DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

2018-2019

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WHY AUBURN
Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine earned its international reputation for quality teaching, research, and clinical service through generations of caring faculty and students.

From the early work of Dr. Charles Allen Cary more than a century ago, to the development of current cutting-edge research initiatives, Auburn influences the character and scope of veterinary medicine. As the country’s seventh oldest veterinary school and the oldest in the South, Auburn is one of the nation’s premier institutions for research, teaching, diagnosis, and treatment in many specialties of small and large animal medicine.

At Auburn, students have the opportunity to work in a collaborative environment with more than 100 nationally and internationally recognized faculty to pursue needed answers to current challenges in areas such as biotechnology, oncology, critical care, genetics, infectious diseases, molecular medicine, neuroscience, gene therapy, and nanotechnology.

The ability to compassionately and effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat illness and injuries in individuals and herds is a remarkable art and science. At Auburn, we take seriously our mission of educating veterinarians for the future – to nurture animal health, to relieve animal suffering, and to translate knowledge of the animal world into real wisdom for society. We welcome all qualified and dedicated applicants who aspire to a career of service in this distinguished profession.

Dan Givens, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
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PROFESSIONAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Veterinarians are uniquely educated to deal with 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 65 percent of the 111,000 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., a small animal practitioner, an equine veterinarian, or a veterinarian who only works with 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 be contagious 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, conduct 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 domestic and international locations including Africa; Honolulu, Hawaii; Hoover, Alabama; and Horse Cave, Kentucky.
Auburn University established the department of veterinary science and physiology in 1892. Since 1909, the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (AU CVM) has graduated 6,650 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. The number of applicants varies each year. For the most current statistical data, please visit our website. Approximately 120 students are admitted to the professional program annually: 41 are Alabama residents, 38 are contract students from Kentucky through the Southern Regional Education Board contract, and 41 are non-resident/non-contract students.

Successful applicants demonstrate superior academic ability, as well as dedication to the profession evidenced by work or volunteer experience with animals. Kentucky students must provide proof of residency from their college/university or from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. All applicants must apply through the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). The application is available at www.aavmc.org.

In addition to completing the required pre-veterinary courses, students 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 they perceive demonstrate the attributes to be successful in 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.

AU CVM currently does not accept international students into its professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.
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 GPA. Students are required to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. 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 their 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.

Requirements for areas I-IV will be waived for students with a bachelor’s degree (See chart on page 9). Following are the specific pre-veterinary course requirements for admission to the program. Please note details of the professional curriculum on page 12.
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.

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

** 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.

*** Animal nutrition may be taken as an online or correspondence course. 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. You are encouraged to check the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine website each fall at [www.vetmed.auburn.edu](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu).
PRE-VETERINARY GOALS AND TIMELINE

**High School**
- Earn good grades
- Get college information for undergraduate study
- 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
- Visit the colleges where you plan to apply
- Think about a major
- Get pre-vet information
- Take SAT or ACT exam

**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 (3-4 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 to get a reality check
- Consider what you will do this 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

**College: Junior Year**
- Complete VMCAS application by September 15 (if applying after 3 years)
- Request reference letters
- Request/obtain/send transcripts
- Study/apply for/take the GRE
- Meet with pre-vet/pre-health professions advisor
- Gather information about veterinary schools
- Maintain the best GPA you can
- Begin preparing VMCAS personal statement
- 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 e-mail 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
The professional curriculum is a rigorous four-year program that provides a broad-based education. The curriculum is 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, diagnostic 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 fish 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 where they interact 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, neurology, orthopedic surgery, and practice management. Students may also participate in externships at a variety of locations. Some students go to practices specializing 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 the San Diego Zoo. A few students gain international experience during their externships.

The final portion of the veterinary curriculum is a required eight-week 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 INCLUDE:

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

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

For the purpose of assessing tuition and fees, applicants shall 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 generally will 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.
Scholarship opportunities are made available annually to veterinary students after their first semester through the Office of Academic Affairs. During the 2017-2018 academic year, 38% of enrolled students were awarded scholarship dollars averaging $5,129 per recipient and totaling over $938,000.

The Office of Student Financial Services at Auburn University 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. To determine need, Auburn University uses the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students seeking assistance are required to complete the FAFSA each year. Aid programs available to professional students are limited to student loans with varying interest rates: Health Professions, Federal unsubsidized loans, and the Grad PLUS loan for graduate and professional students.

Additional information may be obtained from:

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

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**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.

<table>
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<th>EXPENSE</th>
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<th>KY RESIDENT</th>
<th>NON-RESIDENT</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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First-year students are required to purchase a tablet notebook computer through the College of Veterinary Medicine. The cost is approximately $1,956.

*Costs are based on the 2018/2019 academic year.*
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.

Pass rates on the NAVLE for the last five years:

- Class of 2018 - 98%
- Class of 2017 - 96%
- Class of 2016 - 98%
- Class of 2015 - 99%
- Class of 2014 - 99%
In addition to the Auburn Creed, all our Auburn-trained graduates uphold the ideals of the *Veterinarian's Oath.*
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.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE COLLEGE

The college “Open House” is held annually in April. Activities include exhibits, lectures, tours of the college, and the opportunity to interact with veterinary students and faculty. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information about the upcoming Open House, please visit www.vetmed.auburn.edu/outreach.
Prospective students and their families are welcome to visit Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. Tours are led by veterinary students. Tours are conducted by appointment and must be scheduled in advance by emailing tours@vetmed.auburn.edu.

For more information about the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University,

call: (334) 844-2685
email: admissions@vetmed.auburn.edu.
visit: www.vetmed.auburn.edu