

21.7. Admissions

21.7.1. State the minimum requirements for admission.

The criteria for admission to the College of Veterinary Medicine are determined and reviewed periodically by the Dean and the Faculty Committee on Admissions. Applicants are evaluated on their academic performance, their understanding of the veterinary medical profession, their achievements, and their professional potential. The University complies with all Federal and State statutes regarding nondiscrimination.

Undergraduate candidates should be pursuing a baccalaureate degree and meeting all of the requirements and course stipulations of that program. An undergraduate degree, however, is not required for admission. Applicants must only complete prerequisite courses to fulfill academic requirements. Candidates are *required* to have a minimum of 400 hours of clinical, agribusiness/farm, health science or research experience.

Candidates are considered academically qualified for admission if they meet the minimum standards, which are:

Standard	NC Residents	Non-Residents
Cumulative GPA	3.0	3.4
Required Course GPA	3.3	3.4
Last 45 Credit Hours GPA	3.3	3.4
Graduate Record Exam	General Test	General Test

The cumulative GPA includes all college courses. The GPA for the last 45 credit hours goes back a semester at a time. If a student completed 44 credit hours in his/her final three semesters, the College of Veterinary Medicine would go back four semesters to calculate the last 45 credit hours, meaning it may actually be for 46 hours or more. Grades achieved in courses that have been repeated are averaged.

Alternative Eligibility: It is recognized that some applicants may not meet the minimum academic standards. Consideration under "Alternative Eligibility" applies only to GPA requirements and not the other admissions requirements. A subcommittee consisting of four members of the Admissions Committee reviews alternative eligibility requests. Students in this category are usually slightly below minimum standards in one GPA category. If the subcommittee feels that the applicant would significantly improve the composition of the class (e.g., unique educational, employment, or life experiences), then the applicant's folder is forwarded for review.

Standardized Test Requirement: The GRE score is the total from verbal and quantitative portions of the general test. If an applicant takes the test more than once, the highest total score is used from a single testing date, not the highest of each section. The College does not require a minimum GRE score.

Courses required for admission:	Semester Hours
Animal Nutrition (<i>new requirement for 2008 admissions cycle</i>)	3
Biochemistry	3
Biology with lab	4
Business/Finance	6
Calculus or Logic	3
Chemistry, General with labs	8
Chemistry, Organic with labs	8
Composition & Writing, Public Speaking, Communications	6/7
Genetics	3/4
Humanities/Social Sciences	6
Microbiology with lab	4
Physics with labs (must be at least a two-course series)	8
Statistics	3

Required courses must be completed with a grade of "C-" or higher. All but two of the required courses must be completed by the end of the fall semester during which the student applies. The remaining courses must be

completed in the spring semester. Required courses cannot be completed in the summer immediately preceding matriculation. Applicants offered admission must submit transcripts by July 1 showing conferral of degree, completion of required courses, or both (if applicable).

The College uses the Veterinary Medical Common Application Service (VMCAS), with an October 1 deadline date for all application materials.

21.7.2. Describe the student selection process, including measures to enhance diversity.

Subjective Review: In addition to the VMCAS application form, the College utilizes an online supplemental application form to provide an opportunity for the applicant to express relevant background information and qualifications that are not included in the VMCAS application. Supplemental application questions are changed yearly by the Admissions Committee. Questions are designed to assess the applicant's critical thinking skills, ethical reasoning and knowledge of the profession.

The selection procedure is based on both academic and non-academic criteria. The admissions committee assesses the seven criteria listed under 21.7.3.

The Director of Diversity serves on the Admissions Committee to present applicants to the committee who could significantly enhance the diversity of the profession. The Director of Diversity is also responsible for recruitment of qualified applicants that offer diversity (e.g., cultural, ethnic, gender, socioeconomic, geographic etc.) that is underrepresented in the College and veterinary profession.

