

Ten Commonly Asked Questions About the VetFAST Program

- 1) **Q: What is the purpose of VetFAST?**
A: There is a critical shortage of food-animal veterinarians in the country. The VetFAST program is a fast track degree in veterinary medicine and is intended to encourage high school students who are thinking of a career as a food animal veterinarian to come to the University of Minnesota –College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences— to pursue their pre-veterinary studies.
- 2) **Q: Are transfer students eligible for VetFAST?**
A: No. Eligible students must enroll as freshman in the Animal Science major (pre-veterinary medicine) in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) at the University of Minnesota.
New Advanced Students (NAS), Intra-College Transfer (ICT) and Inter-University Transfer (IUT) students are not eligible for the VetFAST program. Students not eligible for VetFAST can still apply to the veterinary program through the normal application procedures.
- 3) **Q: Do you have to have an interest in “food-animal veterinary medicine” to be eligible for the VetFAST program?**
A: Yes, especially in the area of dairy and beef cattle, swine, poultry and small ruminants including sheep and goats. Students interested primarily in equine medicine, small animal medicine or other special interests would not be eligible for the program.
- 4) **Q: Can I still apply to the College of Veterinary Medicine early even if I am not eligible for the VetFAST program?**
A: Yes. Any student can apply to the veterinary program for early admission. Students can submit their application to the veterinary program during the academic year when their pre-veterinary coursework is complete. Currently, about 20% of the incoming students to the veterinary program enter after three years of pre-veterinary study.
- 5) **Q: Are any other undergraduate colleges besides COAFES participating in the VetFAST program, such as the College of Biological Sciences?**
A: No. Currently the program is open only to pre-veterinary students in CFANS.
- 6) **Q: What is the Application Process for VetFAST?**
A: Students enrolled in the CFANS Animal Science program who are interested in VetFAST need to fill out a VetFAST application and submit a letter of support from a practicing veterinarian during their first semester of their freshman year. These applications may be found online or are also available through the Animal Science Department. Representatives in the Animal Science department will holistically review all applications and submit a pool of students to the College of Veterinary Medicine for final consideration. This pool will be mailed applications from the College of Veterinary Medicine to be completed by April 1st. Interviews for VetFAST begin the first week of May with the College of Veterinary Medicine Admissions Committee. This committee will then admit students they feel are qualified to the VetFAST program.

- 7) **Q: If I am not admitted to the VetFAST program the first time can I reapply?**
A: No. You can only apply for the VetFAST program the spring of your freshman year. If you are not admitted under the VetFAST “early decision” program, you may still apply through the regular application procedures for veterinary applicants at the appropriate time.
- 8) **Q: Do I have to be a full-time student to qualify for VetFAST?**
A: Yes. You must have enrolled in a total of 30 credits during your freshman year. If admitted to VetFAST you must continue as a full-time student to complete your required pre-veterinary coursework and appropriate supporting courses for your major (i.e. production animal science courses).
- 9) **Q: How many students are admitted to the VetFAST program?**
A: The College of Veterinary Medicine anticipates offering “early decision” admission to as many students as they feel are qualified each spring. (These students are eligible for summer internships at the end of their first, second and third year of their pre-veterinary studies. They would begin the Veterinary Medicine program at the start of their fourth year of college, provided they have met all the necessary requirements.)
- 10) **Q: What are the requirements for “staying eligible” as a student admitted to the VetFAST program?**
A: Students must maintain 30 credits each academic year. They must also complete expected pre-veterinary coursework: rhetoric or English composition, math (college algebra, pre-calculus or calculus), chemistry (including general chemistry, organic and biochemistry), biology (including general biology, systemic physiology or zoology, genetics, and microbiology), physics, and liberal education requirements. Additionally, students must maintain a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.40 or higher.
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For More Information:

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