



Texas A&M Pre-Vet Society

How to be an outstanding vet school applicant

(**Disclaimer: This info sheet is just helpful advice from fellow pre-vet students, you are NOT expected to follow this exactly!**)

Freshman Year

Fall U1

- Take 15 hours of classes!
 - Less than 11 hours – considered part time student
 - 12-13 hours – on the easier side
 - 14-15 – just right! Keeps you busy!
 - 16-17 – just right! More stressful
 - 17-19 – For over achievers! Say goodbye to free time! ☺
 - 20+ - not recommended, might affect your performance in your classes!
- *Remember!! Your first year of Vet. school, you take 21 hours!!**
- Start working hard from day one! You will enjoy college so much more if you make good grades from the start and you aren't playing catch-up as an upperclassman. There is absolutely no way around it!
- *Remember!! Grades (GPA and GRE) consist of 60% of your application**
- Get involved in student organizations! Of course, join Pre-Vet Society! Look into other organizations that provide you with a chance to get leadership experience, like Fish Camp, etc.
- *The admissions committee is looking for well-rounded students!! Don't stay in your dorm and study all the time!**
- Go to class!!!!!!! It might seem obvious, but you are way more likely to succeed if you develop good study habits and actually go to class! Don't play Sudoku!! You aren't listening or learning anything!!
 - Don't pull all-nighters!!! Plan in advance. Trust me.... If you study a little bit at a time everyday you can be prepared for exams without staying up all night. If you stay up all night your brain will be a mushy mess and you will do bad!! On that note, don't get addicted to caffeine either!
 - Start developing good relationships with professors! Visit their office hours even if you aren't struggling. Professors are much more likely to help you if they know you are really motivated to do well in their class.
- *Remember!! On your application you need 3 letters of recommendation!
Professors make great evaluators!**
- Aim for at least a 3.5 GPA!! If you make a 3.5 every semester, you can register for honors classes! Not only do honors classes look great on your application, but it also allows you to register for classes before everyone else! A better class schedule will make your life a lot easier.

- Realize that you're going to have to make sacrifices. You can't make good grades and go out 3+ nights a week. Have fun, but be reasonable! Remember there is a huge correlation between someone's grades and their social life. (Note: Don't be a hermit crab either!)

Winter Break U1

- Shadow a veterinarian!! (Or work at a veterinary facility!) Look into the Pre-vet Society's 'Shadow Program.'
- Keep a journal (diary, blog, whatever you want to call it!) Record every single hour you shadowed or worked with a vet. Record any memorable experiences... they WILL ask you about them in your interview... if you don't do this your life will be miserable when it comes to remembering every hour of experience you gained over the past 4+ years.
- This break is pretty long! It's a great opportunity to start logging in veterinary and animal experience hours!!!!

Spring Semester U1

- Start thinking about what you're going to do this summer!
- Keep working hard!!
- Consider running for a Pre-Vet officer position! (It's REALLY fun!)

Summer

- Continue getting vet./animal experience hours!
**The admission committee is looking for diversity!! Make sure you have veterinary experience in lots of difference areas! (Small animal, food animal, equine, exotics/avian, wildlife, research, shelter, etc.!!!)*
- Make sure you save some time for some fun!! Use this time to relax and get refreshed before the fall semester starts!
- Consider taking summer classes if you get bored or want to get ahead!! Try to avoid taking your hard sciences at a community college, but this a great time to get some of your basics out of the way.

Remember!! You can apply to veterinary school (At A&M), whenever you have all the prerequisites done!! Most people take a full 4 years and get their BS or BA degree first. However, lots of people apply after only 3 years...if you decide to apply early your going to have to take summer classes, take more than 15 hours a semester and take 3-5 sciences a semester!!!

Sophomore Year

Fall Semester U2

- Yes, organic chemistry is hard. BUT, biochemistry is harder... so, hang in there!! Keep up with the work and do not get behind.
Remember!! If you do well in your 'super hard' science classes (O-chem., physics, biochem., etc.), you will really impress the admissions committee!!
- Look into student worker positions! You get paid and they provide a great opportunity to get research experience! Lots of professors are looking for

students to help out in their labs. The pay isn't exactly great but your getting great experience!

