Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University
Iowa State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Administrative Offices

Office of the Dean ............................................. (515) 294-1250
Office of Development ................................. (515) 294-8562
Office of Academic and Student Affairs .......... (515) 294-5337
Small Animal Clinic ............................... (515) 294-4900
Large Animal Clinic ............................. (515) 294-1500
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory ............... (515) 294-1950
General College Information ....................... (515) 294-1242

Academic Departments

Biomedical Sciences .................................... (515) 294-2440
Veterinary Clinical Sciences ............................ (515) 294-2199
Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine ................................. (515) 294-8791
Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine ............ (515) 294-5776
Veterinary Pathology .................................... (515) 294-3282

Or visit our Web site at: http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu
You want to be a veterinarian. Great choice!

Veterinary medicine is a field of medicine that offers unlimited opportunities in private clinical practice, research, education, public health, regulatory medicine, the military, laboratory animal medicine, and food safety. With all of those opportunities, you want an education that prepares you for every possibility.

Twenty-eight universities in the United States offer programs leading to a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Each offers great opportunities. At Iowa State University, we have great things to offer that are uniquely our own!

As the nation’s first public veterinary school, we’ve had 128 years of experience educating veterinarians. Our strength lies in our ability to help you become a veterinarian who meets society’s needs. From the horse doctor in the early 1900s, to the small animal specialists in the 1980s, and to the public health, infectious disease, and food supply veterinarians of the 21st century – we’ve educated leaders in all areas of the profession.

Veterinary medicine is an exciting and challenging field. With modern advancements in the field and ever-changing societal needs, you want a veterinary college that has the flexibility to help you meet those challenges. Iowa State University can!
Located in the heart of the Midwest, the College of Veterinary Medicine is uniquely positioned to help you explore a broad range of interests in veterinary medicine.

Interested in clinical practice? You will receive a lot of clinical experience in the Veterinary Medical Center, where over 18,000 Lloyd patients are seen annually. You can choose from 14 specialty rotations in small animal and large animal medicine. Our curriculum also provides more extensive surgical experience than you’ll receive at many other veterinary colleges. And, elective courses are available in areas such as shelter medicine, exotic medicine, practice management, animal behavior, and emergency medicine.

Interested in food animal medicine? Iowa is a leading agricultural state—number one in pig production and egg production. As such, Iowa State University offers some of the best experiences in food animal production medicine. Outside our campus lies some of the largest swine production facilities, and a short drive yields opportunities in bovine medicine at feedlots in western Iowa and Nebraska.

Interested in basic science or clinical research? Our graduate degree programs offer in-depth education in a number of specific areas such as microbiology, pathology, neurology, public health, and more. In addition, our location in Ames, Iowa, allows you to work with scientists at the USDA’s National Animal Disease Center where veterinarians are on the front line of animal and public health threats such as BSE, avian influenza, and anthrax. Other federal institutions nearby include the Center for Veterinary Biologics and several units of the Food Safety and Inspection Services.

Students can also participate in a variety of international experiences provided through summer study abroad programs and university exchanges. Recent experiences include learning about acupuncture in China, agricultural practices in Sweden and Australia, fish medicine in Norway, animal health and public policy in Europe, and wildlife medicine in Brazil and Africa.

Iowa State University also offers dual degree options such as the DVM/MS, DVM/PhD, DVM/MBA or the DVM/MPH with the University of Iowa.
It’s an exciting time for veterinary medicine and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. Thirty years ago, many of the veterinary specialties that are the standard of care at veterinary teaching hospitals and referral clinics such as critical and emergency care were in their infancy. Today, CT scanners, MRIs, dental suites, and echocardiograms are the norm.

Like the field of veterinary medicine, the College of Veterinary Medicine is in the midst of exciting changes to ensure our students are knowledgeable in the latest technology and advancements in veterinary medicine. The veterinary medical complex at Iowa State comprises 11 acres, including the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Veterinary Medical Center, Livestock Infectious Disease Facility, Veterinary Library, and over 1,000 rooms for learning.

Our classrooms have high-tech computer and video-projection devices and wireless connections for laptop computers. We also have classrooms equipped with plasma screens for high-resolution delivery of educational material. Our Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center is undergoing a major renovation designed to provide continued state-of-the-art care for our patients, and state-of-the-art teaching facilities for our students. The expansion will increase the college’s physical space by 25 percent. Phase I of the renovation is completed and includes new equine/large animal facilities (surgery suites, ICU, isolation and medicine wards), and facilities for the advanced imaging and intensive care units. Phase II is planned to double the size of the small animal hospital.

