

2021 / 2022

DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT



AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

A Message from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine has earned its international reputation for quality education, research, and clinical service through the efforts of many generations of dedicated faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

From the early work of Dr. Charles Allen Cary more than a century ago to the pursuit of current cutting-edge research initiatives, Auburn influences the character and scope of veterinary medicine on a global scale. As the country's seventh oldest veterinary school and the first in the South, Auburn is one of the nation's premiere institutions for teaching, research, and advanced diagnostic services for animals of all species.

At Auburn, students have the opportunity to work in a welcoming, collaborative, intellectually-stimulating environment with more than 140 nationally and internationally recognized faculty, who are board certified specialists in disciplines ranging from infectious diseases to genomics to surgery.

A veterinarian's ability to compassionately and effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat diseases is both an art and a science. At Auburn, we take seriously our mission of educating veterinarians for the future— to protect animal health, to prevent and relieve animal suffering, and to cultivate advanced knowledge and skills for the benefit of animals, the environment, and society. We welcome all qualified and dedicated applicants who aspire to a career of service in this distinguished profession and we look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your interest in the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.





Melinda S. Camus

DVM, DACVP

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**VETERINARY EDUCATION
CENTER**

SAVING LIVES
—
SINCE 1900

Professional Career Opportunities

Veterinarians are uniquely educated to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases affecting both animals and humans. In addition to treating animals, veterinarians play a major role in public health, environmental protection, biomedical research and ensuring the safety of the food we consume.

Approximately 81% of the 90,270 veterinarians in the United States are involved in clinical practice—treating individual animals, or animals as part of a herd or flock. Many veterinarians limit their practice to certain species or areas (i.e., small animals, horses, food animals). Some veterinarians in mixed animal practice see all species of animals. Veterinarians may also specialize in certain disciplines, for instance surgery, dermatology, or emergency medicine and critical care. Veterinary clinics range from a solo (one doctor) practice to hospitals with many veterinarians and a variety of specialists.

Veterinarians are employed by the government in the military or as veterinary medical officers in the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service. Others work as state veterinarians or state public health veterinarians where they are especially concerned about diseases that may transfer from animals to humans. Federal and state veterinarians are also responsible for protecting our country from foreign animal diseases like foot-and-mouth disease.

Veterinarians who work in industry may have a background in areas like pathology or toxicology. Companies may employ veterinarians in biomedical research or as technical consultants. At universities, veterinarians teach future generations, perform biomedical research, and aid in the dissemination of new knowledge.

A degree in veterinary medicine provides a wide range of employment options. Our recent graduates have embraced employment opportunities in diverse practices and roles in locations worldwide.





Admission to the Program

Auburn University established the Department of Veterinary Science and Physiology in 1892. Since 1909, the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has graduated 7,132 doctors of veterinary medicine. The college, known for its collegial atmosphere and strong traditions, provides a broad-based education that prepares students to enter a variety of careers in veterinary medicine.

Admission to the program is competitive, and the number of applicants varies each year. Approximately 130 students are admitted to the professional program annually—41 are Alabama residents, 38 are contract students and Kentucky residents through the Southern Regional Education Board contract, and 51 are non-resident/non-contract students. (The most recent graduate statistical data can be found online at vetmed.auburn.edu).

Successful applicants demonstrate superior academic ability, as well as dedication to the profession evidenced by work or volunteer experience with animals. All applicants must apply through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). An electronic application is available at aavmc.org.

In addition to completing the required pre-veterinary courses, applicants should work with one or more veterinarians to learn about career opportunities and responsibilities within the profession. Experience with both large and small animals is encouraged.

While experience working with veterinarians is necessary for admission, an applicant's demonstration of academic ability is essential. The admissions committee carefully selects students that are perceived to demonstrate the attributes to be successful in both a rigorous four-year professional curriculum and in the profession.

Applicants must follow deadlines for submission of materials as stated on the VMCAS website.

Pre-veterinary coursework must be completed by June 15 of the year of matriculation.



Pre-Veterinary Requirements

Alabama and Kentucky applicants must have a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. Non-resident/non-contract applicants must have a 3.0. Additionally, there is a mandatory interview with the college admissions and standards committee.

