



**Cornell University**  
College of Veterinary Medicine

# **The Early Acceptance Pathway**

## **Spring 2023**





## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

### The Early Acceptance Pathway

The *Early Acceptance Pathway* gives exceptionally well qualified applicants the opportunity to obtain admission to veterinary school after the completion of the sophomore year. With admission to the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine secured, the successful applicant may use the time between acceptance and matriculation to pursue experience in areas of personal interest. Applicants to this program apply and are accepted or denied upon completion of their sophomore year. Entry into the professional curriculum is expected after completion of the junior year. Admission to the pathway is based on outstanding academic performance in the first two years of college and the applicant's plan for their intended use of the third year in college. Completion of a baccalaureate degree prior to matriculation is not required.

Criteria for admission to this pathway are rigorous. Generally, applicants for this pathway have a GPA of 3.7 or better. Applicants must have also completed at least one semester of organic chemistry **and** one semester of an upper level biology, biochemistry, or physics course. A grade of B or better is required for all prerequisite course work under this pathway.


In addition to presenting all required documentation under the Fall Admissions cycle (with the exception of the VMCAS), applicants must submit a written plan describing how the time between acceptance and matriculation will be used. Examples of how the time may be spent include study in challenging courses in areas of interest, initiation or completion of a research project, or time spent in a unique life experience. This pathway is not intended to delay matriculation for reasons of economics, illness, or other personal hardship.

The deadline for the Early Application and all supporting documents (official college transcripts, letters of evaluation) is **June 1, 2023**.



## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

### Early Acceptance Pathway Instructions

- Complete and sign the Early Acceptance Pathway Application; read and sign the Essential Skills and Abilities statement (VMCAS not required for this application).
- Email a copy of the application by June 1st. Application fee of \$65.00 can be mailed with application or separately if application is sent electronically. (Check or money order made payable to Cornell University.)
- Request transcripts from all colleges attended be sent directly from the Registrar(s) Office directly to the DVM Admissions Office.
- If using AP Chemistry or Physics (score of 4 or higher) for the general chemistry and/or general physics prerequisite courses, have the College Board send official scores to College Code 4818.
- Email a copy of the evaluation form to your evaluators to complete and send in by the June 1st deadline. We require minimally 3 letters including one veterinarian, one college professor and one other. A maximum of 6 letters will be accepted. Links to the evaluations are found in the body of the application. Letters can be attached to the forms.
- If a New York Resident, complete the NY Residency Form at the following link and send in by the June 1st deadline: [New York State Residency Form](#)
- If an international applicant, please review and provide information found at the following link: [International Students](#)
- The Dean's Certification is required of all admitted students by March 15, 2024. No need to send at this time.
- Deadline to submit the application, fee, and all the required documents is June 1st. If your college spring term has a late end date please notify the Admissions Office at [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)
-  If you are having trouble filling out the Early Acceptance Application, please download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader at: <http://get.adobe.com/reader>



# Cornell University

## College of Veterinary Medicine

### Application for Early Acceptance ~ Spring 2023

**1. Name in Full:**

Please state any other name which may appear on documents we will receive:

**2. Telephone Number(s)**

**3. Email Address:**

**4. Addresses:**

**Current Address**

**Permanent Address**

Are you a U. S. Citizen?    Yes            No

Place of Birth:

What is your U.S. State of Legal Residence?

How long have you lived in this State? When  
did your residency in this State begin?

Non-citizen status:                      Yes            No

Visa type:

Alien Registration Number:

Issued in:

On:

**5. Date of Birth:**

**6. Gender:**                      Male                      Female                      Prefer not to  
respond

## Veteran/Military Information

7. **Military:**                      **Yes**                      **No**

(If you answered **Yes** please answer the questions below, if **No** please skip this page)

**What is your Military Status?**

Please check all that apply

Active                      US Veteran                      US Military Reservist                      US Military Dependant

### Definitions

**Active Duty:**                      Currently serving on active duty in any branch of United States Armed Services.

**National Guard:**                      Currently serving in the National Guard of any United States military branch.

**Reserve:**                      Currently serving in the Reserves of any United States military branch.

**Veteran:**                      Please select "Veteran" if you have served in any military branch of the United States Armed Services, received honorable discharge and have not already selected any of the options above (i.e., Active Duty, National Guard or Reserve).

## 8. **Ethnicity/Race:** (Optional)

Ethnicity (Optional)

- ☐ Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity
- ☐ No Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity

Race (Optional)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ White/Middle Eastern

## 9. **\*Number of Colleges Attended:**

An official transcript is required from each college attended to be sent to our office directly from each institution by the deadline date.

