



Pathway to Veterinary School

BS in Biology

A BS in Biology from Young Harris offers all prerequisite courses typically required to apply to veterinary school. Graduates will also benefit by meeting additional qualifications. This pathway details the steps to take in developing a competitive resume and application, based on the observations of faculty who have successfully mentored accepted students. Please note that these requirements and recommendations are based on those of veterinary programs in Georgia and the region.

Recommendations for admission to veterinary schools:

- Additional hours of veterinary experiences (shadowing) that significantly exceed the minimum hours for application
- A diversity of experiences (e.g. small and large animal vets, zoo internships, lab research)
- Undergraduate research experience
- Leadership experiences and community involvement
- Demonstrated written and verbal communication

For more information on opportunities within the B.S. in Biology program, contact Department Chair Dr. Andrea Kwiatkowski (alkwiakowski@yhc.edu) or visit www.yhc.edu/academics/math-science/biology.

Common prerequisites for admission to veterinary schools:

- One year of General Biology courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One year of General Chemistry and one year of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
- One year of Physics courses with 2 semesters of labs
- One academic year of English courses
- 14 hours of humanities or social sciences such as psychology, sociology, philosophy, history, government, foreign languages, fine arts, or economics
- Advanced courses in biology such as Comparative Anatomy, Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Immunology, Microbiology, and Genetics
- Letters of recommendation with at least one letter completed by a veterinarian
- Recent GRE score, typically completed by the fall of the year of application
- A strong GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Shadowing experience under direct supervision of a veterinarian

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Freshman (1st) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 1107 Introductory Biology I
- BIOL 1108 Introductory Biology II
- CHEM 1211 General Chemistry I
- CHEM 1212 General Chemistry II
- ENGL 1101 Composition I
- ENGL 1102 Composition and Literature
- Coursework in the humanities and social sciences*

Summer: Begin collecting relevant experience. This can include volunteering at veterinary clinics and animal shelters, shadowing veterinarians, and summer internships and fellowships.

Junior (3rd) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 3101 Genetics
- BIOL 3102 Cell Biology
- CHEM 4115 Biochemistry
- Coursework in the humanities and social sciences*
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered**

Spring: Complete GRE exam in spring prior to submission of application. Apply to summer internships and fellowships. Begin completing the application for admission to veterinary schools. Solicit letters of recommendations from faculty and at least one veterinarian.

Summer: Submit veterinary school application. Continue shadowing to gain veterinary experience, perhaps shadowing different vets to diversify experience.

Sophomore (2nd) Year Recommended Courses

- CHEM 2211 Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 2212 Organic Chemistry II
- STAT 2000 Elementary Statistics
- PHYS 2111 University Physics I
- PHYS 2112 University Physics II
- Coursework in the humanities and social sciences*

Spring: Apply to summer internships and fellowship. Application deadlines are often in January and February, and often require a letter of recommendation from faculty.
Summer: Participate in a summer internship or fellowship or continue volunteering and shadowing at a veterinary clinic.

Senior (4th) Year Recommended Courses

- BIOL 4980 Independent Research
- BIOL 4990 Senior Research Capstone
- Additional BIOL coursework as offered**

Fall: Conduct independent research project with faculty.
Spring: Begin planning for a possible gap year before admission into veterinary school. Apply to internships and fellowships seeking graduating seniors. Pursue licensing as a veterinary technician. Set up shadowing to gain further veterinary experiences.
Summer: Collect additional experience through shadowing, volunteering, internships, lab assistant positions, etc. Reapply to veterinary schools according to application deadlines.

*Can include courses in psychology, sociology, philosophy, history, government, foreign languages, economics, or fine arts.

**Many BIOL 3000+ courses are offered once every two years. Students should enroll in any relevant course when offered during the junior and senior years.