The final grade for each required course must be a “C-minus” or better. Students completing pre-veterinary work at Auburn University must complete the requirements for the Auburn University core. Courses will not be waived on the basis of “practical experience.” Pass-fail or satisfactory-unsatisfactory grades are not acceptable in required courses.* Contact your pre-veterinary advisor with questions.

Prerequisite courses listed under sections I, II, III and IV will be waived for students with a bachelor’s degree and for those graduating with a bachelor’s by June 15th of the year of matriculation. Following are the specific pre-veterinary course requirements for admission to the program. Please note details of the professional curriculum on page 14.

**Pass-fail, satisfactory-unsatisfactory or other alternative grading practices may be used to fulfill prerequisite courses taken during the spring 2020/summer 2020 terms, as long as the alternative grading method indicates successful completion of the course (i.e., pass or satisfactory vs fail or unsatisfactory).*

PRE-VETERINARY REQUIREMENTS		SEMESTER HOURS
I. Written Composition		6
II. Humanities & Fine Arts		12
*	Literature (3)	
*	Fine Arts (3)	
*	Humanities Fine Arts Electives (6)	
III. History & Social /Behavioral Sciences		12
*	History (3)	
*	Social & Behavioral Science Electives (9)	
IV. Mathematics		3
	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry or Higher (3)	
V. Biological & Physical Sciences		43
	Principles of Biology w/Lab (8)	
	Fundamentals of Chemistry w/Lab (8)	
	Organic Chemistry w/Lab (8)	
	Physics I (4)	
**	Cell Biology (3)	
	Biochemistry (3)	
***	Animal Nutrition (3)	
+	Science Electives (6)+	
TOTAL HOURS		76

* A six-hour sequence is required in either literature or history.

Humanities include literature, philosophy, religious studies, speech and foreign languages.

Fine arts include art, music, theater and dance with an emphasis on history and appreciation rather than performance.

Social/behavioral sciences include history, anthropology, economics, geography, political science, psychology and sociology.

** The cell biology course, beyond an introductory biology course, should focus on the molecular biology of cells, membranes, cytoplasm and organelles as well as energy, transport, motility, cell division, signaling, transcription and translation. Courses by any other name outside of cell / cellular / molecular biology / physiology are not sufficient in meeting the cell biology requirement.

*** Animal nutrition may be taken as an online or correspondence course. The course must cover large animals and small animals, monogastric and ruminant species.

+ Science electives must include at least two of the following: comparative anatomy, genetics, embryology, mammalian or animal physiology, microbiology, physics II, histology, reproductive physiology, parasitology or immunology.

Course requirements may change. Check the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine website regularly for updates at vetmed.auburn.edu.

Pre-Veterinary Goals and Timeline

High School

- Earn good grades
- Obtain college information for undergraduate study
- Visit the colleges where you plan to apply
- Think about a major
- Get pre-vet information
- Take SAT or ACT exam
- Take science courses (biology, chemistry, physics)
- Do volunteer work related to animals
- Shadow or work with a veterinarian
- Gain animal experience (large and small animal, if possible)
- Read interesting books about veterinary medicine

College: Freshman Year

- Meet with pre-vet/pre-health professions advisor
- Learn pre-vet requirements
- Think about a major (career options)
- Plan a tentative schedule (three-to-four years)
- Develop study skills
- Maintain an excellent GPA
- Begin extracurricular activities
- Participate in pre-vet club (pre-health professions club)
- Work/volunteer in veterinary medicine and keep track of hours for use in completing your application
- Talk to pre-vet upperclassmen
- Consider what you will do in the summer

College: Sophomore Year

- Work/volunteer in veterinary medical area
- Meet with pre-vet/pre-health professions advisor
- Decide on a major
- Fine-tune your college schedule
- Maintain an excellent GPA
- Check veterinary medical schools' entry requirements
- Consider participating in research
- Consider what you will do this summer
- Plan for any special junior year programs (i.e., junior year abroad)

College: Junior Year

- Begin preparing VMCAS personal statement
- Complete VMCAS application by September 15 (if applying after three years)
- Request reference letters
- Request/obtain/send transcripts
- Meet with pre-vet/pre-health professional advisor
- Gather information about veterinary schools
- Maintain the best possible GPA
- Work/volunteer in veterinary medical area
- Visit nearby schools in which you are interested
- Consider what you will do this summer

