Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

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Director of Admissions

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

VT VIRGINIA TECH™

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

LOCATIONS AND TRAINING CENTERS

Virginia-Maryland
College of Veterinary
Medicine and
Veterinary Teaching
Hospital
Blacksburg, VA

Animal Cancer Care
and Research Center
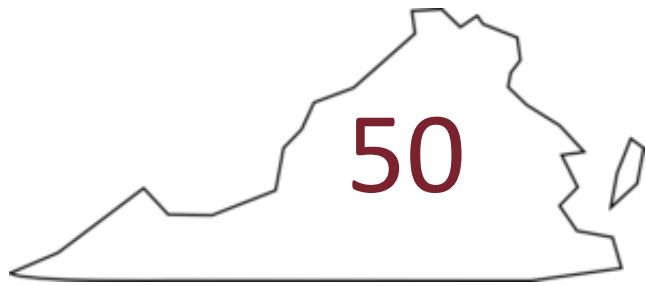Roanoke, VA

Equine Medical
Center
Leesburg, VA

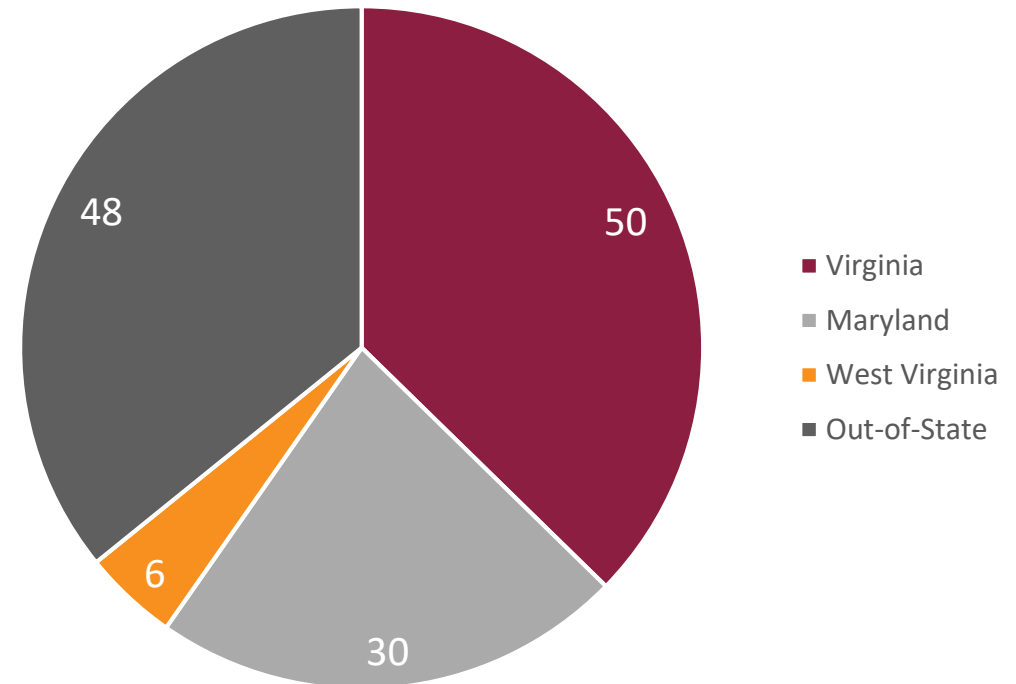Mountain View
Humane
Christiansburg, VA

Who Are We?

- 128 students in each class
- Over 155 faculty
  - **most** of whom are involved in **teaching**; either pre-clinical or clinical courses
- Over 300 staff members
  - involved in either teaching (MDL) or supporting the functions of the VTH.

Who Gets In?

Virginia 50
Maryland 30
West Virginia 6*
Out-of-State 48

WHERE TO START

In-Progress

- Write Essays
- Pay Supplemental Fee
- Complete Residency Forms

Start VMCAS Application

- www.aavmc.org
- Opens in January
- Easy way to apply to multiple Veterinary Schools

