Veterinary Medicine – D.V.M. or V.M.D.

The first part of the veterinarian’s oath indicates the expectations of the profession:

“Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.”  (American Veterinary Medical Association)

Veterinarians typically have practices focusing on small animals, large animals, or exotic animals and wildlife. Elective educational areas of concentration at some veterinary schools include: comparative medicine, food animal medicine, epidemiology and public health, laboratory animal medicine, aquatic medicine, environmental medicine, equine medicine, urban medicine, and general veterinary practice.

Programs
- There are 28 accredited veterinary programs in the US
- A list of accredited schools can be found online
- The only program in Florida is at the University of Florida
- Contact information for the program at the University of Florida is:
  Dr. Thomas W. Vickroy, vickroyT@vetmed.ufl.edu, 352-392-2213 (ext 5300)

Admission Requirements
- At least a 3.0 undergraduate GPA is required but the average for matriculates is about 3.5
- The GRE is required and the average score for matriculates is about 1200
- The required courses for the University of Florida program are:
  - Biology - a minimum of 4 courses including two semesters of Principles of Biology (lecture and laboratory), 1 semester of Genetics, and one semester of Microbiology (lecture and laboratory)
  - Chemistry - a minimum of 5 courses including two semesters of Inorganic Chemistry (general and qualitative, lecture and laboratory), 2 semesters of Organic Chemistry (lecture and laboratory), and 1 semester of Biochemistry
  - Physics - a minimum of 2 courses including 2 semesters of lecture and laboratory
  - Mathematics - a minimum of 2 courses including 1 semester of Calculus and 1 semester of Statistics
  - Animal Science - a minimum of 2 courses including 1 semester of Introduction to Animal Science and 1 semester of Animal Nutrition
  - Humanities - a minimum of 3 courses
  - Social Science - a minimum of 2 courses
  - English: a minimum of 2 courses including two semesters of English Composition
- Letters of Evaluation
- Experience (most successful applicants have more than 500 hours of cumulative experience working with small, large, exotic or other animal species)
An application submitted via the Veterinary Medical Colleges Application Service

Timeline
- The VMCAS application becomes available on June 1 and closes October 1
- The GRE must be completed by the end of October
- The University of Florida Professional Application also must be completed
- Interviews generally take place in the spring after the application is complete

Resources
- Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Veterinary Medical College Application Service