

Student Learning Outcomes

Undergraduate Education

The Departments of Veterinary and Animal Sciences offer a combined curriculum with several options depending on the interests and career goals of the students. Of these, the Department of Veterinary Sciences is primarily concerned with the Pre-Veterinary Medicine option. There is increasing realization that there are complex interactions between the health of animals, people, and the environment. A major focus of the pre-veterinary medicine option is to provide students with a challenging curriculum that satisfies the entrance requirements for Schools or Colleges of Veterinary Medicine throughout the United States. The pre-veterinary medicine option also provides excellent preparation for students interested in other careers in animal health, allied health, and human health professions. Students completing the pre-veterinary medicine option are also well prepared for graduate education in these fields of study.

Students who obtain an undergraduate degree in the Animal and Veterinary Science major, pre-veterinary medicine option, should achieve the following Student Learning Outcomes:

- **You should possess effective written and oral communication skills**

Effective communication in the medical professions and related occupations is challenging. The first challenge is to learn and have a basic general understanding of medical terminology, the language and jargon specific to medicine. The second challenge is the ability to translate medical terminology into language that can be understood by the general public. Goals of the curriculum in pre-veterinary medicine are to introduce students to the language of medicine and to help students develop their individual communication skills.

- **You should have general discipline-specific knowledge in major areas of study**

Scientific knowledge in the animal health and related professions is growing at an exponential rate. The primary aim of the curriculum in pre-veterinary medicine is to provide the students with a broad foundation of knowledge that can be used as the basis for a lifetime of learning.

- **You should be able to analyze problems, critically evaluate information, and utilize scientific principles to formulate solutions**

Problem solving and public service are the foundation for successful careers in animal health and related professions. Problems must be recognized, sources of

reliable information identified, and knowledge gained in order to formulate scientific solutions. An aim of the pre-veterinary medicine curriculum is to instill an appreciation in the students for critical thinking and problem solving.

Graduate Education

Graduate educational opportunities in the Department of Veterinary Sciences are interdisciplinary but typically focus on a specialized field of animal health. Your graduate education can be related to a specific medical discipline including but not limited to virology, bacteriology, parasitology, pathology, toxicology, epidemiology, and immunology. Further focus can be on domestic animal or wildlife health issues or on diseases that occur at the domestic animal/wildlife interface. Student learning outcomes indicated below are the same as those for undergraduate students but have the additional focus appropriate for graduate education.

Students who obtain a graduate degree in Animal and Veterinary Science major, focusing on veterinary sciences, should achieve the following Student Learning Outcomes:

- **You should possess effective written and oral communication skills.**

As a graduate student, there will be ample opportunity to develop and refine your communication skills through presentations at departmental seminars, regional and national scientific meetings, presentations to the general public and through reports and papers prepared for publication based on your research.

- **You should have general discipline-specific knowledge in major areas of study**

Through further coursework and research, the general knowledge you acquired during your undergraduate education will expand and be focused in a specific field of graduate study related to animal and/or public health.

- **You should be able to analyze problems, critically evaluate information, and utilize scientific principles to formulate solutions**

During the course of your graduate study you should develop the research tools, knowledge and skills necessary to work collaboratively or independently to solve problems related to animal and/or public health.

ASSESSMENT OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE EDUCATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SCIENCES

The Department of Veterinary Sciences endorses continuous quality improvement in the curriculum and departmental courses offered for pre-veterinary medicine option students as well as graduate students. Likewise, the assessment of undergraduate and graduate education is a work-in-progress. The curriculum and coursework should correlate with and reinforce expected student outcomes. The Department of Veterinary Sciences will utilize a variety of indirect and direct tools for assessing the quality of education for undergraduate and graduate education. These tools may include but not be limited to:

- **Curriculum mapping for courses offered by departmental faculty. These courses should, to the extent possible, address the learning outcomes specified for our students.**
- **Exit interviews for graduating students or those withdrawing from the program.**
- **Formal assessment of performance on written assignments and oral presentations. These may be assignments for specific courses in the curriculum and/or presentations at meetings and reports/manuscripts prepared for publication.**
- **Success of students in fulfilling their goals for post-graduate employment and/or to continue formal education (matriculation to veterinary or graduate schools).**

The information from these assessment tools will be used to update and improve the quality of education in specific courses, the curriculum as a whole, and other student experiences.