Entry Year 2026 VMCAS/Veterinary Medicine Application Cycle: Applicant Guide

[2025 VMCAS Applicant Guide](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

January 2026 VMCAS application and VMCAS Fee Assistance Program (FAP) open.

January 22, 2025: VMCAS Application Opens
May 8, 2025: First-day Applications can be submitted & Schools are available to add
June 2: Fee Assistance Program Opens (last day Aug 14th)

➔ **Plan to submit your application by May of the cycle (deadline Sept 15)**

There are four (5) sections to the VMCAS application, which are noted as follows:

1. **Personal Information**
- **Please select "yes" to the "release of information to health professions advisors." This allows our Pre-Professional advisors the ability to view parts of your application.**

- This section will ask for biographic information, contact information, citizenship information, environmental factors, parent/guardian information, race and ethnicity, and other information.
  - o Please note: "other information" is where you can write about academic infraction, COVID-19 impact, other impactful experiences that you may have encountered during your personal or academic journey.

  - o **Updates to this section**:
    - o Phonetic Name: To provide the phonetic pronunciation of your name (i.e., how your name sounds when read or spoken aloud) to your schools, visit [NameCoach](#) create an account, and enter your [NameCoach](#) in the space provided.

    - o If you have an academic infraction, VMCAS directions are as follows: *Indicate whether you have ever been disciplined or placed on academic probation while attending an academic institution. If you select Yes, enter a brief explanation in the field provided. Include 1) a brief description of the incident, 2) specific charge made, 3) related dates, 4) consequence, and 5) a reflection on the incident and how the incident has impacted your life.*

o It is the explanation you provide that puts the occurrence into context for veterinary schools. When admissions committees see that you have an institutional action, they carefully read the explanation. This explanation allows them to consider the occurrence in the broad context of your overall achievements.

2. **Academic History**
- This section will ask for high schools attended, ALL colleges attended, transcript entry, continuing education courses, and standardized tests.

- For high school attended, applicants will search for their high school in a drop-down list.

- For colleges attended, from the drop-down list of schools, please be sure to select **Johns Hopkins University.**
    o Please check SIS to ensure you know what type of degree you are earning.

    o Johns Hopkins uses the semester term system.

    o When entering course numbers, you should include Division letters (AS or EN), department, & and the 6-digit course number that appears on your transcript (e.g., AS.CHEM.030.205 or EN.BMED.580.112).

    o List your grades exactly as they appear on your official transcript. This includes listing + or - modifiers.

    o Grades with S* or S** that were earned during COVID-19 will not be able to have the * added. You should just list the S by itself, or use the VMCAS formula of "CR" when credit is awarded.

    o You should enter any courses you plan to take in the near future.
        ▪ Make sure you select **In Progress/Planned** for the term you're listing the course under.

    o If your transcript lists labs separately, you must list them as separate courses on your application as well. Record the labs exactly as they appear on your transcript. If your transcript combines lab and lecture courses into one course, list it as one course on your application.

    o If you will be taking or have taken classes at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health while you were an undergraduate (as part of your Public Health Studies major), do not enter JHSPH as a separate school. List the public health classes just as

you would regular semester classes and classify them as Senior Year and not as graduate classes. **It is not necessary for you to request a separate transcript from the JHSPH.**

- o After you enter all courses, you will start Transcript Review where you will be asked to identify courses that are Primary Institution, Repeated, Advanced Placement credit, Other Test Credit, Honors, and Study Abroad. If you need any help, please visit the Transcript Entry Page.

- Applicants may request official electronic transcripts online through the National Student Clearinghouse at https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/registrar/students/transcripts/.
  - o **If you are a current JHU undergraduate, please do not request your transcript until final grades are posted for the spring semester.**

  - o From the drop-down list of schools, please be sure to select **Johns Hopkins Arts, Sciences, and Engineering; school code 002077-02.**

    You do not need to wait for your degree completion statement or honors statement to be posted to send your transcript, as the purpose of the transcript is just to verify your coursework. (If you would like to note that you have received general/departmental honors, you may list it under Honors/Awards/Recognitions in the Work & Activities section.)

  - o Allow 7-10 business days for processing.

  - o Alumni no longer have access to unofficial transcripts in SIS. Alumni would need to request a transcript from the National Student Clearinghouse and have the transcript sent to themselves (personal email); this is considered an unofficial transcript.

- Specific schools do not receive your official transcripts when you apply; you will be submitting your transcript(s) to VMCAS.

- If you took a course at another university, but did not transfer the course credit to JHU, you must enter that course into your VMCAS application and submit a transcript for that university.
- If you have transfer credit on your Hopkins transcript, enter the courses on your VMCAS application as they appear on the transcript from the school where you originally attempted the courses, not as they appear on your JHU transcript. List courses under the school at which you originally took the courses and do not list them twice.

