

VETERINARIAN

Veterinarians care for the health of animals and work to improve public health. They diagnose, treat, and research medical conditions and diseases of pets, livestock, and numerous other animals. They often work in a variety of environments and have the option to specialize in the treatment of a particular type of animal.

CAREER DESCRIPTION*

- » National median salary: \$119,100
- » National projected career growth: 19%
- » Many work in private clinics and pet hospitals
- » Examine, diagnose, and treat sick animals of all variations

TYPICAL EDUCATION**

- » Years of School (including undergraduate): 7-8
- » Average Entering GPA: 3.5
- » Grades of "C" or better are required
- » Bachelor's Degree encouraged
- » Most require GRE (some accept MCAT in place of GRE)

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- » University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- » Iowa State University
- » Kansas State University
- » Colorado State University
- » Northeast Community College (Veterinary Technology)
- » Iowa Western Community College (Veterinary Technology)

COMPETITIVE STUDENTS ALWAYS...

- » Maintain a competitive academic record
- » Shadow professionals in the field
- » Obtain experience under the supervision of a veterinarian
- » Volunteer or work directly with animals

WHAT PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL SAY

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I hope to make people realize how totally helpless animals are, how dependent they are on us. They are an obligation put on us, a responsibility we have no right to neglect, nor to violate by cruelty.

-Dr. James Herriot, DVM

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Because of our training in the College of Veterinary Medicine, we understand how to handle sick animals, timid animals, aggressive animals, and this is the kind of experience needed.

-Dr. Lisa Williams, DVM

WORDS FROM SUCCESSFUL VET STUDENTS

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Gaining hands-on experience as a vet tech, and volunteering at zoos and animal shelters really helped prepare me for the rigorous yet rewarding curriculum of veterinary school.

-Jennifer Neumann

4th year vet student - Ohio State University

*Data and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

**Data and information from UNL

Last update: 9.2024

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UNO Health Careers Resource Center
307 Allwine Hall | 402.554.5980
unohealthcareers@unomaha.edu
cas.unomaha.edu/hcrc

Click here for requirements from the schools listed below:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Iowa State University
Kansas State University	Colorado State University

*Prerequisites vary by program. Students are responsible for ensuring all entrance requirements are met.

*Most schools prefer science classes to be taken in-person versus online.

UNL/ISU's Prerequisites

S = Spring, F = Fall, M = Summer

Biological Sciences (minimum credits: 31)			
Course	Credits	Semester	Prerequisites
BIOL 1450 Biology I & Lab	5	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 1750 Biology II & Lab	5	F, S, M	BIOL 1450
BIOL 2140 Genetics	4	F, S, M	BIOL 1450, 1750 & CHEM 1180
BIOL 2740 Human Anatomy & Physiology I & Lab	4	F, S, M	High School Biology and Chemistry
BIOL 2840 Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4	F, S, M	BIOL 2740
THREE UPPER LEVEL FROM THE FOLLOWING:			
BIOL 3020 Molecular Biology of the Cell	3	F, S, M	BIOL 1450, 1750 & 2140
BIOL 3240 Introduction to Immunology	3	F, S, M	BIOL 1450, 1750 & 2140; Rec: BIOL 3020
BIOL 3830 Biology of Pathogenic Microorganisms	3	S	BIOL 2140 or BIOL 2440 or BIOL 3240
BIOL 4130 Molecular Genetics	4	F, S	BIOL 2140, 3020 & CHEM 2210 or 2260
BIOL 4450 Virology	3	F	CHEM 2260/2274 or 2210/2214, BIOL 3020 & 2140
BIOL 4640 & 4644 Molecular Microbiology & Lab	4	F	BIOL 2140 & BIOL 3020
BIOL/CHEM 4660 & 4664 Biochemistry II & Lab	4	S	BIOL/CHEM 4650 & 4654
BIOL 4740 Animal Physiology	3	S	BIOL 1450, BIOL 1750, and BIOL 2140
BIOL 4870 Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology	3	F	NEUR 1500, or 1520 & 1540, or BIOL 3020
CHEM 3710 Medicinal Chemistry	3		ENGL 1160 and CHEM 2260/CHEM 2274

Chemistry (Minimum credits: 15-20)			
CHEM 1180/1184 General Chemistry I & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 or CHEM 1140 & 1144
CHEM 1190/1194 General Chemistry II & Lab	4	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184
CHEM 2210/2214 Fund Organic Chemistry & Lab OR	5	F, S	MATH 1300 or 1320 and CHEM 1180 & 1184
CHEM 2250 Organic Chemistry I AND	3	F, S, M	CHEM 1190 & 1194
CHEM 2260 & 2274 Organic Chemistry II & Lab*	5	F, S	CHEM 2250
AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:			
*CHEM 3650 & 3654 Fund. of Biochemistry & Lab	4	F, S	CHEM 2210 & 2214 or CHEM 2260 & 2274
CHEM 4610 Biochemistry of the Metabolism	4	S	CHEM 2260 & 2274
*BIOL/CHEM 4650 & 4654 Biochemistry I & Lab	4	F	CHEM 2260 & 2274 (BIOL 3020 recommended)

*Preferred courses for biochemistry,

Physics (minimum credits: 5)			
PHYS 1110 & 1154 General Physics I & Lab	5	F, S, M	MATH 1300 or 1320

English Composition (minimum credits: 6)			
ENGL 1150 English Composition I	3	F, S, M	AP Score 3, ACT 14-26, HS GPA 2.3+
ENGL 1160 English Composition II	3	F, S, M	AP Score 4, ENGL 1150, or by ACT

Speech (minimum credits: 3)			
CMST 1110 Public Speaking	3	F, S, M	

Humanities and Social Sciences (minimum credits: 6)			
Ethics, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Art, Literature, History, Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, etc.			

*Applicants are allowed to complete no more than two required science courses after the Fall semester of the year they apply.

**To receive verification that a course not specifically listed on the table above can be used to fulfill the requirements, please contact the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine office at ppvm@unl.edu or 402.472.7306.

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