

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

At the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, world leading faculty lead extraordinary programs in learning and discovery. We instruct students in a range of scientific disciplines related to health and disease control in animals. In addition to teaching foundational classes in medical topics, students are trained in clinical skills needed to diagnose and treat illness in animals.

The clinical program at NC State Veterinary Medicine provides a heavy emphasis for actual “hands-on” clinical practice and is demanding both physically and mentally. Students select “focus areas” to increase their depth of training in their intended area of post-graduate activity, while still retaining a broad based veterinary education.

Faculty also encourage and challenge students to develop the personal and professional knowledge and skills needed to serve a global community. For detailed information regarding our program, choose an area of interest from the menu on the left hand side of this page.

The Evolution of an Expert

Our goal is to prepare graduates who step into the profession with the most up-to-date veterinary medical knowledge possible, skills that prepare them to practice veterinary medicine at the top of their fields, an awareness of the veterinary issues at a local, national, and international level, and a dedication to the continued pursuit of knowledge throughout their professional lives. As such, we have built into our curriculum the following measures of success in each of these important areas:

Knowledge

A graduate will effectively use knowledge of comparative medical science in the provision of veterinary clinical care and other contexts in which veterinary medicine plays a key role. This is characterized as the ability to:

- possess and apply the knowledge needed to solve animal health problems
- locate the needed knowledge efficiently and successfully, using contemporary media and technology to access and manage information
- critically evaluate information and its sources
- integrate medical and scientific information and apply it to the solution of animal health problems

Skills

A graduate will effectively use cognitive and psychomotor skills in the practice of veterinary clinical care and other contexts in which veterinary medicine plays a key role. This will be characterized as the ability to:

- identify, define and analyze clinical problems of a diverse range of species
- identify or create processes to solve clinical problems in a diverse range of species
- interpret facts and data in the context of the clinical problems to be solved

- design preventative and therapeutic plans for common medical problems of animals and animal-human disease interactions
- perform surgical and medical procedures needed to care for veterinary patients, demonstrating acceptable standards of animal handling, pain control, sterility, instrument and device handling, tissue handling and safety
- perform imaging and other diagnostic procedures and accurately interpret obtained data used for the diagnosis and treatment of disease in animals
- use scientific methods for the investigation of problems and use research-based information in the clinical care of veterinary patients

Awareness

A graduate will effectively use awareness of local, national, international and professional communities in which he or she practices to meet the needs of society in an effective and ethical manner. This will be characterized as the ability to:

- acknowledge personal responsibility for one’s value judgments and behavior
- understand and accept social, cultural, global and environmental responsibilities, particularly as they relate to animal welfare, sustainability of animal resources, and one health
- demonstrate professionalism in the face of societal diversity, including racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic and cultural differences
- work with, manage, and lead others in ways that facilitate their contribution to the organization and the wider community
- use communication as a tool for interacting and relating to others, demonstrating patience, compassion and empathy
- make effective use of oral, written, and visual means to critique, negotiate, create and communicate understanding
- apply sound business and management principles to the organizations in which one works
- operate within the legal constraints of the society in which one lives
- exhibit truth, honesty, integrity, open-mindedness, fairness and generosity

Life-long Learning

A graduate will continuously update his or her knowledge, skills and awareness. This will be characterized as the ability to:

- be independent learners who take responsibility for their own learning and practice continuous reflection, self-evaluation and self-improvement
- critically evaluate one’s current knowledge, skills and awareness, recognizing areas for improvement
- be open to new ideas, methods and ways of thinking be able to identify processes and strategies to learn and meet new challenges
- have a personal vision and goals and be able to work towards these in a sustainable way

Applicants are evaluated on their academic performance (<https://cvm.ncsu.edu/education/dvm/admission/eligibility/>), their understanding of the veterinary medical profession, their achievements, and their professional potential.

Pre-veterinary students can pursue any undergraduate major they choose, and the required pre-professional courses can be obtained

through the curricula of a number of fields of study. An undergraduate degree, however, is not required for admission. *“Pre-vet” is not a major*; it is a track that can be chosen within a major. Popular majors for pre-professional students include animal science, poultry science, zoology, biology, biochemistry, and microbiology. Applicants must only complete prerequisite courses to fulfill academic admission requirements (<https://cvm.ncsu.edu/education/dvm/admission/faq/>).

NC STATE ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING ADVISORY TO ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2021 ADMISSIONS CYCLE:

1. **P/F grades:** NC State will allow a Pass in P/F or Satisfactory in the S/U grading systems for prerequisites completed in Spring or Summer 2020
 - courses submitted in the P/F or S/U scale will not be factored into the Required Course GPA calculation
2. **GRE:** NC State has waived the GRE General Test for the 2021 admissions cycle
 - If you have already taken the test, please do not send scores to NC State directly or to NC State via VMCAS. A decision about requiring the GRE for the 2022 admissions cycle will be made in Fall 2020.
3. **LORs:** NC State will continue to require three (3) letters of recommendations. Additionally, we still highly recommend that 2 of 3 letters come from DVMs or PhD scientists with whom you have worked.
4. **Experience Hours:** NC State will continue to require 200 hours of veterinary experience hours for the 2021 admissions cycle.

Letter grades with at least a C- or better will be required in all semesters following Spring and Summer 2020 as long as COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. **A “Pass” or “Satisfactory” grade for a prerequisite taken in Spring or Summer 2020 will be accepted in any future admissions cycle.**

Please contact the Student Services Office at dvminformation@ncsu.edu if you have any questions about these changes.

The academic professional program calls for two phases of education: a preclinical three-year phase and a clinical phase in the fourth year of training. The first through the third years of the professional program are concerned with a gradual progression from a basic science presentation to a more clinical application of veterinary science. Two summer-vacation periods are allowed in the first three years of the professional program.

- DVM Program (<http://catalog.ncsu.edu/dvm/program/>)