College: Senior Year

- Complete VMCAS application by September 15
- Select references/request letters
- Provide information
- Write thank you notes
- Check your email frequently (colleges may contact you if anything is missing)
- Work/volunteer in veterinary medical area
- Clearly demonstrate your academic abilities in upper level biological science courses
- Interview in the spring
- Accept offer by April 15

Application and Admissions Timeline

- Application Open Date: Mid-May
- Application Deadline Date: September 15th
- Transcripts Received Date: September 15th
- eLOR Received Date: September 15th

Interview Invitation and Timeline

- Non-resident invitations sent: mid-December
- Interviews: February
- Alabama/Kentucky invitations sent: late-January
- Interviews: Late February / Early March



Professional Curriculum

The Auburn University Veterinary Medicine professional curriculum is a rigorous four-year program that provides a broad-based education designed as a modified systems approach. The first year primarily consists of structure and function of the normal animal. This includes gross and microscopic anatomy, imaging and physiology.

During the first semester of the second year, several principles courses are taught, such as immunology, infectious diseases and pathology. Also during the second year, students begin studying disease processes by system. Each system includes appropriate pathology, imaging, diagnostic techniques and therapeutic measures for both large and small animal diseases.

Each semester includes presentations of clinical cases related to topics currently being taught. All students are required to complete four hours of electives before starting spring semester of the third year. Examples include disaster medicine, wildlife diseases, advanced reproductive techniques, diagnostic ultrasound, aquarium medicine, sports medicine and rehabilitation, equine lameness and practical physical therapy. During the last year of the curriculum, students participate in a series of required rotations interacting with patients and clients in the veterinary teaching hospitals.

In addition to core clinical rotations, students may elect to take rotations such as oncology, cardiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, ambulatory, neurology, orthopedic surgery and practice management. Students may also participate in externships at a variety of locations. Some students choose to work with practices in specific species such as swine, cats, birds or exotic animals. Others use the opportunity to learn more about certain disciplines such as dentistry or cardiology. Still others learn about nontraditional veterinary careers at locations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, pharmaceutical research facilities, or research facilities or zoos. A few students gain international experience during their externships.

The final portion of the veterinary curriculum is a required preceptorship. Most students spend this period with a veterinarian in clinical practice. During this time students gain supervised, hands-on experience with day-to-day veterinary medical activities.

Core Clinical Rotations

- ① Small Animal Internal Medicine
- ① Small Animal General Surgery
- ① Small Animal Community Practice
- ① Small Animal Emergency Medicine & Critical Care
- ① Diagnostic Imaging
- ① Equine Internal Medicine
- ① Equine Surgery & Sports Medicine
- ① Equine Theriogenology
- ① Dairy Production & Medicine
- ① Farm Animal Hospital
- ① Farm Animal Theriogenology
- ① Diagnostic Pathology
- ① Anesthesiology

Residency Requirements

For the purpose of assessing tuition and fees, applicants will be classified as Alabama or non-Alabama students (contract students are treated as Alabama students). Non-Alabama, non-contract students are required to pay non-resident tuition.

No person who moves to Alabama for the primary purpose of attending college shall be considered to have demonstrated intent to establish domicile in the state of Alabama and will generally not be considered eligible for classification as a resident student. For additional information or to ask specific questions, contact the Office of the Registrar at residency@auburn.edu.

Estimated Cost of Attendance

The estimated cost of attendance for a nine-month academic year is outlined below. Course fees are based on 20 semester hours per term. Although modest, these budgets are seen as adequate for the typical student. However, general spending habits will determine actual expenses. Please be aware that the estimated cost of attendance is higher for the third academic year when a third (summer) semester is required because of the year of clinical training. Students attend nine semesters during the four-year program.

EXPENSE	AL KY RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
Tuition & Fees	\$24,910	\$49,070
Books, Supplies and Insurance	\$3,371	\$3,371
Room and Board	\$13,950	\$13,950
Personal Expenses	\$2,920	\$2,920
Transportation	\$3,058	\$3,058
TOTAL	\$48,209	\$72,369

First-year DVM students are required to have a working laptop computer that meets minimum hardware and software requirements as specified by the college's IT unit. A laptop can be purchased through the College of Veterinary Medicine for approximately \$2,000 or students may choose to bring their own device.

