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 to investigate 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 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 and be able to identify processes and strategies to learn and meet new challenges.
- Have a personal vision and goals and be able to work toward these in a sustainable way.

Applicants are evaluated on their academic performance (https://cvm.ncsu.edu/academics/admissions/current-eligibility-criteria/), 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. Popular majors for pre-professional students include animal science, poultry science,

zoology, biology, biochemistry, and microbiology. *“Pre-vet” is not a major*; it is a track that can be chosen within a major.

An undergraduate degree is not required for admission. Applicants must only complete prerequisite courses to fulfill academic admission requirements (https://cvm.ncsu.edu/education/dvm/admission/faq/).

NC State CVM Admission Requirements:

**Full admission criteria may be found at* https://cvm.ncsu.edu/academics/admissions/

1. **GPA Requirements:** Resident candidates must meet a minimum GPA of a 3.0 in Cumulative GPA, Required Course GPA, and Last 45 Credit Hours GPA. Non-resident candidates must meet a minimum GPA of a 3.4 in Cumulative GPA, Required Course GPA, and Last 45 Credit Hours GPA.
2. **Experience Hours:** NC State requires a minimum of 200 hours of veterinary experience**.** The hours may be paid or voluntary and must be completed under the supervision of a veterinarian (or PhD scientist if scientific research).
3. **LORs:** Applicants must provide three (3) letters of recommendations using the VMCAS Electronic Evaluation system (eLOR). It is highly recommended that 2 of 3 letters are submitted from DVMs or PhD scientists with whom the applicant has worked.

The letter grade for a required course must be a “C-” or higher. If an applicant needs to repeat a course, he or she will have fulfilled the requirement if a “C-” or higher is achieved when the course is repeated (whether on the second or subsequent attempts). **An applicant may not wait until the fall or spring semesters of the application cycle to repeat a course that is below a “C-“.**

The GRE is no longer a requirement for admission into the DVM program

Questions may be referred to the Student Services Office at dvminformation@ncsu.edu .

Our DVM program is constructed to help students develop veterinary medical competencies in line with current competency-based educational standards.

This academic professional program is comprised of 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. Students have summer vacation after years one and two and will complete a 4 week preceptorship at the beginning of the third year. Year three leads directly into a full year of clinical training in year four.

- DVM Program (https://catalog.ncsu.edu/dvm/program/)