UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
College of Veterinary Medicine

High School Students

It's not too early to start thinking about and planning for a career in veterinary medicine! As a high school student, you may be wondering:

What opportunities can I have in veterinary medicine?

Veterinary medicine is a broad field, allowing practitioners a wide variety of options. Many of us commonly think of veterinarians that care for companion animals, such as dogs, cats, and horses. However, veterinarians are also needed to protect the health of food animals, provide service in the military, ensure public safety, and advance research knowledge related to animal, human, and environmental health. Some veterinarians choose to specialize in a specific facet of medicine, such as oncology (cancer), ophthalmology (eye health), or orthopedics (bone health).

What can I do as a high school student to prepare for veterinary school?

As a high school student there are many things that you can do to prepare for veterinary school. Participation in clubs, sports, music, and honors societies are important for your personal development. Taking your academic studies seriously, maintaining a high GPA, and developing good study habits will serve you well in the future. Be sure to pay close attention in your math and science courses, as these will be the foundation for your Animal experience is also important. You may be able to volunteer in a veterinary clinic as a high school student, or gain experience through volunteering at a local animal shelter or barn.

What should I do after high school?

After high school, it's important to find a college or university that is a good fit for you. Take courses that interest you and find a major that you enjoy. Speak with your undergraduate advisor about fitting veterinary pre-requisites (courses you must take before entering vet school) into your schedule. Study and work hard to maintain a high GPA. It is also important to participate in extracurricular activities, continue to build your veterinary and animal experience, and develop good relationships with professors and veterinarians who may one day provide you with letters of recommendation.

For more information, please visit
our website!