January

September

June

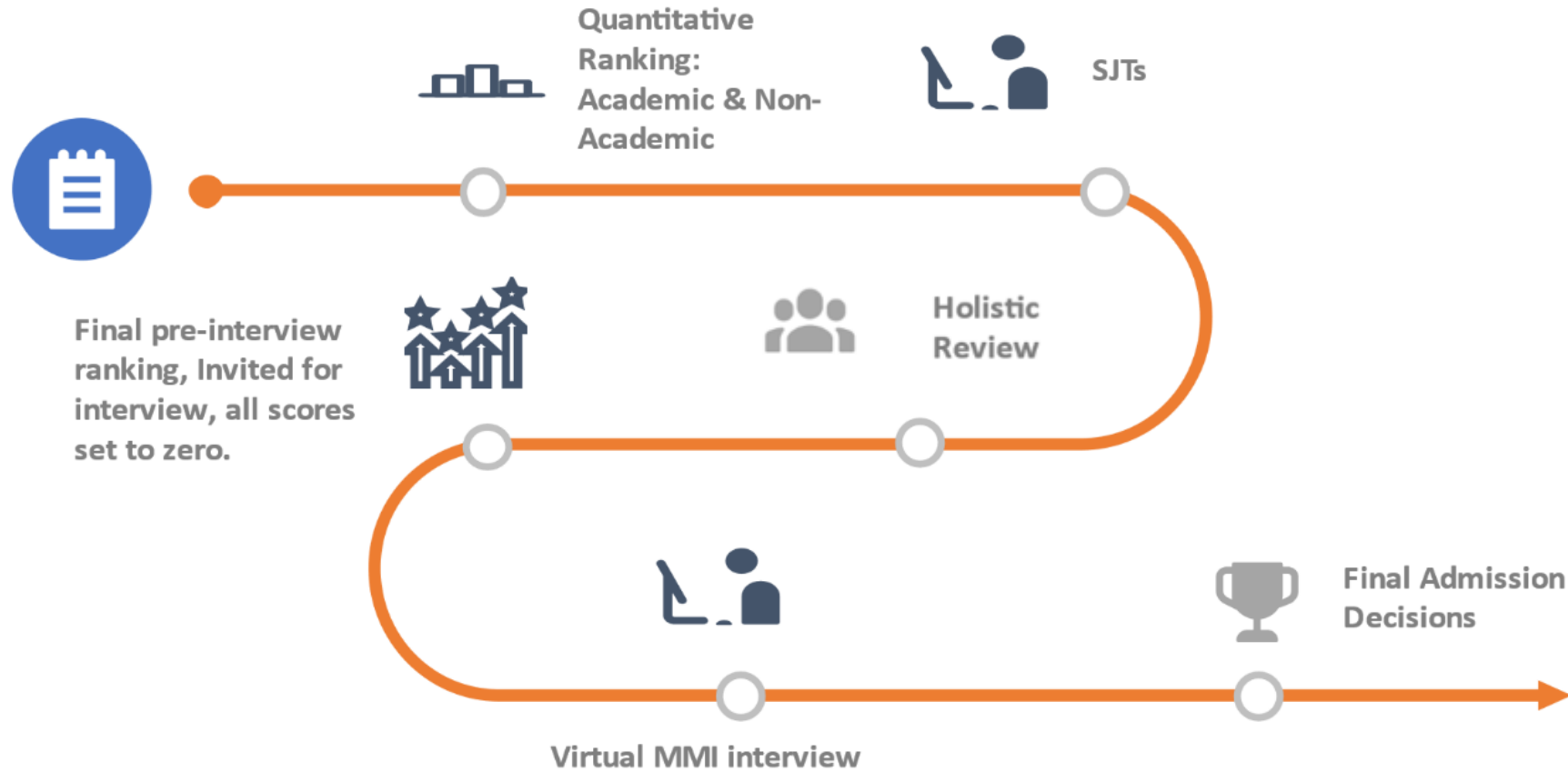## Submit VMCAS Application

Submit Final Transcripts

- Transcripts of any classes that were in-progress or taken after application submission

Situational Judgement Test or SJTS

SJTs measure your behavior and attitudes in response to specific scenarios that reflect everyday life.

Example scenario: You are leading a daily huddle with your over-worked nursing team. A new, junior colleague has been regularly interrupting other team members as they voice their own problems (from yesterday). You think they're trying to impress their new team by monopolizing the medical answers to each problem raised.

What are you MOST/LEAST likely to do next?

👍 👎 Tell the new nurse to stop distracting everyone from alternative solutions.

👍 👎 Ask why your more experienced team members are not offering their own solutions.

👍 👎 Firmly suggest to your new colleague that it's fairer to let everyone contribute.

👍 👎 Assuming the others agree with you; state what you think is happening here.

https://www.123test.com/situational-judgement-test/

Attributes

What attributes are we looking for and where do we evaluate them?

