UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
College of Veterinary Medicine

Parents: How to Help Your High School Student

As a parent of a young student interested in pursuing veterinary medicine, you may be wondering what you can do to help your child prepare to apply for veterinary school. Below are some tips that can help you prepare your student.

Academics

Academics are an important part of preparing for veterinary school. You can help your student in the following ways:

- Encourage good study habits. The earlier students learn to study effectively, the better!
- Ensure that your students have strong math and science skills. Help them find tutors if they need to become stronger in this area.
- Help your student find the right undergraduate institution for him/her. Finding an environment where your student will enjoy their experience is important for success.
- Help your student study and prepare for the SAT or ACT. This will provide them with greater opportunities to get into the college of their choice after high school.
- Be supportive. Listen to your student and be a positive motivator.

Experience

Veterinary experience is one component of an application, but other types of experiences are valuable as well.

- Advise your student to foster hobbies and interests – even those outside of veterinary medicine. Joining clubs and student organizations will help them develop a variety of skills.
- Encourage your student to participate in community service work.
- Have your student seek opportunities to shadow your local veterinarians or volunteer at animal shelters to gain animal experience.
- Encourage your student to seek new and different experiences outside of his or her comfort zone.
- Allow your student to learn responsibility by taking on a part-time job. This will help him or her to develop customer service skills and learn to work with supervisors and coworkers.

Professional Development

Professionalism and maturity will help your student succeed regardless of the profession entered.

- Advise your student to practice interviewing. Mock interviews will help your student feel confident when interviewing for veterinary school and for future jobs.
- Make sure that your students are aware of the importance of professional written communication. Help them to learn to edit essays, proofread emails, and other writing pieces.
- Encourage your student to take ownership for their actions and decisions. Learning to make inquiries and take responsibility for their own future is important for professional development. Stepping back and allowing them to gain independence in preparing for their future will promote success.
- Advise your student to be aware of their public image. Social media accounts, voicemail recordings, and email addresses should be kept professional.

For more information, please visit
our website!