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## Pre-Vet Frequently Asked Questions



1. **Q:** Is pre-vet a major?

**A:** The Department of Animal Science offers a pre-vet option for students majoring in Animal Science and this can be viewed at:

<http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/handbook/optionprevet.pdf>

This plan of study is designed to meet the entrance requirements of veterinary schools in the U.S. and abroad, and provides opportunities for valuable “hands-on” experience with animals. A student can major in any discipline, and as long as the entrance requirements for veterinary school are met, the student could be admitted to veterinary school. However, without animal experience, acceptance into vet school is more difficult. To help students get this important animal experience, our program provides many opportunities in the classroom, laboratories, independent study and internships to “learn by doing”. We have a solid record of success with our undergraduate students that persist in their goal of gaining admission into veterinary school.

2. **Q:** In addition to enrolling in an appropriate plan of study what else is necessary to gain admission to vet-school?

**A1:** College students must perform well in coursework (i.e.- get good grades) and obtain practical experience with animals. This could be under the direction of a veterinarian, in a research lab or working in one of our animal units.

**A2:** Some schools require GRE, so individual vet schools need to be consulted.

3. **Q:** How does the UConn Animal Science major help me meet these additional requirements?

**A:** Through 2 major strengths:

1. Academic success –

The Department of Animal Science has a strong commitment to undergraduate education including advising and teaching. All faculty and staff get to know their students/advisees on a first-name basis and are readily accessible for consultation. This open approach provides students with the opportunity to “keep on track” with their academic pursuits.

This commitment to undergraduate education by our faculty has been recognized with the following awards during the past five years:

UCANRAA Outstanding Staff Award  
UCANRAA Excellence in Teaching Award  
CANR Research Excellence Award  
Kinsman Teaching Excellence Award

First Year Experience Teaching Award  
Extension Award of Merit  
USDA Teaching Fellow  
University Teaching Fellow

## 2. Experience with Animals –

All Animal Science majors benefit from the most extensive domestic animal facilities in New England (<http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/handbook/labs.htm>).

Specifically, we have facilities that house dairy, beef cattle, sheep, swine, horses and poultry. Most importantly, the barns are only a short 5 to 10 minute walk from the George White Building (home of the Department of Animal Science). This provides unparalleled opportunities for students to gain important hands-on experience in formal class work, undergraduate research, or as part-time employees at the barns without needing a car on campus.

4. **Q:** What if I start out as a pre-vet major but change my mind along the way and decide against applying to vet school, what else does the animal science major train me for?

**A:** There are many, many employment opportunities available to students that graduate with a B.S. in animal science. Some examples are listed at <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/handbook/empop.htm>, and firms that employ animal science graduates are listed at <http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/handbook/firms.htm>.

5. **Q:** How many pre-vet students in the animal science major gain admission to veterinary school annually?

**A:** The number of students varies from year to year depending on the number that actually apply. Those students in our program that have good grades in their courses and the required courses for vet school, and have a good record of animal experience typically are accepted into vet school in their first year of eligibility.

6. **Q:** What classes should I take in high school to prepare myself for the pre-vet option?

**A:** Take as many science and math courses as your school allows, these can include biology, chemistry, physics, physiology, algebra, trigonometry and calculus. In addition, take courses that provide writing experience and also take at least three years of one foreign language. In general, the better the academic background a student has, the better prepared they are for classes at UConn.

6b. **Q:** Do Advanced Placement (AP) classes help?

**A:** Yes, AP classes in almost any subject help. Taking AP classes in the kinds of classes listed above will provide you with an excellent background in those subjects. AP classes in other subjects, such as history, language, and English will also give you good background for general education classes at

UConn. Achieving a good score on AP tests can allow you to meet specific course credits at UConn, and allow for greater flexibility in course scheduling. A word of caution...some veterinary programs do not accept AP credit in required courses. If you pass the AP exam, check with your prevet advisor to determine if accepting the AP credit is appropriate for you.

7. **Q:** Does UConn have contracts with any vet schools?

**A:** No, UConn and the Connecticut State legislature have decided not to have contracts with specific veterinary schools. Although this option is not available, our students have the flexibility to apply to a greater variety and number of veterinary schools, which in the long run improves their opportunities for acceptance into a veterinary program. It is important to understand that contracts typically are awarded to residents of a specific state and not for attendance at a specific University.

8. **Q:** Does UConn have a vet school?

**A:** There is no college/school of veterinary medicine in the state of Connecticut. The only veterinary school in New England is at Tufts University.

9. **Q:** Does the University offer a vet tech program?

**A:** No, UConn does not offer a program leading to certification as a veterinary technician. Typically vet tech programs are two-year associate degree programs. However, many of our students work as veterinary technicians while pursuing their degree and some get full-time jobs after they complete their Animal Science degree. In many cases veterinarians are seeking employees that have broad-based animal backgrounds with knowledge in animal management, physiology, nutrition, and health and disease. The Animal Science program offers students the opportunities to get this background.

If you have questions regarding our Animal Science program that are not addressed on this page, you can contact Dr. Robert Milvae, prevet advisor, at [rmilvae@canr.uconn.edu](mailto:rmilvae@canr.uconn.edu) or Dr. Sheila Andrew at [sandrew@canr.uconn.edu](mailto:sandrew@canr.uconn.edu).

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