Major Steps 2013-14
Veterinary Medicine

Note: Highline Community College does not offer this major. However, you can complete many of the pre-requisite courses at Highline. Every effort has been made to provide current, accurate publication content. Always verify the admission information with your intended university.

What does a veterinarian do?

Veterinarians are licensed, medical professionals who prescribe medicines, perform exams and sometimes operate on animals. Most vets will specialize and work primarily with small domestic pets or large animals.

In addition, veterinarians may conduct research in human and animal disease prevention. Some are meat inspectors at food processing plants. Others choose careers in wildlife management. Some veterinarians teach at universities and colleges. A few will care for animals in zoos, aquariums, or labs.

In Washington State, the median yearly income is $79,176. Careers in veterinary medicine are expected to grow due to the increase number of animals and consumer and environmental protection activities. Currently there is a shortage of veterinarians that handle animal critical and emergency care and those who conduct biomedicine research. (Source: Washington Occupational Information System—WOIS)

How do I prepare for Veterinary Medicine School?

Washington State University (WSU) is the only veterinary school in Washington State. Nationwide, there are 28 colleges of veterinary medicine. Because most veterinary medicine schools are obligated to accept residents of their geographic regions, residents of the Washington State have the best chance of admission at WSU.
The average GPA of students admitted at WSU’s School of Veterinary Medicine in fall 2013 was 3.58 overall and 3.50 in the sciences. Students admitted also demonstrated good work ethics, communication skills, leadership, integrity, compassion, and knowledge of the profession. WSU’s website provides in depth admissions requirements and their selection process for acceptance into the School of Veterinary Medicine.

A minimum of seven years is required to obtain the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine — three or more years of pre-veterinary training, followed by four years of professional study. Although a Bachelor’s degree is not required for acceptance into all School of Veterinary Science Medicine programs, the majority of successful applicants have earned a B.A. or B.S. degree. WSU does require completion of a Bachelor’s degree prior to the completion of their DVM degree.

While completing your AA degree, include as many of the following pre-requisite courses as possible.

*Math &141 and &142 or &151

Math &146

Chemistry &161, &162, &163 (complete entire sequence)

Chemistry &261, &262, &263 (complete entire sequence). At WSU the organic chemistry requirement may be completed in one semester.

Biology &211, &212, &213 (complete entire sequence)

*The amount of math needed depends upon your bachelor’s degree and selection of veterinary schools.

Where can I get more information on this career?

Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine
www.vetmed.wsu.edu
509-335-9515

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
www.aavmc.org
202-371-9195

How do I get a faculty advisor?

Request a faculty advisor online at http://edplanning.highline.edu/request.advisor.php or stop by the Educational Planning and Advising Center (EPAC) in building 6.

View EPAC hours online at http://edplanning.highline.edu/contact.php