Review process: Each applicant's folder is assigned to three members of the Admissions Committee for review. For each folder, one of the three reviewers is assigned to be the primary reviewer. After evaluation of the factors listed under 21.7.3, each committee member scores the entire folder using a computerized visual analogue scale. This scoring system allows reviewers to holistically evaluate applicants to the program. Reviewers can consider all aspects of an applicant's background and take into consideration unique educational, employment and life experiences, as well as perseverance through personal hardships. Numeric scores are then generated and used to determine rankings for both the non-resident and resident applicant pools.

- Non-resident Applicants: Offers are made to non-resident applicants in late December or early January. Approximately 14 non-residents accepted into each class.
- North Carolina Resident Applicants: A full-day Admissions Committee retreat takes place in early March. There are approximately 62 residents accepted into each class. Resident applicants who ranked in the top 57 are offered admission to the College without further discussion. The goal of the retreat is to discuss the 15 applicants who ranked from 58-72 (5 applicants above and 10 below the 62 available positions cut-off). The entire committee is given ample time prior to the meeting to review the folders of these applicants. Each applicant is discussed, the discussion being led by the primary reviewer, and these 15 applicants are then rescored using the same visual analogue system, by the entire committee to determine the final rankings.

Special Admissions Programs: Two scholars programs allow tracked admissions into the College. The Food Animal Scholars program is run in conjunction with the Colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and allows admission of up to six scholars per year (the average number is around two per year). The Laboratory Animal Scholars program is run in conjunction with North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (a historically black university) and provides spaces for up to two scholars per year. Any spaces filled by these scholars count toward the targeted total of 76-80 students per class.

21.7.3. List factors other than academic achievement used as admission criteria.

Veterinary Experience: Supervised experiences in three or more different areas of veterinary medicine are *highly recommended*. The work must be completed under the supervision of a veterinarian (or PhD scientist if scientific-based research). Applicants are evaluated on duration, level of duties, and diversity of the experiences.

Animal Experience: All other animal related experiences are evaluated. Like veterinary experience, animal experience is evaluated on duration with at least 100 hours or more contact time highly recommended; multiple activities of long duration are preferred. This category does not include pet ownership.

Educational Experience: Consideration is given to academic excellence, the course load per term, employment concurrent with school attendance, and participation in intercollegiate athletics. This also includes evaluation of accomplishments such as honors, awards and advanced degrees.

Evaluation Forms/Recommendations: Three recommendations are required using the VMCAS Applicant Evaluation forms and a supporting letter from the evaluator. Two must be from veterinarians or Ph.D. scientists with whom the applicant has worked. The admissions committee may contact references directly if further information or clarification is required. Applicants are asked to provide contact information for veterinarians with whom they have worked who did not provide a written VMCAS Applicant Evaluation form. These veterinarians may be contacted at the discretion of the admissions committee evaluators.

Personal Statement: Applicants are asked to write a personal statement that will allow the committee to understand:

- something about the applicant as a person,
- how the applicant's interest in veterinary medicine developed within the context of their veterinary and animal-related experiences, what prepared the applicant for a career in veterinary medicine, and their understanding of the profession, and
- the applicant's career goals and what they currently anticipate doing with a degree in veterinary medicine. Their career goals may change after their experiences within the program, but the committee would like to know what their current interests are and how they would anticipate using their training as a veterinarian.

The statement is also evaluated for maturity, written poise, originality and writing skills.

Diversity: Applicants are evaluated for the diversity they could bring to the class in terms of location and duration of North Carolina residency, unique educational, employment and life experiences, ethnicity, hardship considerations, and established/demonstrable interest in underrepresented veterinary occupations

Extracurricular and Community Activities: The level, depth of accomplishment, and leadership roles in clubs (college/university, hobby) or athletics (intramural, club), and community organizations are also considered.

21.7.4. Complete Table A.

See Appendix 7-1 for Table A.

21.7.5. Describe current plans for assessing the success of the selection process to meet the mission of the college.

With the current selection process, our attrition rate is low (less than 5%) and success rate on licensing examinations is high (see outcome assessment data). Many of our graduates are accepted into internship and residency programs (see curriculum assessment data).

The admissions committee intermittently reviews the success of the selection process. For example, in 2000 applicant interviews were discontinued as it was found that interview scores did not correlate with success in the DVM program and there was a gender bias detected in the process.