Planning Guide for Admission to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program 2003-2004

Introduction The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (DVM) is a rigorous four-year professional program preceded by three to four years of pre-professional study. During the first three years of the DVM program, students focus on the study of the normal animal, the pathogenesis of diseases and the prevention, alleviation and clinical therapy of diseases. The DVM program concludes with fourteen months of clinical rotations in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital during which time students learn methods of veterinary care and develop skills needed for professional practice. The fourth year includes ten weeks of externship experiences at off-campus sites of the student's choice. Critical to the selection of a career in Veterinary Medicine is the individual's love, concern and compassion for animals.

High School Preparation High school students considering a career in veterinary medicine should pursue a strong background in high school science courses, especially in biology and chemistry. A foundation in mathematics and physics is also helpful as students enter their pre-professional studies in college. High school students are also encouraged to become familiar with the veterinary profession by seeking experiences with practicing veterinarians and broadening their experiences with a variety of animal species. These experiences might include volunteering at a veterinary clinic or animal shelter.

Pre-Veterinary Studies Pre-Veterinary studies include required courses in chemistry, biology, physics, math, English composition and liberal education. Please see the listing of specific requirements enclosed. Students may pursue their Pre-Veterinary studies at any accredited college or university and pursue any undergraduate major. Many community and junior colleges offer the majority of courses required with the possible exception of some of the more advanced science courses such as genetics and biochemistry. Although a Bachelor's degree is not required for admission to the DVM program, approximately 70% of the students entering the program each year have completed their Bachelor's degree. The most common majors of students entering the DVM program are biology and agriculture but include a variety of majors including engineering, business administration, history and music to name a few.

Pre-Veterinary Studies at the University of Minnesota The four primary college units at the University of Minnesota that serve as Pre-Veterinary programs include the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Natural Resources and the College of Biological Sciences. Students who are planning to take only a limited number of courses at the University of Minnesota to complete their requirements may also enroll in the College of Continuing Education (evening classes). Below are the phone numbers for these offices:

Undergraduate Admissions 612-625-2008
240 Williamson Hall, Minneapolis Campus
Web: http://admissions.tc.umn.edu
College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences 612-624-3045
190 Coffey Hall, St. Paul Campus
Web: http://www.agri.umn.edu
College of Biological Sciences 612-624-9717
223 Snyder Hall, St. Paul Campus
Web: http://biosci.cbs.umn.edu
College of Liberal Arts 612-624-6044
B-18 Johnston Hall Minneapolis Campus
Web: http://www.cla.umn.edu/class/natsci/
College of Natural Resources 612-624-6768
235 Nat. Resources Adm., St. Paul Campus
Web: http://www.cnr.umn.edu
College of Continuing Education
Information 612-624-4000
Catalog Request 612-624-2388
101 Wesbrook, Minneapolis Campus
Web: http://www.cce.umn.edu

Campus Visits A special information seminar and tour are held the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month beginning at 1:30 p.m. These sessions are intended for any prospective student, including high school students, thinking about a career in Veterinary Medicine. Please call 612-624-4747 to confirm the date and reserve a space at the seminar. Information sessions are held in the Student Affairs Office, Room 460 of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital on the St. Paul campus of the University. Individual appointments can also be arranged.

Open House Another excellent opportunity to learn about careers in Veterinary Medicine is during the annual Open House. The Open House is sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association and will be held on Sunday, April 4, 2004 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Open House includes a variety of exhibits, demonstrations and seminars for people of all ages. Everyone is welcome and no reservation is needed.

Who May Apply for Admission to the DVM Program? Residents of all states are considered for admission. Priority for admission is given to residents of Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota and Manitoba, Canada. Residency for admission purposes is determined by the Office of the Registrar-St. Paul & must be established by the application process.
deadline for admission, October 1. Applicants must have lived in Minnesota one calendar year prior to the application deadline (as a non-student) to be eligible to submit an application for residency status. Applicants from all other states will be considered for approximately 1/3 of the seats in the class. Citizens of other countries will be considered for admission to the DVM program if their Pre-Veterinary coursework has been taken at an accredited U.S. college or university. International students should contact the Office of Student Affairs regarding specific application guidelines.

**Minority and Disadvantaged Students** Members of racial/ethnic minority groups and disadvantaged students are encouraged to apply for admission, regardless of residency. The College maintains no minority quota and requires that all applicants be evaluated by the same selection criteria and meet the same standards for admission as other applicants.

**Application Deadlines** The application deadline for the University of Minnesota DVM program is **October 1** each year (almost a full year in advance of your anticipated start date). The University of Minnesota is a part of the national Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS). The VMCAS program allows students to use the same application materials for any college of veterinary medicine that is a part of the service.

VMCAS web site [http://aavmc.org](http://aavmc.org) and click on VMCAS or [https://www.vmcas.org](https://www.vmcas.org)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the Web application. The Web application is available beginning June 1st of each year. Students not having access to the Web may request a paper application by writing VMCAS at 1101 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 710, Washington, DC 20005.

**Evaluation of Applicants** The current evaluation is includes **Academic Measures, Non-Academic Measures** and a **Behavioral Interview**. The Academic Measures include: 1) GPA in required Pre-Veterinary classes, 2) GPA on most recent 45 semester credits of coursework, and 3) results of the General Examinations of the Graduate Record Examination. Non-Academic Measures include: 1) Knowledge of the veterinary profession and experience with animals and 2) Maturity and reliability of the individual (work experience, community involvement, extra curricular activities and three personal references). Students meeting a specific score on the Academic and Non-Academic portions of the evaluation will be invited to campus for an interview. Scores from the non-academic section and the interview will determine admission to the program.

