

Pre-Veterinarian Program

Mission

Veterinarian school is a post-baccalaureate program requiring an undergraduate degree for admission. The mission of the St Andrews Pre-Veterinarian program is to prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary to gain acceptance in a veterinary school of their choice and to later excel in this field as a professional. This begins with a strong foundation in the sciences, which emphasizes the theoretical, conceptual, and experimental basis of these fields. This knowledge is the cornerstone for future success in every veterinary school. In addition St Andrews cultivates the less tangible qualities and characteristics that admission officers are seeking because they ensure success in the highly challenging field of veterinary science. Through a distinctive, well-rounded liberal education, and the numerous opportunities beyond the classroom such as internships and study abroad, St Andrew students develop invaluable characteristics such as community awareness, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

Program of Study

Pre-Vet is not defined as separate field of study, nor is it restricted to a single, specific major at St Andrews. The majority of students in the pre-vet program usually major in Biology, but the completion of other majors does not exclude a student from successfully applying to a veterinary program. Students interested in becoming a veterinarian first discuss this career choice with the pre-vet advisor. They learn what the minimal and recommended requirements are for admission in a veterinary program, from course work to national exams. In consultation with the advisor, they choose a major and plan out their course work each semester to meet the goals of preparing for the specific veterinary schools of their choice, in addition to completing the major and general education requirements. Throughout their four years at St Andrews, the student will also discuss various opportunities with their advisor, such as internships, and important deadlines for national exams and applications.

Basic science courses that meet the minimal requirements for most veterinary programs:

- BIO 201 and 204 Concepts in Biology 1 & 2
- BIO 327 Genetics
- CHE 210 & CHE 210L Essential Concepts of Chemistry
- CHE 215 & CHE 215L Introduction to Structural Inorganic Chemistry
- CHE 220 & CHE 350 Introductory Organic Chemistry
- PHY 201 and 202 College Physics, or PHY 211 & 212 General Physics
- MAT 205 Statistics and/or MAT 221 Calculus

Recommended courses (may be required for certain schools):

- BIO 221 Anatomy and Physiology
- BIO 351 Mammalian Physiology
- BIO 353 Zoology
- BIO 365 Microbiology
- CHE 365 Biochemistry I: Biomolecules