## 10. **\*Number of Academic Evaluations to be Submitted:**

Cornell requires at least one evaluation from someone familiar with your academic performance. It is not necessary to include an academic evaluation from each institution attended.

### **Academic Evaluation Link:**

(Please send this link to your evaluator or print a copy of the form to send to your evaluator to complete and return to us by the June 1st deadline.) They are welcome to attach a letter to the form.

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/admissions/early-admission-programs/early-acceptance>

11. **\*Number of Animal/Veterinary/Biomedical Research Letters of Evaluation** that will be forwarded to our office to support your application.

### **Animal/Vet/Biomed Evaluation Link:**

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/admissions/early-admission-programs/early-acceptance>

(Please send this link to your evaluator or print a copy of the form to send to your evaluator to complete and return to us by the June 1st deadline.) They are welcome to attach a letter to the form.

\*Please list all work experiences, either voluntary or paid, in chronological order, (most recent first). If you list an experience more than once, do not duplicate the total hours worked/volunteered. (Example: Applicant worked a total of 500 hours; 300 with first date of experience; 200 with second date of experience; not 500 for both).

## 11. CONTINUED

Name of Employing Practice/Firm/ Organization	
Address	
Phone	
Work Setting	
Primary Species	
Secondary Species	
Total Hours Worked	
List your duties and responsibilities:  (Estimate the percentage of time spent on each, e.g., taking vital stats (15%), prepare and administer medication (15%), drawing blood (15%), monitoring recovering patients (15%), running lab work (10%) animal restraint (30%).	
Dates Employed	
Supervisor's Name	

Name of Employing Practice/Firm/ Organization	
Address	
Phone	
Work Setting	
Primary Species	
Secondary Species	
Total Hours Worked	
List your duties and responsibilities: (Estimate the percentage of time spent on each, e.g., taking vital stats (15%), prepare and administer medication (15%), drawing blood (15%), monitoring recovering patients (15%), running lab work (10%) animal restraint (30%).	
Dates Employed	
Supervisor's Name	

## 11. Continued

Name of Employing Practice/Firm/ Organization	
Address	
Work Setting	
Primary Species	
Secondary Species	
Total Hours Worked	
<b>List your duties and responsibilities:</b> (Estimate the percentage of time spent on each, e.g., taking vital stats (15%), prepare and administer medication (15%), drawing blood (15%), monitoring recovering patients (15%), running lab work (10%) animal restraint (30%).	
Dates Employed	

Name of Employing Practice/Firm/ Organization	
Address	
Work Setting	
Primary Species	
Secondary Species	
Total Hours Worked	
<b>List your duties and responsibilities:</b> (Estimate the percentage of time spent on each, e.g., taking vital stats (15%), prepare and administer medication (15%), drawing blood (15%), monitoring recovering patients (15%), running lab work (10%) animal restraint (30%).	
Dates Employed	

Name of Employing Practice/Firm/ Organization	
Address	
Work Setting	
Primary Species	
Secondary Species	
Total Hours Worked	
<b>List your duties and responsibilities:</b> (Estimate the percentage of time spent on each, e.g., taking vital stats (15%), prepare and administer medication (15%), drawing blood (15%), monitoring recovering patients (15%), running lab work (10%) animal restraint (30%).	
Dates Employed	

## 12. Letters of Evaluation and Recommendation:

### A. Academic Evaluation(s)

Name of person or committee	Position/Title	College

### B. Employer Evaluations/Non-veterinary related work experience.

(This section is optional and is provided for those who wish to submit additional evaluations.)

#### Non-Vet Evaluation Link:

<https://www.vet.cornell.edu/education/doctor-veterinary-medicine/admissions/early-admission-programs/early-acceptance>

(Please send this link to your evaluator or print a copy of the form to send to your evaluator to complete and return to us by the June 1st deadline.)

Name of evaluator	Company/Organization	Responsibilities

C. Have you ever been fired or dismissed by an employer? Yes      No

If yes, please include an explanation:

### 13. College Information:

A. Did you graduate from High School?    Yes                      No  
High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

B. List in chronological order, (most recent first), all colleges and universities you have attended. Under "GPA Credits" do not count pass/fail or other credits which do not affect the GPA.