Candidate Traits and Attributes	Applicant Data Elements	Assessment Tool
Intellectual Ability	Academic Record (GPA)	Ranking
Communication	Prerequisite/Essay & MMI response	Holistic Review/MMI
Cultural Competence	MMI Response	MMI
Teamwork	MMI Response	MMI
Social and interpersonal skills	MMI Response	MMI
Self-management, self-awareness	MMI Response	MMI
Commitment to Service	Demonstrated engagement	Application Review
Capacity for growth & Resiliency	Adversities overcome	Application Review/MMI
Emotional resilience	Distance traveled (cumulative life experiences, how far one has come in life, rather than physical distances) Personal Statement, Supplemental Application Prompts and Responses	Application Review/Distance-traveled rubric/MMI/SJT
Strength of Character	Letters of reference	Application Review/MMI/SJT
Critical Thinking, Problem Solving Skills, Communication, Management of Team and Self, Ethical and Moral Judgment, and self-awareness, Empathy, Growth Mindset, Resiliency	Multiple Mini Interview	MMI/SJT
Curiosity and engagement	Life Choices	Application Review
Special Talents	Personal Statements, letters of Reference, Experiences	Application Review
Accomplishments	Honors/Awards, Personal Statement, Letters of Recommendation	Application Review
Economically Disadvantaged	Received Pell Grants in Undergraduate School	Will be provided
Cultural Diversity	Personal Data found on Application	Application Review
English is Second Language	Personal Data found on Application, Personal Statement	Application Review

Academic Ranking

What should my grade point average be?

- 60% of Application Review Score is Academic:
  - Cumulative GPA
    - Includes all college courses completed
  - Last 45 Credit Hour GPA
    - Most recent 45 credit hours completed
  - Required Science GPA
    - Just VMCVMs Science requirements not all Science courses

2023-2024 Academic Requirements

- Prerequisites:
  - General Biology (2 semesters with lab)
  - Physics (2 semesters with labs)
  - Organic Chemistry (1 semester with lab)
  - Biochemistry (1 semester)
  - Math (2 semesters)
  - English (2 semesters, writing intensive course)
  - Social Science (2 semesters)
  - Medical Terminology (1 credit)

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

There are major changes coming to our application process beginning next cycle. This will provide more flexibility for our candidates.

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

VMCVM: Core Set of Entry-Level Domains & Competencies

- **Interpersonal**
  - Communication
  - Cultural Competence/Implicit Bias
  - Team Work
  - Social and interpersonal skills
  - Self-Management
  - Service
- **Intrapersonal**
  - Integrity and Ethics
  - Resilience
  - Reflection/Lifelong Learner

- **Humanities & Social Science**
  - Empathy
  - Social and human relationships
  - Critical Thinking
  - Social Advocacy
  - Adaptability & Resiliency
- **Scientific**
  - Areas of knowledge
  - Scientific concepts
  - Scientific Inquiry
  - Problem Solving
  - Quantitative Reasoning

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

Domain 1: Interpersonal Abilities/Attributes

Must maintain a high standard of **ethical and professional behavior**, characterized by patience, empathy, maturity, self-motivation, emotional stability, and personal integrity. These attributes or competencies are important as veterinarians are held accountability to colleagues, clients and patients, and must be dedicated to the practice of veterinary medicine.

Domain 1: Interpersonal	How Assessed
Competency 1.1 Teamwork	SJT & MMI
Competency 1.2 Cultural Awareness	SJT & MMI
Competency 1.3 Service Orientation	VMCAS Application-Holistic Review
Competency 1.4 Communication	Essay responses, MMI, any written communication to the VMCVM Admissions Office & coursework

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

Domain 2: Intrapersonal Abilities/Attributes

Behaves in an honest and ethical manner; **cultivates personal and academic integrity**; adheres to ethical principles and follows rules and procedures; resists peer pressure to engage in unethical behavior and encourages others to behave in honest and ethical ways; and develops and demonstrates ethical and moral reasoning.