**Required Coursework** Your grade point average is calculated on courses required for admission. All required courses must be evaluated with the letter grading system (A-F) unless the course is only offered (S-N) or pass-fail. Exemption from courses is honored including AP and CLEP credits. Substitution of advanced courses and experience are not normally allowed. Required courses need not be completed by the application deadline (October 1st) but must be completed by the end of spring term prior to fall semester admission to the DVM program. Summer school classes (prior to fall semester enrollment in the DVM program) may not be used to complete required Pre-Veterinary courses. Students granted admission with courses in progress will be granted provisional acceptance and must complete all remaining courses with a grade of "C" or better by the end of spring term.

**Repeated Coursework** If you repeat a **required** course to improve your grade at the same or another institution, the first and second grades will be averaged together if it has been less than three years since the course was taken the first time. If it has been three or more years since the course was first taken, only the second grade will be used in the evaluation.

**Recent Coursework** This GPA is calculated on the most recent 45 semester credits or 60 quarter credits through summer term of the year in which the application is submitted, whether or not the recent courses are those required for admission. The most recent GPA calculation includes all graded courses (including repeated courses) taken over the last 45 semester hours or 60 quarter hours. Grades for the entire term in which the 45th semester credit falls are used when calculating the average.

Policy change – Fall term grades will NOT be included in the calculation of your required course GPA or your recent GPA calculation.

**GRE General Test** The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test is required for admission. You will need to obtain the annual GRE Information and Registration Bulletin, a free publication, from your College's testing center or by writing Graduate Record Examinations, P.O. Box 6000, Princeton, NJ 08541-6000, or visit their web site at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org). The GRE is available only through the computer-based testing (CBT) program. Beginning with fall 2004 admission, the new version of the GRE (available after October 1, 2002) which includes the analytical writing section, will be required and all three sections of the new GRE will be used in the evaluation. Applicants who have taken both the old and new version may use Verbal and
Quantitative section scores from the old version of the GRE if those scores are higher than those on the new version and have been taken since September 1998.

**Official score reports must be sent to the U of Minnesota, St. Paul, College of Veterinary Medicine, Code # 6904**

**Policy Change – GRE results for Fall 2004 admission must be received by our office by the general application deadline of October 1, 2003.**

For U of MN, Twin Cities Campus students, the University Counseling & Consulting Services (612-624-3323) offers individual appointments for test-taking and relaxation techniques. The College of Continuing Education offers GRE preparation courses. Many commercial vendors also offer similar programs.

**Letters of Evaluation** Letters of evaluation are very important and provide very useful information in assessing the quality of your animal and veterinary medical experience, as well as your maturity and reliability. These letters should be from people who know you well and who are in some position to evaluate character and work habits. At least one letter should come from a veterinarian who can document your veterinary experience. Other choices include employers or people with whom you have volunteered, instructors, counselors who know you well, or members of the community.

**Non-Academic Measures** This portion of the application is divided into two sections:

1) **Knowledge of the Profession and Experience with Animals** - This part of the application details the applicant's experiences with veterinarians and experiences with and responsibility for the care and management of animals.

2) **Maturity and Reliability** - This portion takes into consideration the applicant's work experience, leadership skills, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

**Interviews and Processing Fee** Students meeting the minimum criteria on the academic and non-academic sections of the evaluation will be invited to campus for an interview. Interview invitations will be extended in late fall. A $50 University of Minnesota processing fee will be required of all applicants. Students not submitting the processing fee will not have the non-academic portion of their application reviewed and will not be eligible for an interview. A supplemental application is no longer required by the University of Minnesota. Re-applicants have no priority in admission, nor are they at any disadvantage.

**Delayed Admission** Admitted students may delay entry into the program. Once you are offered admission you may request a one-year deferment. If the Admissions Committee approves the reason(s) for deferment, a place is reserved in the next class.

**The Twin Cities and St. Paul Campus Community**

The College of Veterinary Medicine is located on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. The St. Paul campus is located in the heart of the Twin Cities metropolitan area equal distance from the two downtown areas. About 4,000 of the 40,000 University of Minnesota students are enrolled in one of the five college units on the St. Paul campus. The Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul has a combined population of approximately 2.5 million people and represents one of the largest metropolitan areas where a College of Veterinary Medicine is located. The Twin Cities is a cultural center for the region, abounds with outdoor recreational opportunities within easy driving distance, and is repeatedly cited as one of the most livable metropolitan areas in the nation.

**Tuition and Fees 2003-04 (per academic year)**
(Tuition figures subject to change)

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<th>Category</th>
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(* MN, ND, SD & MB residents)

**Financial Aid and Scholarships** Loans for first year students are administered by the Office of Student Finance at the University of Minnesota, 210 Fraser Hall, 106 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, 612-624-1665. Federal Ford Loans ($8500 per year limit) and Health Professions Loans (amount determined by needs analysis) are the major sources of funding. The University of Minnesota utilizes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as its needs analysis form. FAFSA forms are available after January 1st each year. The code # for the University of Minnesota is 003969. Scholarships to veterinary students are primarily made in the third and fourth year of the program.

**More Information** Please call, write or e-mail:
Office of Student Affairs and Admissions
460 VTH, 1365 Gortner Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 612-624-4747
E-Mail: dvminfo@umn.edu
Web: www.cvm.umn.edu

This publication is available in alternative formats. Please call the Director of Student Affairs & Admissions at 612-624-4747 for assistance.

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