Costs are based on the 2021/2022 academic year.

Financial Assistance and Scholarships

Scholarship opportunities are offered annually through the Office of Academic Affairs and are available to students upon completion of the first semester of study. For the 2021-2022 academic year, 51.7% of enrolled students were awarded scholarship dollars averaging \$2,648 per recipient and totaling \$691, 200.

The Auburn University Office of Student Financial Services provides assistance to students who need financial aid in order to attend the university. The amount of aid granted is based on financial need and cost of attendance as determined by the university. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine need, and all students seeking financial assistance are required to complete the FAFSA annually. Aid programs available to professional students are limited to student loans with varying interest rates (i.e., Health Professions, Federal unsubsidized loans, and the Grad PLUS loan for graduate and professional students).

Additional information can be obtained from:

Student Financial Services (334) 844-4367
 203 Martin Hall finaid7@auburn.edu
 Auburn, AL 36849 online at www.fafsa.ed.gov

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS	368 (FALL 2021)
Total dollar amount awarded	\$691,200
Number of students that received scholarships	261 / 505
Average dollar amount per recipient	\$2,648
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN PROGRAM	505
Average scholarship money per enrolled student	\$1,369
Average amount for 2nd-4th year applicant	\$2,682
Total amount for 2nd-4th year	\$673,200
Total amount for 1st years applicants	\$153.84
Total amount for 1st years	\$16,000
Scholarships awarded to underrepresented minority students	67
Money awarded to underrepresented minority students	\$105,000

Facilities





1. Greene Hall

Greene Hall serves as the main office and administrative building for the College of Veterinary Medicine. The college's library primarily serves students in the DVM and veterinary medicine graduate programs. Greene Hall also houses laboratory space and office space for faculty members.



3. Veterinary Education Center

The Veterinary Education Center, or VEC, serves as the main educational building for DVM students in years one through three of the curriculum, and includes three auditorium-style lecture rooms and 15 seminar/conference rooms connected by a walkway to the small animal teaching hospital. The Office of Academic Affairs is housed on the 2nd floor of the VEC.



2. John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital

The John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital, completed in 2005, includes examination and treatment areas, surgical suites, and critical care and radiology facilities. Adjacent to the hospital are a lameness arena, two equine barns, two food animal barns and two dairy barns.

