Currently, there are 28 veterinary schools in the U.S. that graduate 2,500 veterinarians each year. These schools are at full capacity and are working on ways to increase classrooms, research facilities and teaching laboratories. With today’s shortage, plus the projected need over the next 20 years, it is estimated there will be a shortage of over 15,000 veterinarians. Ohio has one of the largest veterinary schools located at The Ohio State University. This is fortunate for pre-vet students since The Ohio State University is a public institution that gives preference to Ohio residents. Admission is competitive; with only 162 seats available, OSU receives close to 1,400 applications each year.

Reasons to Choose Veterinary Medicine as a Career

Individuals interested in studying veterinary medicine have a strong desire to work with animals and this profession recruits people from all types of backgrounds with diverse goals. There are many reasons students choose veterinary medicine as a career. Salary: according to the Bureau of Labor & Statistics, veterinarians earned a mean annual wage of $92,570 in 2010. Satisfying professional career: many veterinarians enjoy the independence and autonomy of owning their own practice and the flexibility of determining their practice hours (thus allowing more time for personal life). Excellent career outlook: increasing demands by animal owners and production animal managers is resulting in a demand for additional veterinarians in companion and production animal practice.
Wright State University offers all the courses necessary to meet the requirements for entry to Veterinary Medicine programs. We also have a pre-vet student organization that helps provide additional information through guest speakers, handouts, and tours to vet hospitals, zoos, or schools. The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine recommends an undergraduate degree, but does not require it. A look at admission statistics shows, however, that the overwhelming majority of admitted students do have a B.A. or a B.S. To be eligible for admission, applicants must have earned 78-82 college semester-credit hours. No more than one required prerequisite course may remain to be completed by the end of the fall semester of the academic year in which a student applies.

In addition, a grade of C or better must be earned in all prerequisite course work and a minimum undergraduate GPA above a 3.0. In addition, official GRE/MCAT scores must be submitted along with an application through VMCAS. Candidates must also have proof of a minimum of 80 hours of veterinary experience, and preferred exposure to large animals, exotic traditional pets, and zoo populations. The 2014 entering class at The Ohio State University had an average of 1,347 veterinary experience hours.

The continual growth in U.S. pet ownership combined with the higher expectations for the health and safety of the pets has resulted in a serious shortage of veterinarians. The job market is in dire demand for veterinarians to provide services in a variety of public practice areas.

- USDA (Food Safety & Animal Disease Control
- Biosecurity & Homeland Security
- Research on domestic and foreign animal diseases
- Public health service & animal diseases affecting humans
- Rural communities & urban centers without veterinary services
- Wildlife disease control
- Animal care & welfare
- Laboratory animal care & research

Bioterrorism & National Security: there is an extreme shortage of veterinarians who enter research and public practice. Many doors will be open for those who pursue this path.

Ecological Health: there is a demand for veterinary expertise on issues pertinent to the environment, conservation, agriculture and wildlife management.

Veterinary Medicine and Wright State University

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Increased specialization in the future: not only are practices focused on large or small animals, they are also specializing in critical care, dentistry, dermatology, internal medicine, radiology, ophthalmology and surgery.

Working with federal agencies: veterinarians are hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The demand for veterinarians in all areas of employment is projected to increase in the future. Pet owners are also purchasing pet insurance and spending more and more on care for their pets.

Wright State University
College of Science & Mathematics

For additional information please visit our website: http://science-math.wright.edu/prehealth

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