Office of Health Professions

Faculty Advisor:

Stephen U. Dunham, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry

Location:

Hamilton Hall Rooms 203

Office Hours:

Check the Health Professions Website for updated hours

Contact:

Email: healthprofessions@moravian.edu

Phone: 610.625.7815

In order to make an advising appointment with Prof. Dunham, please call our office during office hours or email us at the address listed above.
Welcome

Dear Student,

Welcome to the Office of Health Professions at Moravian College! We’re looking forward to working with you during your undergraduate years at Moravian.

Pursuing a career in health professions takes commitment, dedication, and planning. Our office is here to help throughout all stages of the advising and application process. From choosing courses to investigating schools and filling out applications, we have a number of resources to guide you and to help you to successfully achieve your goals.

In this packet, you’ll find valuable information such as a timeline of important dates and information, course requirements for veterinary school, tips for the application process, standardized test information, as well forms for letters of recommendation and a list of resources to provide additional information.

We encourage all students who are interested in a career in the Health Professions to set up an advising appointment as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Best wishes,

Stephen U. Dunham
Requirements for Admission to Veterinary School

While each school may have specific prerequisites, the typical curriculum for admission to veterinary school includes the following:

- One year of Biology
- One year of Physics
- One year of English
- Two years of Chemistry (through Organic Chemistry)
- Biochemistry
- At least one advanced Biology course (Genetics, Microbiology, Cellular, Anatomy/Physiology)

When researching schools admission requirements, be sure to look at list of specific prerequisites for the schools that you plan to attend. Additional details on admission criteria and metrics for previously admitted students are also available Veterinary Medical School admission requirements.

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) recommends that students also participate in extracurricular activities or work experience (both related and unrelated to medicine) to build their application.

Stop by the Health Professions Office to browse through our books of veterinary colleges, and review course requirements, cost, and other important details!

Timeline

Preparation and Application Timeline

While there are many paths to veterinary school, the following is a typical outline for students who would like to start veterinary school immediately after finishing undergraduate coursework:

- **NOTE!** The right time to enter professional school is when you are the best candidate! Your timeline will be unique, so please meet with us early so that we can create a timeline that builds your strength as an applicant and works to achieve your goals.

As a freshman:

- Contact the Health Professions Office and set up an appointment with an advisor
- Take introductory courses in chemistry and biology and at least one course from mathematics (Calc or Stats)
- Start to collect Letters of Recommendation from professors of freshman year courses
- Join the Pre-Health Club and actively participate in meetings and community service initiatives
• Start to build your application with a track record of involvement; look into summer internships, shadowing experiences, etc.

As a sophomore:

• Continue to meet with the Health Professions Advisor
• Take organic chemistry and courses in biology or physics or math
• Continue to collect Letters of Recommendation from professors
• Continue to be actively involved in the Pre-Health Club
• Review specific requirements for Veterinary schools you are interested in attending.
• Look into GRE and/or MCAT preparation
• Continue to build your application with community service, animal-care experiences and internships

As a junior:

• Continue to meet with the Health Professions Advisor
• Take biochemistry and complete other required science courses, see below
• Study for and take the GRE or MCAT
• Meet with the Health Professions Committee
• Start on 1st drafts of applications to veterinary schools
• Continue activities with the Pre-Health Club
  
  o 2 semesters of General Chemistry
  o 2 semesters of Biology
  o 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry and 2 semesters of Physics
  o 1 semester of Biochemistry
  o 1 semester of Calculus and Statistics
  o 1 semester of Sociology and 1 semester of Psychology

Summer between junior and senior year:

• Complete VMCAS application and any school-specific supplemental applications

• Retake the GRE or MCAT if necessary
As a senior:

- Veterinary schools interviews
- Finish up prerequisite courses
- Meet with Pre-Health Advisor
- Continue activities with Pre-Health Club

**Veterinary Medical College Application Service**

The American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) coordinates all veterinary medical college applications in the US, 9 departments of veterinary science, 7 departments of comparative medicine, 3 other medical education institutions, and 7 international veterinary medical colleges.

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) allows students to submit one application via the web to participating veterinary colleges throughout the United States. Currently, all veterinary colleges rely on VMCAS as a way of processing the high volume of applications.

VMCAS assembles the student’s application file, verifies the information, and then forwards the application to the veterinary schools of the student’s choice. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact veterinary schools that they’ve applied to through VMCAS to see if there are any supplements or additional materials needed.