Spring Semester U2

- Start studying for the GRE. What is the GRE?? The standardized test you need to gain admission to vet. school. Aim to take it this time next year. The GRE is just a hard version of the SAT, slightly modified. It is a pain in the butt, but if you start studying early it will make your life soooo much easier. Get a GRE prep book and start doing vocabulary flashcards.
- Keep working your tail off in your classes. Trust me, your classes get harder as you go along, so if you make really great grades early on you can have some 'cushion room' when it comes to your 'super hard' upper-division classes.

Summer

- (See last summer...) So, shadow, work, volunteer, take summer classes if you need/want to.
- Keep studying for the GRE! Ideally, you need 12 month to prepare. The GRE is a great way to distinguish your self from other applicants if you have some "bloopers" somewhere along the road. (Dropping a class, making a few C's, etc.!)

Junior Year

Fall Semester U3

- Yes, biochemistry is a really, really hard course!!! There are lots of reactions to remember. Do whatever it takes to remember them all: invest in a dry-erase board, do flashcards, whatever.
- Start writing your essay!! Brainstorm ideas. Write about something meaningful, avoid being overly corny or fake. Consult with an advisor, the writing center, friends, parents, etc. to help you out. The essay is a really great way to get the admission committee to remember you, make sure you leave a lasting impression. Write a rough draft and comeback and edit it every week! The more effort you put into it, the better it will be.

Winter Break U3

- Take the GRE!!! You should have studied a lot for it already! You can only take the GRE once a month and up to 5 times a year... if you don't do too hot you can take it again. The more you practice, the better you will do!
- Keep on shadowing!!

Spring Semester U3

- Applications open in May and are due October 1st... start thinking about it!!
- Keep editing your essay and working on getting the GRE score you want!
- Continue to develop good relationships with veterinarians and professors for recommendation letters!

Senior Year

May through summer

- Applications are now available!!
- Seriously, START EARLY! The application is long and very annoying. There are lots of areas for error and you need lots of time to make sure you submit it on time. PLEASE don't submit it the night before.
- Continue to get veterinary experience hours!!
- Make sure your recommendation letters make it there on time!

October

- Applications are due.
- Relax, its over... you can chill out for about 1 week, then you can stress out again...

Fall Semester U4

- Remember, these grades COUNT. At the end of the fall semester you have to send your updated transcript to the vet. school. Keep trying your best.... Remember.... Even if you have a million hours of vet experience and 2 million leadership positions, you won't get an interview unless you have decent grades!! ☹
- Around finals time... interviews start!! Make sure you prepare!! (Practice with a friend, parent, boss, whoever.) Make sure you look appropriate... suits, reasonable shoes, etc. BE YOUR SELF. They want to get you know you. Don't underestimate how important the interview is!
Remember! The admissions committee isn't looking for super geniuses with no social skills... you need to be able to have an intelligent conversation with adults and be PASSIONATE about a career in veterinary medicine!

Spring Semester U4

- Last chance to finish your vet. school prerequisites!
- Remember, if you are accepted to vet. school you still have to complete all of the required courses with at least a C. I guess, you can slack off a little, but I wouldn't risk it.
- Enjoy your last semester of college!!

Last minute advice:

- Study hard!!
- Get lots of vet. experience hours... by a lot I mean, like quadruple digits!! Yeah, you heard me. (Don't be too crazy, but you still need to get a lot.)
- Make sure you really have you heart and soul into perusing a career in veterinary medicine. It takes a lot of work!!

- I cannot stress this part enough: DON'T GIVE UP. Your going to mess up every once and a while. If you are really committed to your goal, you won't let set-backs phase you.
- Give them absolutely no reason not to accept you! Stand out from the crowd! What grades do I need to get into veterinary school at A&M?

Total Applications: 387 Fall 2008 Entry Class						
	Qualified Applicants		Interviewed Applicants		Offered Applicants	
	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident	Resident	Non-Resident
Total	279	90	230	20	125	14
Men	75	13	63	6	36	5
Women	204	77	167	14	89	9
Average Age	23	23	23	22	22	21
Oldest	48	28	48	28	48	27
Youngest	18	20	18	20	18	20
Average Overall GPA	3.45	3.39	3.51	3.79	3.64	3.82
Average Last 45 hour GPA	3.48	3.47	3.55	3.85	3.69	3.87
Average Science GPA	3.38	3.3	3.45	3.76	3.6	3.82
Average GRE Verbal	486	484	496	530	512	539
Average GRE Quantitative	632	6325	647	697	659	706
Average GRE Analytical	4.27	4.19	4.31	4.45	4.45	4.32