graduate program leading to the Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees with a major in comparative and experimental medicine. This program provides a wide spectrum of interdisciplinary training that prepares graduates for teaching and/or research careers in the

DEGREE DVM

health sciences. The majority of the graduate students and graduate faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine are involved in the comparative and experimental medicine program. (See Comparative and Experimental Medicine in the Intercollegiate section of this catalog.)

Because of the interdisciplinary departmental administration of the college, the faculty also have opportunities in the graduate programs of other instructional units, including Animal Science (nutrition, physiology, genetics and animal management), Microbiology (bacteriology, virology and immunology), Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (environmental toxicology), and Public Health. (Refer to other sections of this catalog for a full description of these programs.)

DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Admission

To qualify for admission to the professional program of the College of Veterinary Medicine, a candidate must have completed at least the minimum pre-veterinary course requirements listed below. These may be completed at any accredited college or university that offers courses equivalent to those at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Pre-veterinary course requirements must be completed by the end of spring term of the year in which the applicant intends to enroll. Biochemistry requirements must have been satisfactorily completed within five years of the time the applicant wishes to enter the program.

Subject Area	Semester Hours
English6
1 Humanities and Social Sciences18
Physics8
General Chemistry8
Organic Chemistry8
2 Biochemistry4
General Biology8
Genetics3
3 Cellular Biology3
Total 66	

- 1 May include, for example, courses in English literature, speech, music, art, philosophy, religion, language, history, economics, anthropology, political science, psychology, sociology, and geography.
- 2 Exclusive of laboratory.
- 3 It is expected that this requirement will be fulfilled by a course in cellular or molecular biology.

Admission Procedures

Admission of new students is for the fall semester, with first priority given to residents of Tennessee.

The College of Veterinary Medicine utilizes the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) for all applicants. Instructions for making application for admission may be obtained from the Office of the Associate Dean, The University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2407 River Drive, Room A102, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-4550, or on-line at VMCAS(<www.aavmc.org>).

The deadline for receipt of the completed application materials is October 1. Non-Tennessee applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.20 on a 4.00 scale for applications to be considered.

Applications are accepted only from U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S.

Requirements

The curriculum of the College of Veterinary Medicine is a nine-semester, four-year program. Each class begins in August and graduates four years later in May. The first three years generally follow the traditional fall and spring semesters with the summer break following years one and two. The final year of the professional curriculum begins immediately following semester six and is a continuous clinical rotation experience extending over 54 weeks.

Development of a strong basic science foundation is emphasized in the first year. Courses consist mostly of pre-clinical subjects of anatomy (gross and microscopic), physiology, immunology, bacteriology, virology and parasitology. Also included in the first year are clinical subjects of physical diagnosis and epidemiology. Considerable integration of subject matter is incorporated during this year.

The second and third years include the study of diseases, their causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention, and courses are team-taught on an organ system basis.

The final year (three semesters) is devoted to intensive education in solving animal disease problems involving extensive clinical experience in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Each student will participate exclusively in clinical rotations in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and in required externships (preferably off-campus).

Innovative features of this curriculum include six weeks of student centered, small group, applied learning exercises in semesters one through five; three weeks of dedicated clinical experiences in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in semesters three through five; and elective course opportunities in semesters four through nine which allow students to focus on individual educational/career goals. Students enrolled in the DVM program may register for up to 10 hours of graduate courses and these hours will be credited toward the DVM. Elective study offers a unique educational alternative for students in the College of Veterinary Medicine and is intended to enhance professional growth, concentration in an area of interest, and career opportunities.

In addition to education in the science and art of veterinary medicine, students receive instruction in paramedical subjects such as animal behavior, medical communication, professional ethics, jurisprudence, economics, and practice management.

The curriculum requires successful completion of 164 credit hours.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH CONCENTRATION

A veterinary public health concentration is available for students enrolled in the DVM curriculum and graduate veterinarians. This concentration is part of the Master of Public Health degree in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. For more information, see Public Health in this catalog. The College of Veterinary Medicine shares governance of the concentration through the Public Health Academic Program Committee and student advisors within this concentration are faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine. This concentration requires a separate application to the MPH Program.