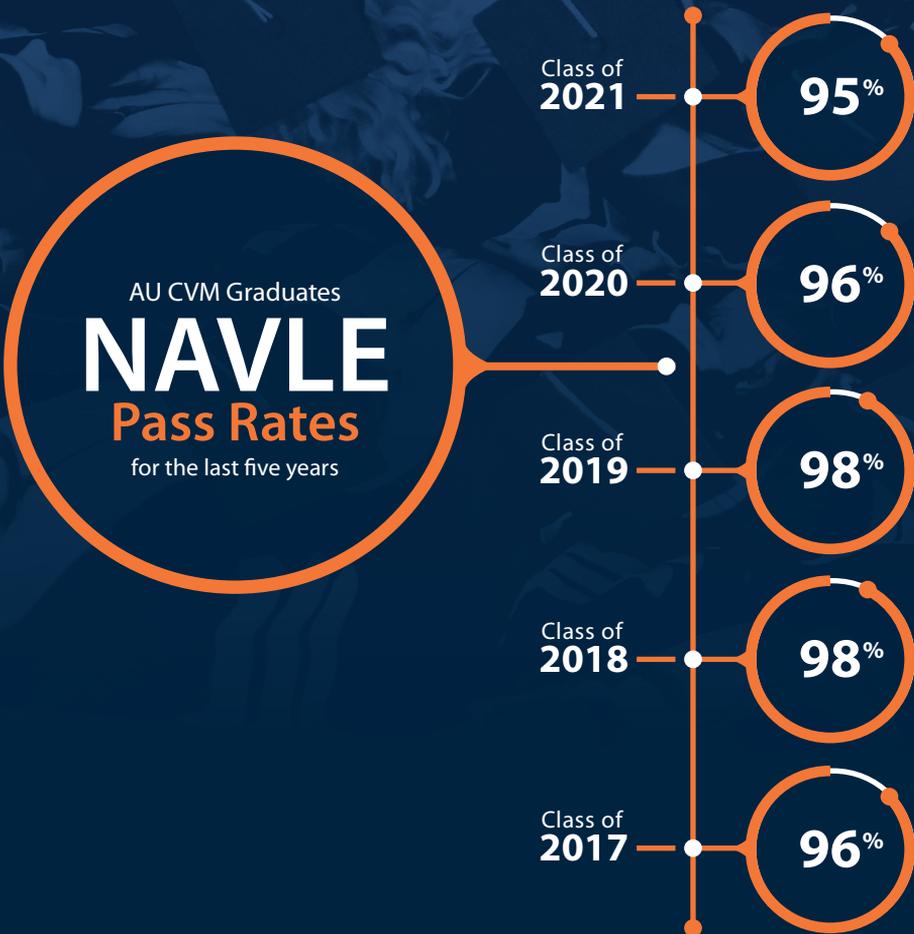


4. Wilford & Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital

Wilford & Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, completed in 2014, contains 38 exam rooms, 10 surgical suites and 208,000 square feet of hospital space.

Accreditation and NAVLE Exam

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education. To practice clinical veterinary medicine in the United States, students must pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). Auburn graduates far exceed the accrediting expectation of at least an 80% pass rate on the NAVLE.







Veterinarian's Oath

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity, and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.



CLASS OF 2021

In addition to the Auburn Creed, all Auburn-trained DVM graduates uphold the ideals of the [Veterinarian's Oath](#).



I believe in education,
which gives me the
knowledge to work
wisely and trains my
mind and my hands
to work skillfully.

– George Petrie (1943)

Excerpt from The Auburn Creed



Open House

The annual Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine open house is held in April and open to the public. Activities include exhibits, lectures, college tours and opportunities to interact with veterinary students and faculty. This is a great opportunity for prospective students to learn more about the college. For more information about open house, visit vetmed.auburn.edu/education/prospective-students/.



Visiting the College

Prospective students are encouraged to visit the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine campus for a student-led tour. Tours are conducted by appointment and must be scheduled in advance by emailing tours@vetmed.auburn.edu.





Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the Auburn DVM program accept transfer students?

A: Curricula between programs rarely align in a way that proves to be beneficial to students. As a result, the program currently does not accept transfer students.

Q: Can international students apply to the Auburn DVM program?

A: The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine does not currently accept international students into the DVM program. At this time, only U.S. citizens and permanent residents may apply.

Q: My school does not offer cell biology. Am I allowed to use a microbiology, genetics or other science course to fulfill this requirement?

A: Applicants may not use other science courses to fulfill the cell biology requirement. You may submit a detailed course syllabus to the college for review if you believe a course that you have taken or are considering taking fulfills the cell biology requirement. Only after reviewing the course syllabus can a decision be made about the course substitution. See page 11 for details about the cell biology requirement.

Q: Do you accept online courses?

A: Applicants who complete prerequisite courses through online mediums are eligible for admission. However, we strongly encourage applicants to complete science-specific prerequisite courses through traditional, in-person classroom opportunities.

Q: My school does not offer animal nutrition. May I take this course online?

A: You may take animal nutrition online or as a correspondence course.

Q: May I be considered an in-state resident for tuition purposes after living in the state of Alabama for one year?

A: There is not a process by which a student can change residency status after admission into the program. All questions concerning matters of residency should be directed to Auburn University's Office of the Registrar by sending an email to residency@auburn.edu.

Q: If I am offered a seat in the class, am I required to secure my seat with a deposit?

A: A \$500 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of acceptance. This deposit is applied to your tuition upon matriculation.

Q: Who should I contact if I have questions about specific courses or requirements that may not be outlined on the website or through VMSAR?

A: You should contact the Director of Admissions if you have specific questions about courses and/or requirements. The Director of Admissions can be reached by sending an email to admissions@vetmed.auburn.edu.



Q: Is there any benefit to submitting my VMCAS application early?

A: Applicants are encouraged to begin working on their applications as soon as the application becomes available. This will allow time for careful consideration to all areas of the application prior to submission. VMCAS encourages applicants to submit applications by August 15th to ensure each application undergoes verification in a timely manner. There is no advantage for applicants who submit applications early in the application cycle.

Notes



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Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

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