

Getting Accepted to Veterinary School

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Introduction:

Veterinary School is very hard to get into. Good grades, a high GRE score, and field experience are required to even be considered. There is no degree requirement to get in, but there are a number of classes an individual must take in order to get in.

Beyond the numbers, Veterinary schools also look into who the individual is through a written personal statement and a personal interview. The interviews are only given to likely candidates for acceptance.

Results:

Part 1:

Western University was used to represent private schools, as it is the one most applied to by students in the area. It has a statistically significant lower average GPA than state schools. This GPA average is 3.37 compared to the average for state schools of around 3.60.

Most schools had an average of around 1160 for GRE scores, including the private school.

State funded schools have a lower tuition price for those who have residency in their state or are sponsored by some other state. Due to this, state schools accept mostly residents of their own state.

The average for the veterinary schools for instate and out of state admissions shows in state applicants are preferred. (See pie chart). Considering the number of in state applicants was lower than the number of out of state applicants for these schools this fact is even more clear.

Part 3:

All but 2 of the acceptees from Cal Poly Pomona had GPA's at or above the average. Those who were below the GPA average had GRE scores at the average.

Statistically, men seem to have an advantage to getting into veterinary school, as they are able to get into tougher schools with lower GPA's.

The applicants all prepared for the GRE through using practice books. The main form of interview preparation was reviewing previous interview questions, and relaxing.

Statistical Data of Veterinary School Admissions

School	Applications	Admissions	Avg. GPA	Avg. Science GPA	Avg. GRE	Instate residency [^]	Out of State	Avg. Age	Male	Female
Colorado State	1756	139	3.6	N/A	1162	107	32 (23%)	25	21	118
Iowa State*	N/A	120	3.56	3.40	1140	57	63 (52.5%)	23.4	27	93
Kansas State	1203	119	N/A	3.5	1174	52	67 (56.3%)	23	31	88
Louisiana State	674	87	3.78	N/A	1161	59	28 (32.2%)	23.2	24	63
Ohio State	999	140	3.6	N/A	1248	98	42 (30%)	24	42	98
Oklahoma State	478	82	3.58	3.59	1123	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	69
UC Davis	1067	133	3.48	3.33	1304	128	5 (3.76%)	24	25	108
University of Missouri	806	119	3.74	N/A	N/A	60	59 (49.6%)	23	28	91
Washington State	940	99	3.65	3.58	1131	84	15 (15.2%)	24.5	26	73
Western University	753	105	3.37	3.33	1137	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	82
Avg. of Schools	964	114	3.60	3.46	1176	84	39 (34.2%)	24	26	88

* for class of 2010, class of 2014 statistics unavailable.
[^] Actual and sponsored residents(e.g. WICHE)

Purpose:

This research was conducted in three parts.

The first part was to determine the statistics of individuals who get accepted.

The second part was to find out what Veterinary Schools look for in individuals other than the numbers they have behind them.

The third part was to see how real applicants from Cal Poly Pomona fit into the average.

The research is intended to provide pre-veterinary students with a guideline for competitiveness and where they should apply

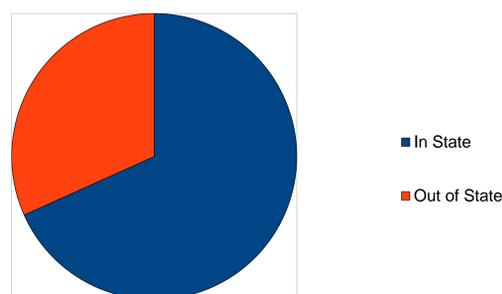
Procedure:

For the first step, I gathered statistical data from 10 different schools. This data included the number of applicants, those who were accepted, and what their grades and other scores were.

For the second step, I sent a survey via e-mail to the same veterinary schools. This survey was written to determine which qualities veterinary schools look for when deciding if an applicant will be admitted. It also had a portion for the contact to write some advice for personal statements and interviews.

In the third step, I sent a survey to Cal Poly Pomona Pre-Vet Students who got into veterinary school. This survey was to see how closely the students who got in fit into the average statistics for different veterinary schools.

Admissions to Veterinary School Based on Residency



Part 2:

Oklahoma State's advice was as follows:

"Make sure you contact each individual CVM you will be applying to in order to find out their specific pre-vet course requirements. Each vet school is a little different. What works for one will not work for all. A 'pre-vet' degree is not equivalent to what each CVM wants."

– Dr. Katrina Meinkoth

And Ohio State gives this advice:

"In all things you do, know why you are doing them. Research the profession fully so you understand all the career paths and how veterinary medicine serves society. Spend time reflecting on how this fits with your personality traits. Be responsible for your own professional development (exploring and understanding the profession) and understand how to think through information to solve problems."

– April Pugh

The top qualities these veterinary schools wanted were **honesty, intelligence, determination, maturity, and experience**. The biggest turnoff qualities were **dishonesty, laziness, apathy, and slow to understanding**. In short, they look for people who are responsible and trustworthy.

According to the survey a good personal statement should; **have good grammar, be professional, show how you are unique, and express knowledge and understanding of veterinary medicine**. The best preparation for an interview is to **relax and do some mock interviews**. Veterinary schools just want to ensure that applicants are genuine and know what they are getting themselves into.

Discussion:

A GPA of 3.60 and GRE scores of around 1176 is the standard goal for applicants.

The personal statement needs to be professional and unique.

A good personal statement or higher success in one area can make up for low marks in another.

Students should really focus on instate schools and private schools if they do not at least meet the average.

It is important to apply to multiple schools, because even people with the highest marks get rejected from some schools.

Once an applicant is granted an interview the best thing to do is go through a couple mock interviews, then relax.

The school just want to know the applicant if serious and has not lied during some other part of the application process.

In the end, the best advice for pre-vet students is to be self driven and do their best to get good grades and experience starting in high school. Applicants don't have to have the best numbers as long as they can show that they are unique, intelligent and devoted to becoming a veterinarian.