Institution	Total Credits	GPA Credits	GPA	Dates of Attendance	Degree Received or Anticipated	Major

C. If you have a double major/minor, indicate the major/minor here and (if it is not stated on your transcript) attach a letter from your registrar confirming this fact:

D. If you have an honors thesis or honors program, indicate here the honors thesis and/or program and (if it is not stated on your transcript) attach a letter from your registrar confirming this fact:

E. Are you a first generation college student?      Yes      No

F. If your college education was interrupted, briefly explain for how long and for what reason (s):

G. Have you ever been dismissed from, placed on probation at, or otherwise disciplined by an educational institution? Yes No

H. List any awards or recognition you have received since high school for excellence in scholarship:

## 14. PREREQUISITE COURSES

All required prerequisite courses must be completed by the end of spring term before matriculation with course titles similar to those listed below. If your course titles are different, submit a *Prerequisite Substitution Form* found on our web site at: [Prerequisite Substitution Form](#)

All prerequisite courses must be taken for a grade and for credit, not pass/fail, S/U or narrative. AP credit means "Advanced Placement", and the Admissions Committee intends for you to take an advanced course at a college for a grade in the same topic area with the exception of General Chemistry and Physics (score of 4 or higher). The advanced course cannot be another required course. All prerequisite courses must have a **grade of B or better** to be considered for the Early Admission program.

### Prerequisite Courses:

- > Full Year of English Composition or Writing Intensive Courses
- > Full Year of Biology with Labs
- > Full Year of Chemistry with Labs
- > Full Year of Physics with Labs
- > Semester (or two Quarters) of Organic Chemistry with Labs
- > Biochemistry (4 credits or 6 quarter credits)
- > Advanced Life Science (one semester or two quarters). See list of courses on our web site.

**15. Summary of Research and Teaching Experience. \*\***

(Optional - DO NOT repeat experiences listed in Question 11.)

Please list in chronological order (most recent first).

Dates	Institution	Position	Responsibilities

\*\* If you require more space to describe your experiences, please enclose a separate page.

**16. Extracurricular/Co-curricular/Community Service Activities and Organizations. \*\***

Please list in chronological order (most recent first).

Dates	Activity/Organization	Responsibilities

\*\* If you require more space to describe your experiences, please enclose a separate page.

**17. Employment;** non-animal/non-veterinary work experience (Evaluation optional).

\*\* Please list in chronological order, (most recent first).

Dates	Activity/Organization	Responsibilities

\*\* If you require more space to describe your experiences, please enclose a separate page.

18. **Personal Information:** (Collected primarily for statistical or informational purposes only - optional)

A. Please check all items that apply to you

I have published a scientific paper: Yes                      No

If yes, title of paper and publication:

I am a licensed veterinary technician: Yes                      No

I attended medical or veterinary school for at least one semester: Yes                      No

I have toured your Veterinary College Facilities: Yes                      No

If yes, what month/year?

I attended an admissions presentation: Yes                      No

If yes, what month/year?

If yes, where was the presentation given?

I subscribe to the pre-vet email newsletter: Yes                      No

B. Interests and Background

Currently I am most interested in this aspect of veterinary medicine:

(Please check **only one** circle below)

Undecided	Industry	Equine	Government	Biomedical	Lab Animal
Public Health	Zoo & Wildlife	Mixed	Small Animal	Production	

Most of my life I have lived in an area

which is :    (Please check **only one** box )                      More than one area                      Suburban                      Rural                      Urban

19. **Parent/Guardian Information:**

Father's Name:

Is (living or deceased):    Living                      Deceased                      Since:

Address and phone:

State of legal residence:

Mother's Name:

Is (living or deceased):    Living                      Deceased

Address and phone:

State of legal residence:

**20. Essay Questions and Short Essays** (enclose writing statements below on *separate pages* in application packet, please include full name on all separate pages)

Your personal statement is a one-page essay (not to exceed 550 words) that gives a clear picture of who you are and, most importantly, why you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Although there is no set of rules mandating what a strong personal statement should include, here are a few tips to help you successfully craft an effective personal statement:

- Explain a defining moment that helped steer you toward a career in veterinary medicine. Consider using that moment as the focal point of your essay.
- Be original and thoughtful: Discuss how you would contribute to the profession and patient care, all of which will help you stand out from other applicants.
- As you are telling us why you want to pursue a career in veterinary medicine, explain why you are good candidate for veterinary school. Be sure to convey your passion for veterinary medicine in your statement.
- Many of you have had meaningful experiences with animals or veterinarians as children and these are important but should only be mentioned briefly.
- Your application materials already contain a summary of your accomplishments, so avoid repeating information from your transcripts or reference letters.
- Give yourself time to organize your thoughts, write well and edit as necessary.
- Ask yourself if this essay is a good representation of your character, ideals and aspirations.
- Don't forget to proofread!

