

**THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA**  
**PRE-HEALTH ADVISING**  
**ACADEMIC ADVISING & TRANSFER SERVICES**  
**111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375**  
[www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/](http://www.southalabama.edu/departments/academicsuccess/pre-health/)

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**  
**Auburn, Alabama**

**APPLICATION TO AUBURN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine (ACOV) welcomes applications from students with strong undergraduate records and scores on the GRE which indicate their ability to handle the rigors of veterinary school. They are seeking applicants who have a proven record of animal experience, community involvement, integrity, and strong professional skills. Approximately one hundred twenty (120) students are matriculated into the ACOVM each August. Preference is given to Alabama residents and those who reside in the contract state of Kentucky. Highly qualified out-of-state applicants are encouraged to apply and are seriously considered for admission.

Students apply one year prior to their planned start date. Generally this will occur during the summer between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of undergraduate studies. For the current application cycle all application materials (including GRE score) must be submitted to the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) by September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**STATISTICS FOR THE 2017 ACOVM ENTERING CLASS**

	IN-STATE	TOTAL
Verified Applications	90	954
Applicants Accepted	41	120
Average GPA		3.60
Average Science GPA		3.60
Average GRE		309

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ACOVM**

ACOV seeks applicants with a wide range of talents and academic backgrounds. Because of this, all majors, both science and non-science, are considered for acceptance. Although a bachelor's degree is not required for admission, the majority of successful applicants will have completed a baccalaureate degree which includes the completion of the minimum required course work with a C or better<sup>1,2</sup> (see below). Please refer to the USA Major Guides for information about course requirements for specific majors.

- General Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters<sup>3</sup>
- General Biology with Lab: Two semesters<sup>3</sup>
- Mathematics: Through pre-calculus trigonometry<sup>4</sup>
- Organic Chemistry with Lab: Two semesters<sup>3</sup>
- General Physics with Lab: One semester<sup>3</sup>
- Cell Biology: One semester<sup>3</sup>
- Biochemistry: One semester<sup>3</sup>
- Science Electives: Two semesters<sup>3,5</sup>
- Animal Nutrition: One semester (online allowed)

<sup>1</sup>ACOV waives certain admission requirements for applicants who complete a baccalaureate degree. Those students wishing to enter on a non-degree track should refer to the Admission Requirements at the ACOVM website.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. AP and IB credits will be accepted with proper denotation on the undergraduate transcript.

<sup>3</sup>All math and science courses have required prerequisites. Entrance to these courses will be based on Math ACT or SAT score and/or prior coursework.

<sup>4</sup>Completion of math courses will be dependent on Math ACT or SAT score. Completion of MA 115 or its equivalent will satisfy this requirement.

<sup>5</sup>Must be two of the following: genetics, microbiology, physics II, comparative anatomy, histology, parasitology, reproductive physiology, mammalian or animal physiology, embryology or immunology.

**RECOMMENDED ACADEMIC PLAN**

**FIRST YEAR CREDIT HOURS**

CAS 100	2
EH 101 & EH 102	6
Mathematics	3-6
CH 131/L & CH 132/L	8
BLY 121/L & BLY 122/L	8
CA 110	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30-33</b>

**SECOND YEAR**

CH 201/L & CH 202/L	8
Physics I <sup>6</sup>	4-5
PSY 120	3
BLY 301	3
Social Science	3
Courses in Major	6
English Literature	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30-31</b>

**THIRD YEAR**

Biochemistry <sup>7</sup>	3
Science Electives <sup>5</sup>	6
SY 109	3
Fine Arts	3
English Literature	3
Courses for Major/Minor	<u>12</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>

**FOURTH YEAR**

Animal Nutrition	3
History (US or Western Civilization)	3
Humanities	3
Completion of Major and Minor	
Courses required for the degree	<u>21</u>

Animal Nutrition	3
TOTAL	30

<sup>6</sup>PH 114/L or PH 201/L will satisfy this requirement.