Domain 2: Intrapersonal	How Assessed
Competency 2.1 Ethical Responsibility to Self & Others	eLORs, SJTs & MMI
Competency 2.2 Reliability & Dependability	eLORs, SJTs & MMI
Competency 2.3 Resiliency & Adaptability	eLORs, SJT, MMI & response to resiliency essay prompt
Competency 2.4 Reflection, Growth Mindset & Life-long Learning	eLORS, SJT, & MMI

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

Domain 3: Scientific Knowledge

Candidates must demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and <u>skill in the natural sciences to solve problems related to molecular and macro systems</u>. Applicants are encouraged to explore the variety of scientific disciplines that is of interest to them. Regardless of an applicant's chosen major, in preparation for studies in animal physiology, pharmacology and the biological basis of disease, applicants applying to veterinary school should obtain a solid foundation in the **biological, chemical and physical sciences**. Pre-veterinary coursework should include laboratory-based courses in which applicants learn to collect data, analyze it and draw scientifically rigorous conclusion

<u>Candidates may self-select courses to fulfill the scientific competency, but must have a minimum of 24 credit hours within this area. We will accept a maximum of 30 credit hours.</u> Examples of some courses that meet this competency requirement are, but not limited to: physiology (animal or human), anatomy (comparative or human), immunology, nutrition (animal or human), reproduction (animal or human), cell biology, molecular genetics, ecology, environmental sciences, chemistry, biology, etc. A candidate may use up to 6 credit hours of math towards this competency requirement

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

Domain 3: Scientific Knowledge

Domain 3: Scientific Knowledge & Abilities	How Assessed
Competency 3.1 Knowledge in the Natural Sciences	Coursework Completed
Competency 3.2 Problem Solving	Coursework Completed
Competency 3.3 Quantitative Reasoning	Coursework Completed
Competency 3.4 Scientific Inquiry	Coursework Completed

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

Domain 4: Humanities, Social & Behavioral Science Knowledge

While applicants are not expected to achieve expertise in all disciplines, it is important to **understand the factors that influence individual, community and societal decisions**. This awareness can be gained through courses in disciplines such as psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health, literature, economics, history, philosophy and ethics. Applicants should have a basic understanding of key issues in veterinary medical ethics.

Candidates may self-select courses to fulfill the humanities, social and behavioral science competency, but must have a minimum of 16 credit hours within this area. We will accept a maximum of 20 credit hours. Examples of courses that meet this competency requirement are, but not limited to: history, economics, anthropology, psychology, art, sociology, music literature, languages, writing and ethics

Domain 4: Humanities, Social & Behavioral Science Knowledge	How Assessed
Competency 4.1 Empathy	Coursework, eLORs, SJTs & MMI
Competency 4.2 Critical Thinking	Coursework, eLORs, SJTs & MMI
Competency 4.3 Resiliency & Adaptability	Coursework, eLORs, SJTs, MMI & response to resiliency essay prompt
Competency 4.4 Social Advocacy	Coursework, eLORS, SJT, & MMI
Competency 4.5: Perspective-taking	Coursework, eLORs, SJTs & MMI