Besides the excitement of renovated facilities, the college has an exciting new direction. The college has a professional program with the state of Nebraska to provide training and education to the men and women of Nebraska who want to become veterinarians. This expansion of the professional program positions the college as a leader in veterinary education for states in the region without veterinary colleges.
Laying the Foundation

Curriculum

At Iowa State University, we believe that your veterinary college education is just the beginning of a career marked by lifelong learning. Although our curriculum will provide you with a solid foundation in veterinary medicine, we can’t teach you about emerging diseases and advancements that are yet to be discovered. Our mission is to help you become a lifelong learner so that you are well prepared for future challenges.

The Art and Science of Veterinary Medicine

At Iowa State University, we strive to provide a solid general foundation in veterinary medicine. The four-year professional curriculum leading to the degree of doctor of veterinary medicine combines the science of veterinary medicine (basic science course work) with the art of veterinary medicine (problem-based learning, clinical experience, medical decision-making, and veterinarian-client-patient relationship skills).

Each year of the veterinary curriculum at Iowa State builds on the previous.

• During the first year, you will learn the structure and function of the normal animal. You will also begin the foundations of clinical medicine from actual cases.

• During the second year, you will learn about diseases – how an animal responds to disease and fundamental aspects of disease treatment including pharmacology and surgery.

• During the third year, you will continue to learn more about specific diseases in both companion and food animals, while further developing your clinical, surgical and diagnostic skills.

• During the fourth year, you will gain experience in clinical skills and medical decision-making within the clinical rotations in the Veterinary Medical Center. Where the first three years are scheduled on a nine-month academic calendar, the fourth year begins immediately at the conclusion of the third year in May and continues for 12 months.

Throughout the four years of veterinary college, you have many opportunities to explore topics of interest outside the core curriculum – through elective courses, preceptorships, summer scholars research projects, faculty-student mentoring, lectures and field trips/workshops offered in the evenings or weekends.

To view the core curriculum, visit our Web site at http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu.
When you become an Iowa State veterinary student, you join a community of scholars, all with a commitment to your success. As an entering first-year student, you will be matched with a second-year student who will guide you and provide support during your first year in veterinary college. The college has a network of resources ready, ranging from mentors and tutors, to counselors. We want you to succeed and are ready to lend a hand when needed.

The four-year curriculum is intense, demanding and difficult. It is also exhilarating, and you will enjoy these years. At the College of Veterinary Medicine, there are over 30 student organizations where you can meet other students, enhance your leadership and communications skills, and gain valuable hands-on experience. Those organizations host a number of lectures, socials, and activities such as laboratories and field trips. There is even an organization for significant others, to help them for the next four years!
At a minimum, admission to the professional curriculum requires two years (60 semester credits) of undergraduate college education. College-level course work must include the following:

- English Composition 6 semester credits
- Oral Communication 3 semester credits
- General Chemistry with laboratory* 7 semester credits (one-year series)
- Organic Chemistry with laboratory* 7 semester credits (one-year series)
- Biochemistry* 3 semester credits (no lab required)
- General Physics with laboratory* 4 semester credits (first course in a one-year series)
- Biology with laboratory* 8 semester credits (one-year series or equivalent)
- Genetics (Mendelian and molecular genetics)* 3 semester credits (no lab required)
- Mammalian Anatomy or Physiology* 3 semester credits
- Humanities or Social Sciences 8 semester credits
- Electives 8 semester credits
* required science courses

The credits earned must be equivalent to the Iowa State University course offerings. It is expected that all required courses have been taken within the past eight years. Courses must be completed the spring term prior to matriculation.

The College of Veterinary Medicine has no preference as to a major field of undergraduate study.

Our goal at Iowa State University is to produce veterinarians who are prepared to meet the ever-changing needs and demands of society. Veterinary medicine is a rigorous course of study that doesn’t end when you walk away with your degree in hand. As such, we encourage applications from men and women who are intelligent, passionate about veterinary medicine, motivated, compassionate, mature, and are good communicators and leaders.

