

<p><b>Pre-Vet</b></p>	<p><b>Coursework:</b> Courses required for Vet school vary. Be sure to check out program requirements directly:  JWU courses: <a href="https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e3751761-e886-4610-ab58-d5a86f1f47d2">https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/track?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:e3751761-e886-4610-ab58-d5a86f1f47d2</a> Each  DVM school: <a href="https://www.aavmc.org/assets/Site_18/files/VMCAS/VMCASprereqchart.pdf">https://www.aavmc.org/assets/Site_18/files/VMCAS/VMCASprereqchart.pdf</a>  <b>Shadowing:</b> Prior to holiday breaks, contact any veterinary contacts you may have ask about possibility of shadowing. Shoot for at least 50+ hours. Document time with providers (see FAQ #4).  <b>Experience with Animal Care:</b> Vet schools require a lot of experience with animal care, ranging from 500 to more than 1000+ hours for successful entry! Be sure to ask questions and demonstrate your curiosity as vets will often train you in more skills if they see you are eager to learn. In addition to working at veterinary offices as an assistant, you can also count volunteer/work with animals in vet hospitals, clinics, shelters, zoos and aquariums, educational outreach, environmental outreach organizations in which animal care is part of your work. You can also often count work at pet stores, pet boarding/day care, pet sitting/walking. Keep track of hours worked! See FAQ# 4  <b>Volunteering:</b> Service in just about any capacity is encouraged in addition to working with animals as you will also need to demonstrate you are good with animal owners! Food pantries, online crisis counseling, tutoring, etc.. Keep track of hours! See FAQ #4  <b>Scientific Research:</b> Not required, but a good thing to do is to take part in any scientific research project you can. Undergraduate research opportunities are often available within your major (advertised when they become available) or contact researchers in your area via email prior to your summer break and volunteer as unpaid help to get your foot in the door. Also, you can look into programs listed under “Get Experience” at AMCAS.org or with JWU Experiential Learning as part of an internship. These need to be organized ahead of time but are great additions to your resume. They may lead to paid positions down the road.  <b>Standardized Test:</b> Start thinking about which tests (GRE often, MCAT sometimes) are required for the schools you will be applying to, researching what the test encompasses, when/how often you can take the exam, scores needed for acceptance into. GRE and MCAT review courses (ie. Magoosh for GRE, Kaplan &amp; Princeton Review for GRE or MCAT) are definitely helpful, but expensive! If you are trying to get accepted directly after college, start studying early!  <b>Programs:</b> Look into programs within &amp; outside the US. (see FAQ #7 &amp; 8 for more details).</p>	<p><b>Application Process:</b>  <b>Begin ~ 2 years before hope to begin vet school</b>  (see FAQ #6)</p> <p><b>Standardized Tests:</b> Study ~3-6 months and take it in late winter/early spring. Leave yourself time to re-take it in late spring/summer before you submit applications!</p> <p><b>AVMCAS application:</b>  Submit early, June to July year before.  * Take help from writing tutors/faculty on personal statements!</p> <p><b>Request Recommendations once complete application:</b>  3+, 2 science, 1 non-science, possible one other, see VMCAS</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> Winter/spring before classes begin in Summer/Fall usually. Prep ahead of time with faculty/experiential learning.</p>
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### IMPORTANT Pre-Vet FAQs:

1. Science mastery and grades, especially the BCPs (Biology [BIO], Chemistry [CHM], and Physics [PHY] courses) should be strong as possible in order to be competitive for any of these programs! Take advantage of tutoring & consider re-taking a course if grade less than/equal to a C, especially in the core sciences.
2. Please be aware that ALL collegiate grades will be counted when you applied (even if you re-take a course) and will be converted to standardized system which adjusts your JWU GPA slightly (ex. B+ at JWU = 3.5 → adjusted standardized system B+ = 3.3).
3. The average adjusted overall GPA (see 1 & 2) for veterinary school admissions is 3.54, & US acceptance rate is ~ 10% - 15% (as of 2019). To determine yours, MAKE A COPY, follow instructions, & save a copy for your records: <https://1drv.ms/x/s!Ak5n0wrbFYysg4Ff52Yr8vziv-huAw?e=crPGbl>
4. Keep log on your computer of your experiences, including names of persons you work with as you will need to document your experience later in your application.
5. Animal contact work, volunteer, and research projects may serve as Internship credit and help get you closer to graduation while gaining experience. Contact Experiential Learning to discuss this option – usually as you near junior year academic status or thereafter.
6. Most accepted students have taken one to several gap years in order to improve their applications, gain experience, and save up money before actually applying. Average age of acceptance in 2019 was 24 years of age.
7. State, public vet schools are most affordable & best chance of acceptance for in-state residents. Rhode Island does NOT have a state vet school nor any agreement with nearby schools (to my knowledge/extensive searches) unfortunately. Your state of residence is the one in which you are claimed by parent/guardian or file as an independent on income taxes, not necessarily where you live, sometimes an issue with divorced parents. Some forward-thinking students move to states with state, public vet schools to establish residency in those states as an independent for 1-2 years (ie. no parent/custodian claiming you as a dependent on taxes for that year, set up banking/license in that state) before applying.
8. Be sure to look at a wide variety of schools, even internationally. If your testing/grades are slightly lower than desired, consider re-taking courses. Also, some students have looked to the Caribbean schools with great success but be wary of non-accredited programs or high costs. Some schools offer early acceptance to exceptionally qualified students. In-state, public schools are often most affordable and best chance of acceptance.
9. GRE accepted scores vary by school. A good goal is > 50% on both the Quantitative & Verbal. To set up testing: [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/register/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/)
10. If you are not a strong candidate by graduation, some students continue to take courses (or re-take) through accredited programs. If taking online, check that the schools you plan to apply to accept those credits. Some students also go into post-bac vet programs (often expensive) that are designed to give experience, help with GRE testing, and take classes; some give promises of interviews at their vet school upon successful completion. One example of many can be found by searching “Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Northeastern.” Some students opt to go into masters or other graduate programs in some relevant field to gain courses and experience.
11. Need more coursework for Pre-Reqs:  
If you require additional coursework while an undergraduate yet not required for your major for graduation, consider minoring in Chemistry at JWU <https://catalog.jwu.edu/programsofstudy/arts-sciences/chemistry-minor/>; all of the required Chemistry will then be part of your degree and usually encompassed by financial aid. Some students opt to double major in Biology.  
If you require additional coursework after you have graduated, consider a pre-medical certification or post-bac medical program. JWU’s can be found at <https://catalog.jwu.edu/programsofstudy/arts-sciences/postbaccalaureate-pre-medical-pre-health-professions-program-nondeg/providence-ce/>