2024-2025 Academic Requirements

- Prerequisites:
  - Biochemistry (1 semester)
  - Microbiology (1 semester)
  - Communication/Public Speaking (1 semester)
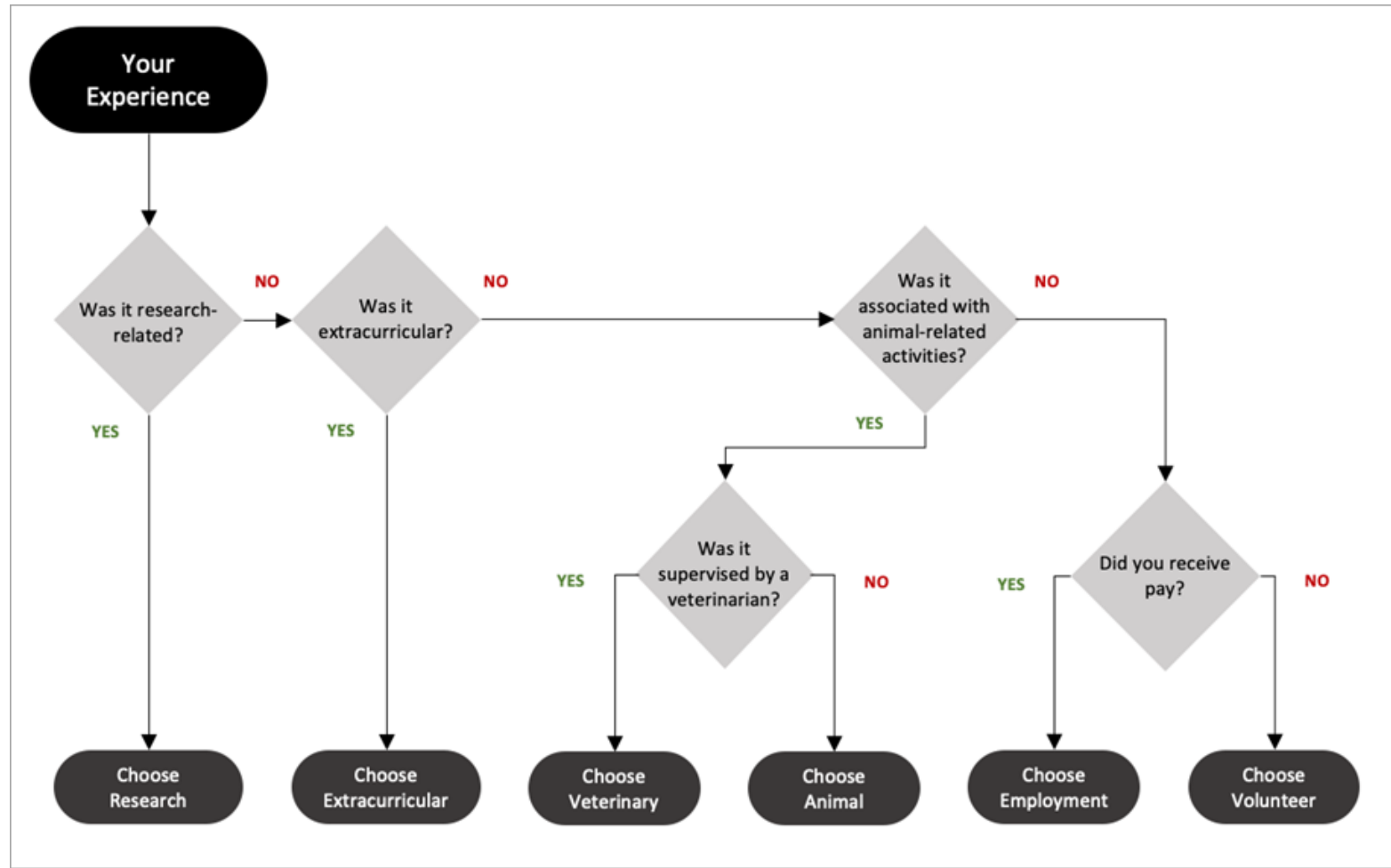 - Medical Terminology (1 credit)

Non-Academic Ranking

- 40% of application is non-academic
  - Holistic review of entire application:
    - Experience Hours
    - Letters of Recommendation
    - Essays

Non-Academics – Experience Section

- Veterinary Experience
- Animal Experience
- Research
- Employment
- Extracurricular Activities
- Volunteer/Community Enrichment

Non-Academics – Essays

- Everyone has a compelling story. Share your own personal journey.

- Share your challenges and successes.

- Make your essay stand out.

- Space is limited, don't repeat information the Admissions Committee can see in other parts of your application.

- Take your time and proofread your essays

- 3 essay topics:
  - What is your life motto?
  - How have you experienced resiliency?
  - Personal Statement

Interviews

- All pre-interview scores are set to zero and candidates are accepted on interview scores alone

- Series of timed scenarios designed to assess attributes important to our VMCVM culture and community

- We invite about 500 candidates to participate in the virtual interviews
  - KiraTalent Platform

- All other candidates are declined

Interview Experience

- Interview preparation: Practice, Practice, Practice.
  - Kira Talent offers practice interviews. Data shows that applicants who practice do much better than those who don't.
- Be comfortable being yourself, with your own opinions, values and problem solving skills
- You have to be yourself, it doesn't work if you aren't

VMCVM Curriculum

Tracks:
- Small Animal
- Mixed Animal
- Food Animal
- Equine
- Public Corporate

Year	Fall Semester		Winter	Spring Semester		Summer
1	The Normal Animal	Dealing with Threats	FREE	Moving	Sensing & Seeing	FREE
	Becoming a Professional I			Becoming a Professional II		
2	Breathing & Circulating	Eating & Eliminating	FREE	The Next Generation	Healthy Populations	Clerkships (5 blocks)
				Becoming a Professional III		
3	Advanced Courses (Focus on Track/Elective)		FREE	Advanced Courses (Focus on Track/Elective)		FREE
4	Clerkship Blocks (12 blocks)					FINISH