<sup>7</sup>CH 440, BMD 321, or BLY 440 will satisfy this requirement.

### **GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE)**

In addition to maintaining a strong GPA, completing required coursework, and observing a licensed veterinarian, students will need to take the GRE. Students should plan on taking the GRE during their third year. The GRE is composed of three sections: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. The Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning sections are each scored on a 130-170 scale in one-point increments. The Analytical Writing section is scored on a 0-6 scale in half-point increments. The Educational Testing Service website (ets.org) contains useful information on preparing for and taking the GRE.

### **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

ACOVN requires three letters of recommendation as part of the application package. One must be from a veterinarian. The other two should come from an employer (may be a second veterinarian) and from a professor or advisor who is familiar with the student's academic work.

### **PRE-VET PROGRAM**

Pre-Health Advising is dedicated to helping students succeed as they work towards a graduate education in veterinary medicine. Pre-health advisors are available to help students craft a workable plan by providing structure, guidance and information about University and Pre-Vet resources.

### **CHOOSING A MAJOR**

There is no perfect "pre-vet" major at the University of South Alabama. A student can major in any subject area and apply to veterinary medical school. If the desired career path changes students need to be in a major that will allow them opportunities for success. Academic and Pre-Health advisors work together to help students with the coordination of courses for both the major and vet school.

### **IMPORTANCE OF GPA**

Veterinary medical schools require students to provide their academic GPA which includes all grades earned at any institute of higher learning and dual enrollment. ACOVM calculates four GPAs during the evaluation process: an overall GPA including all course work; a science GPA which will include the 2 science electives; a GPA combining organic chemistry, biochemistry and physics; and a trend GPA which includes the most recent 60 credit hours completed. The average GPA of those students who are accepted into a veterinary medical school program is 3.6 (2017-2018 application cycle). The average science GPA of accepted students is 3.5 (2017-2018 application cycle).

### **SHADOWING AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

Veterinary medical schools desire students with diverse backgrounds and experiences, strong GPAs (especially in math and sciences), sustained volunteer activities, leadership skills, and especially shadowing or experience in veterinary medicine. Applicants are evaluated based on academic record, GRE score, and experience. In addition to excellent academics and community service, successful applicants must have extensive work or volunteer experience with animals under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Currently, a minimum of

500 hours of experience is necessary to be considered for admission to ACOVM.

Pre-vet students are entering fields with very strong and well established service orientations. Students need to get involved in service at the start of their college career. There are volunteer activities that one can participate in during the semester as well as during the summer break. Veterinarians will be part of a team as a health professional, and one way to learn how to be part of a team is to get involved and develop leadership skills.

Students also need to be culturally aware and actively pursue experiences that allow them to learn about themselves and others even if those experiences take them out of their comfort area. It is important for pre-vet students to choose experiences that will allow them to stand out, demonstrate their value, and enable them to work with diverse populations at home and abroad.

### **ALPHA EPSILON DELTA (AED)**

Alpha Epsilon Delta (AED) is the national honor society for pre-health students. The University of South Alabama has a very active AED chapter, Alabama Zeta. In addition to providing service activities for pre-health students, health care professionals and professional school admissions officers present at bi-monthly meetings. All pre-health students are encouraged to become actively involved in the University's chapter of AED. In order to become a national member, students must have a minimum 3.2 GPA and have been a local member of the Zeta chapter for three consecutive semesters.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

University of South Alabama  
Pre-Health Advising  
Academic Advising & Transfer Services  
111 Jaguar Drive, Suite 1375  
Mobile, AL 36688  
(251) 445-9280  
prehealth@southalabama.edu

Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Office of Academic Affairs  
217 Veterinary Education Center  
Auburn, AL 36849-5536  
(334) 844-2685  
admissions@vetmed.auburn.edu

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
(AAVMC)  
<https://www.aavmc.org>