Successful students come from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Some come from the city, some from rural areas. Some of them have engineering degrees, some have music degrees, others have master’s or doctorate degrees. This diversity brings something extra to the educational experience at Iowa State. We welcome men and women who bring diverse circumstances and backgrounds to our program.

An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.50 (4.0 scale)

Completion of the Graduate Record Exam which includes the analytical writing section. Scores must be received by October 31. The college GRE code is 6315.

Submission of the online application through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) at www.aavmc.org/vmcas/vmcas.htm by October 2.

Submission of three electronic letters of recommendation (through the VMCAS) by October 2. It is strongly recommended that at least one recommendation be completed by a veterinarian. Only three letters of recommendation will be accepted.

Submission of transcripts for ALL college-level course work by October 2. Transcripts should be sent directly to Veterinary Medicine Admissions, 2270 Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, P.O. Box 3020, Ames, IA 50010-3020.

Submission of the required Iowa State University supplemental application. The online form will be available approximately June 1 and must be completed by October 2. The supplemental application can be found at http://wwwvetmed.iastate.edu/students/services/admissions/Admissions.

Submission of the completed signature page from the supplemental application with the processing fee of $60 ($80 for international applicants) by October 2. Checks should be payable to Iowa State University and sent to: Veterinary Medicine Admissions, 2270 Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, P.O. Box 3020, Ames, IA 50010-3020. Include your VMCAS ID on the check and signature page.
Veterinary medicine is a great profession. To be sure you understand what it takes to be a veterinarian, applicants are expected to have had experience working or volunteering in the field of veterinary medicine.

The most common way to gain insights and experience with the profession is to work with a practicing veterinarian. Experiences with animal shelters, kennels, livestock facilities, racetracks, zoos and wildlife rehabilitation centers also help to fulfill this requirement.

Additionally, applicants can gain experience in veterinary-related fields such as biomedical research, diagnostic medicine, laboratory animal medicine, and public health.

There is no minimum number of hours of experience required; however, it is expected that you are actively engaged in the experience and have specific responsibilities. The more varied your experiences are, the more in-depth understanding you will have of the veterinary profession.

Besides experiences in veterinary medicine, you will be evaluated on a variety of personal development categories. Leadership, community service and participation in nonacademic activities are also considered. Your level of maturity, motivation, and determination are important qualities to assess your ability to handle the academic studies and the clinical experiences of the professional curriculum.

Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria:

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<th>Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate GPA*</td>
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<td>Course work Rigor**</td>
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<td>Admissions Committee Review</td>
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<td>Graduate Record Exam</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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* Cumulative, Required Science, last 45 undergraduate credits
** Degrees/credits, honors courses, college attended, withdraws/repeats, course load
For the most current information about the college’s admissions procedures, please visit our Web site at [www.vetmed.iastate.edu](http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu) or contact:

**Veterinary Medicine Admissions**
College of Veterinary Medicine
Iowa State University
P.O. Box 3020, Ames, IA 50010-3020
Ph: (515) 294-5337 | (800) 262-3810
Fax: (515) 294-8341
E-mail: cvmadmissions@iastate.edu

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. veteran. Inquiries can be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, 3210 Beardshear Hall, (515) 294-7612.

### Fees and Expenses (2008-2009)

- **Application fee (U.S. citizen):** $60.00
- **Application fee (Non-U.S. citizen):** $80.00
- **Acceptance deposit:** $500.00
- **(credited to tuition at matriculation)**
- **2008-09 tuition/fees (in-state):** $15,886
- **2008-09 tuition/fees (out-of-state):** $37,082

### Financial Aid

Financing a veterinary education is an expensive commitment which involves borrowing in the form of student loans for most students. Detailed information on financial aid available for veterinary students can be found at the Iowa State University Office of Financial Aid Web site ([http://www.financialaid.iastate.edu](http://www.financialaid.iastate.edu)).

### Scholarships

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University awards over $400,000 in scholarships and awards annually to veterinary students. Criteria vary among scholarships, but are generally based on academic achievement, financial need, clinical proficiency, leadership, or achievement in specific disciplines. A limited number of scholarships are available to incoming first-year students.

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**Tours**

Prospective students are encouraged to schedule a college tour and speak with an advisor. Please check the College of Veterinary Medicine Web site at [http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/thecollege/tours/Tours/Default.aspx](http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/thecollege/tours/Tours/Default.aspx) for current tour dates and times and for instructions on scheduling your tour online.