## 20. Continued

**Short Essays** (enclose writing statements below on *separate pages* in application packet, please include full name on all separate pages)

- Please respond to each of the following questions in 200 words or less per question. These questions are intentionally open-ended with no right or wrong answers so that you can provide the admissions committee with more information about yourself. When giving examples, please choose those that best illustrate your point, regardless of whether they are from a veterinary setting.
  - A. Describe a situation in which your actions have had a significant impact.
  - B. Describe a situation where you have learned from experience.
  - C. Describe a situation where circumstances were against you and how you made it work for you.
  - Di. Describe a challenge or problem you have faced in the past, and how you reached a solution.
  - Dii. If you had to face this challenge again, would you do anything differently and why?

## 21. **Disadvantaged Statement** - optional (200 words or less).

If you feel you have been disadvantaged in any way (including, but not limited to, economic opportunities, educational opportunities, cultural background, discrimination, physical handicaps, or other mitigating circumstances) please explain here.

## 22. Please include on a *separate page* your **written plan** (not to exceed 600 words)

describing how the time between acceptance and matriculation will be used. Examples of how the time may be spent include study in challenging courses in areas of interest, initiation or completion of a research project, or time spent in a unique life experience.

***Your legal signature below attests to your understanding and agreement to the following policies:***

1. I realize that, if accepted to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, I will be expected to abide by its rules and regulations including adherence to the Honor Code, which governs student conduct; and participate in curricular activities involving the use of live animals in laboratory and clinical settings where the faculty determine no alternative to live animals is appropriate.
2. New York State statute defines "residence" as the permanent or principal home for the 12-month period immediately prior to the date of expected enrollment, or, in the case of dependents, (which we define as being claimed on your parents federal income tax) the home of parents or guardians. I realize that once I have submitted my application, my residency status will not change.
3. I realize that, if accepted, I will be required to work closely with dogs, cats, horses, cows and other animal species.
4. I realize that clinical training requires that I work long hours, nights and weekends.

***I certify that the information I have provided on the application and in any related material is true and complete and will notify Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine promptly if there is a change in any aspect of this application. I understand this is a continuing obligation throughout my enrollment at Cornell and that inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete statements or a failure to update any aspect of the application could result in honor code proceedings, dismissal, rescission or cancellation of my Veterinary Medical degree, or other disciplinary sanctions.***

Legal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please read carefully the following *Statement of Essential Skills and Abilities*, hand sign at the bottom and send it in with your application.



## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

### **Statement of Essential Skills and Abilities Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine - DVM Degree**

#### **Introduction**

The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (or DVM) signifies that the holder is a veterinarian prepared for entry into the practice of veterinary medicine with or without further postgraduate study. All Cornell veterinary students must acquire broad scientific knowledge and technical skills necessary for them to function independently in a wide array of clinical, research, and other situations. Candidates for the DVM degree must demonstrate the requisite skills and abilities to satisfy both the overall and course-specific requirements of the curriculum. Moreover, students must be able to function safely and effectively in multiple environments such as classrooms, laboratories, examinations, large and small animal clinics, and a variety of animal environments. Exposure to chemicals (e.g., medications, disinfectants, anesthetics, tissue fixatives) and pathogens are unavoidable during veterinary school and beyond.

Veterinarians are governed by a code of ethics and professional behavior that forms a social contract between the profession and society. The DVM degree is conferred only after the student has achieved satisfactory mastery of the necessary scientific and clinical knowledge as well as technical skills, while also demonstrating the professionalism, attitudes, and behaviors that are consistent with the professional degree of veterinarian. Throughout the curriculum, students must demonstrate a high level of compassion for all animals and people, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, the highest moral and ethical standards, and a motivation to serve, and they are expected to interact effectively with people of all ethnic, social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

#### **Essential Requirements**

The following information will familiarize applicants and students with the abilities, skills, and attitudes expected to meet the requirements of the curriculum and the profession. The avowed intention of an individual student to practice only a narrow part of clinical medicine, or to pursue a non-clinical career, does not alter the requirement that all veterinary students take and achieve competence in the curriculum required by faculty.

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University has an ethical responsibility for the safety of patients and clients with whom students and veterinarians interact and interrelate. Patient and client safety and well-being are therefore essential factors in establishing requirements involving the physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities of candidates for admission, promotion, and graduation. Candidates for the DVM degree must be able to elicit and receive a variety of inputs from their environment, including tactile, visual, and auditory stimuli, then process these inputs based on their knowledge and experience, and finally make appropriate responses that include both verbal communications and a variety of physical actions. A candidate for the DVM degree must demonstrate abilities and skills in five areas: observation, communication, motor, intellectual (conceptual, integrative and quantitative), behavioral, and social.