Application deadlines are set by individual veterinary schools and not by VMCAS. Applicants should check the websites of the schools they applied to for application deadlines.


**Curriculum Requirements**

While the curriculum is somewhat varied, many universities require an undergraduate study between 45 and 90 hours. The majority of individuals that apply to veterinary school have a Bachelor’s degree in a science related field. While Moravian College does not have a Pre-Veterinary major, students may major in anything they wish, and may apply to veterinary school so long as they take the required courses. Many of these courses are focused in the following areas: Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Arts & Humanities and Mathematics.
In addition to GPA and test scores, veterinary admissions counselors also look at veterinary and animal experience such as internships or shadowing, research, work within the health science field. Experience volunteering with local animal shelters or organizations is also beneficial in building your application.

**Test Information**

There are currently 28 accredited veterinary schools in the United States. Students should look at the admission requirements for the schools of their choice.

**GRE**

The Graduate Records Examination (GRE) is used to by graduate schools to compare the qualifications of applicants. The results of the GRE are usually an indicator of how well an individual will perform in graduate school and acts as a cutoff point in the number of applicants. Financial aid, merit based grants, fellowships and other financial opportunities are heavily dependent upon the GRE score.

The GRE takes approximately 2.5 hours to complete and is offered year-round at most test centers. The test is divided into three separate sections, each testing different skills. The first section is Verbal Reasoning which tests analytical ability as well as reading comprehension. The next section is Quantitative Reasoning which tests basic math abilities. The last section is two essay questions to which you write a formal response.

Your score on the GRE is represented as a scaled number from 200-800. Each section is scored individually, which is taken into account for which types of programs and schools you are applying to.

Moravian College works effectively with Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions in preparing students for the GRE. On site seminars about the exams are offered during the fall semester. The Office of Health Professions has practice exam books that students may look through in order to become more familiar with the material and types of questions that are asked. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to enroll in a preparation course if they feel that it is necessary.

For more information about GRE test preparation please visit: [http://www.kaptest.com/Graduate/GRE/Learn-about-the-GRE/GR_gre_testoverview.html](http://www.kaptest.com/Graduate/GRE/Learn-about-the-GRE/GR_gre_testoverview.html)

For more information about the GRE please visit: [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)

**MCAT**

The MCAT is a multipart, multiple choice exam that is used by admissions committees as a future indicator of your performance in medical school. The test is designed to measure your
ability in: problem solving, critical thinking, writing, and knowledge of prerequisite courses in medicine.

Section 1: Physical Sciences

Tests: General Chemistry, Physics, Analytical Thinking

Section 2: Verbal Reasoning

Tests: Critical reading skills

Section 3: Biological Sciences

Tests: Biology, Organic Chemistry

Moravian College works effectively with Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions in preparing students for the MCAT. On site seminars about the exams are offered during the fall semester. The Office of Health Professions has practice exam books that students may look through in order to become more familiar with the material and types of questions that are asked. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to enroll in a preparation course if they feel that it is necessary.

For a comprehensive guide to taking the MCAT please visit:
http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/start.htm

The Health Professions Office has information about test strategies and preparation. On site seminars about the exams are offered during the fall semester. The Office of Health Professions has practice exam books that students may look through in order to become more familiar with the material and types of questions that are asked. It is ultimately the student’s responsibility to enroll in a preparation course if they feel that it is necessary.

**Letters of Recommendation**

Letters of recommendation provide admissions committees with qualitative information about you as a prospective healthcare professional. Recommendations can be accumulated throughout your college career. For example, a chemistry professor that you worked closely with freshman year may provide an excellent recommendation for entrance to professional school. It is important to ask for the recommendation while the experience is still fresh. The person writing your recommendation will be able to draw upon specific examples of your experience and give the most accurate testament to your character and abilities.
Letters of recommendation may come from college science faculty, individuals who have supervised you in health-related work, mentors, and other individuals who know you well. Approximately 3-5 letters will be sent with your application.

**Pre-Health Club**

The Pre-Health Club is an engaging and motivating on campus organization which encourages students from all areas of health professions to join in their activities. The Pre-Health Club typically meets every other week and participates in a variety of activities throughout the year, some of which include: guest speakers (including health practitioners), group discussion topics, field trips to museums and exhibits, visits to professional schools, test prep sessions and more. The Pre-Health Club also integrates community service projects both on and off campus as a way of giving back to the college and surrounding community.

The meetings are guided by our Health Professions Advisor, but are primarily student led and organized.

**Resources**

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