- AP credit coursework should be listed if it appears on your Hopkins transcript. Enter AP courses under the term in which the college credit was initially granted. If no term is designated, include these credits with freshman coursework (FR).

o If your transcript gives credit for the class but says labs are waived, ie: BIOL Biology (Labs I and II waived), your VMCAS application should indicate this as "lecture only" because you're getting credit for the courses, not the labs.

- You can submit your VMCAS application before AAVMC receives your transcript.

- Self-report your GRE scores in the Standardized Tests section of the application

3. **Supporting Information**
- This section will ask for evaluations, experiences, achievements, licenses, and your personal statement.

- **For "Evaluations,"**

Regarding the Committee Letter (CL), we are currently not providing CLs for our pre-vet students. We have confirmed information that indicates some schools will not accept a committee letter. To prevent applicants from experiencing issues with any individual vet school, we have decided to not provide CLs for pre-vet applicants during the cycle.

In this section, you will send a request to each of your individual letter writers for them to upload your letters of recommendation to VMCAS.

- VMCAS only accepts experience from High School and onward
  o Experience length is 600 characters
  o Experience Chart to help categorize
    ▪ Note that you cannot repeat hours between experience types. So, if position duties encompass more than one section, enter the position in both sections and divide the hours and duties accordingly.

  o Write your experience descriptions with the assumption that the reader has no knowledge of the organization or activity in which you participated. The suggested format is to:
    ▪ describe the nature of the organization or experience,
    ▪ describe what you did and accomplished
    ▪ describe what you learned

  o Brevity and conciseness are preferred, but you also want to thoroughly explain what you gained from each experience.

Once you have added all your experiences, click the star icon next to an experience in the **My Experiences** list to mark it as your most important. You can select up to 6 experiences to highlight as your most important.

- You will also write a personal statement that will be shared with all your veterinary schools explaining why you want to pursue a veterinary career.

    o Here are the requirements listed by the VMCAS:
        - **Keep your topic general**: Keep the statement general as this essay is sent to all the programs you apply to. If you plan to only apply to one program, we still strongly recommend keeping your statement general in case you later apply to additional programs. Once you submit your application, the essay cannot be edited or changed.

        - **Do not exceed the maximum length**: You can see both the word and character count below the field in the application. The right-hand number shows the maximum number of characters that you can use in your essay. As you type, you can see how many characters are still available and the associated word count. Characters include spaces, carriage returns, and punctuation. You cannot save your essay if it exceeds the 3,000 character limit.

        - **Use your own words**: Plagiarizing any part of your essay is a violation of the code of conduct and may subject you to sanctions.

        - **Use simple formatting**: Formatting such as tabs, italics, multiple spaces, etc., will not be saved. To delineate paragraphs, type a double return between each paragraph.

4. **Program Materials**
- This section includes additional information and requirements for the programs you selected in the Add Program tab. Each program's requirements may vary, so it's important you review this section in detail.

5. **Explanation Statement** (optional)
- This section is not required and should not be an extension of your personal statement. This section is for explaining any other information about your experience and/or distance traveled that has not been discussed in any other sections of your application.

Questions? Contact VMCAS Applicant Customer Service
Available Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (except Federal Holidays)

Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising
https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/
preprofessional@jhu.edu

https://www.aavmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/VMCAS_2025_ApplicantGuide.pdf → General Overview & Outline
https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center --> Applicant Help Center

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Other Tips:

In Progress Applications: Applicants with an application status of "In progress" can now update their experiences after submission.

When to apply: Apply Early (by the early June is early). There is no need to sync other parts of your application, like your LOR, with your VMCAS application. Send it in!

Application Costs: The base fee to apply to one veterinary school thru AAVMC VMCAS is $241 and each additional designation will be $132. VMCAS does offer application fee assistance to those who demonstrate extreme financial need.

Supplemental Applications: There may be additional application required by a College/School of Veterinary Medicine in addition to the VMCAS application Check each program's individual requirements regarding supplemental applications **For a list of veterinary schools that have supplemental applications ("Secondaries") and their deadlines, visit:**
https://www.aavmc.org/assets/data-new/files/vmcas/supplemental%20application%20information.pdf

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Additional Information:
- AAVMC Official website to Veterinary Schools is a helpful resource that can be viewed here: https://www.aavmc.org/becoming-a-veterinarian/how-to-apply/
- For help decided what to label experiences use the Experience Chart found here: https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_VMCAS_Application/VMCAS_Supporting_Information/2_Experiences
- Deciding where to apply use VMSAR: https://applytovetschool.org/
- For Information on Letters of Recommendation and Guidelines for writers go here: https://www.aavmc.org/becoming-a-veterinarian/how-to-apply/recommendations/
- Personal statement advice (3000 characters or less) can be found here: https://help.liaisonedu.com/VMCAS_Applicant_Help_Center/Filling_Out_Your_VMCAS_Application/VMCAS_Supporting_Information/01_Essay
  Most veterinary schools will have secondaries/supplemental applications → aim to have these completed and submitted by early August.
- Interviews can start in the late summer/early fall and will run through the spring.

Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising
https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/preprofadvising/
preprofessional@jhu.edu