- I. Observation: The candidate must be able to observe and make assessments from required demonstrations and experiments, including but not limited to anatomic dissection, microscopic analyses, animal/patient demonstrations, and radiographic and other graphic and diagnostic images. A candidate must be able to observe a patient accurately at a distance and close at hand, and assess findings. S/he must perceive and interpret signs of fear, aggression, and other potentially dangerous behaviors exhibited by various animal species. Observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing, and somatosensation, often in complex situations in veterinary health care environments.
- II. Communication: A candidate must be able to elicit information, establish rapport, offer explanations, and to describe changes in behavior, activity, and posture. Communication includes not only speech, but also interpretation of nonverbal cues, and reading and writing in English. The candidate must be able to communicate effectively, efficiently, and in a timely manner with all members of the health care team.
- III. Motor Function: A candidate must have sufficient motor skills to use scientific and diagnostic instrumentation, to carry out animal restraint and essential diagnostic procedures, including palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other components of a physical exam on live animals, to perform surgical manipulations, and to conduct dissection and necropsy on cadavers. A candidate must be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care, surgery, and emergency treatment to patients of all species. In addition, the candidate must be able to escape physically dangerous contacts with animal patients. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch, vision, and hearing.
- IV. Intellectual (Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative): Problem solving, a critical skill of veterinarians, requires that a candidate be able to obtain, retrieve, analyze, integrate and synthesize information from multiple sources efficiently and accurately. In addition, a candidate should possess the ability to measure and calculate accurately, to perceive three-dimensional relationships, and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Candidates must be able to formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem-solving in the diagnosis and treatment of patients in a variety of clinical situations. In many cases, these decisions and appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic maneuvers are time-sensitive. Thus, candidates must demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and abilities to process multiple situations simultaneously.

- V. Behavioral and Social Attributes: A candidate must be able to fully utilize his or her intellectual abilities, exercise good judgment, promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and to develop effective relationships with their companions, peers, staff, colleagues, and with clients. S/he must be able to work effectively as a member of a health-care team, and must be able to tolerate physically and emotionally taxing workloads, to function effectively under stress, and to display flexibility and functionality in the face of uncertainties inherent in assessing patients' health problems. Candidates need to be able to both elicit and convey information to clients and staff in a timely and effective manner, using both oral and written formats. S/he must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of veterinary medicine, and function within both the law and the ethical standards of the veterinary profession. The candidate is expected to demonstrate a high commitment to professional behavior that includes, but is not limited to, demonstration of competence, compassion, integrity, lifelong learning, concern for others, interpersonal skills, collegiality, interest, and promotion of the public good.

These personal qualities, abilities, and skills will be assessed during the admission process and throughout the educational program. In addition, applicants and enrolled veterinary medical students must be able to perform the duties of a veterinary student without endangering the lives of patients, caretakers, colleagues and staff, or themselves. In order to complete required courses, students are expected, at a minimum, to work with dogs, cats, horses, and cows. Other species are commonly seen (e.g. rabbits, warm- and cold-blooded small and exotic pet species, llamas and alpacas, etc.).

**For Completion by All Candidates:**

I certify that I have read and fully understand that all students are required to meet the requirements for the Cornell DVM program as set forth in this Statement of Essential Skills and Abilities.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Please print full name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date (Please sign and date)\*



## Early Admission Application Checklist:

*Please note you will not be able to modify your application once it has been submitted.*

- ☐ I have included my written plan describing how the time between acceptance and matriculation will be used.
- ☐ I have had official AP scores sent (only if using Chemistry or Physics AP for prerequisite courses); AP College Code 4818.
- ☐ If English is not your first language, have you taken and submitted the TOEFL (college code 1510)?
- ☐ I have requested a letter of evaluation from a veterinarian, college professor or advisor and one other person,
- ☐ I have had at least one evaluation sent from someone familiar with my academic performance.
- ☐ I have had official college transcripts sent directly to your office from each college or university I have attended with the full four semesters of college work completed (**including this spring term**).
- ☐ If you are a New York resident, have you completed the residency form at the following link? [New York State Residency Form](#)
- ☐ I have emailed a copy of this completed Application, signed the Legal Signature Page, and the Essential Skills Statement by June 1st to [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu).
- ☐ I have sent a check made payable to "Cornell University", (\$65) to the address below.
- ☐ Reminder the deadline for submitting the Early Application, application fee, evaluations, and transcripts is **June 1**. If your college Spring term has a late end date please notify the Admissions Office at [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu).

*Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Office of Student and Academic Services, Attn: DVM Admissions, S2-009 Schurman Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607) 253-3700, [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)*

*Thank you for applying to our DVM program*