

# MAJOR MAP

## Pre-Veterinary Medicine Track

Wide variety of majors and minors are applicable to applying to veterinary school

URL for Undergrad Catalog - [bgsu.edu/catalog.html](http://bgsu.edu/catalog.html)

CLASS OPTIONS	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
GOOD ADVICE	Discuss pre requisite coursework with your college academic advisor.	Consider a wide array of majors (Biology, Business, Psychology...).	Meet with your college academic advisor for a junior degree audit.	Consider taking upper level biology courses after a discussion with your faculty mentor.
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	Investigate the preset process of the schools that you're interested in attending as each school has it's own nuances.	Develop interpersonal communication skills.	Work on your personal statement early in the year to accommodate the editing process.	Keep in contact with admission reps from the schools to which you are applying.
USEFUL CONNECTIONS	Diversify experiences: work with small or large animals, wildlife, exotic, and marine animals.	Become familiar with degree timelines. Utilize VMSAR to determine admission requirements and the application service VMCAS.	Apply for summer research opportunities. Continue to gain work experience in the field.	Continue to immerse yourself in research.
GLOBAL VIEWS	Join the BGSU Pre-Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) student organization.	Join the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).	Gain leadership positions throughout campus and in your student organizations.	Build networking skills by continuing to shadow, and attending open houses and conferences.
CAREER PREP	Take advantage of a study abroad opportunity. Visit <a href="http://bgsu.edu/educationabroad">bgsu.edu/educationabroad</a> for information about what BGSU offers.	Gain insight from off-campus and on-campus experiences, such as the International Dinner, Safe Zone Training, or a musical or theatrical performance.	Apply for competitive animal-related internships.	Diversify your experiences.
	Shadow, volunteer in clinics, shelters and zoos. Register for the Falcon Internship Guarantee Program through the BGSU Career Center. Continue adding experiences to your portfolio.	Visit the BGSU Career Center at <a href="http://www.bgsu.edu/career-center">www.bgsu.edu/career-center</a> and consider enrolling in the Falcon Internship Guarantee Program. Explore in-demand careers, career pathways, and occupations using <a href="http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com">http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com</a>	Prep For Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). Request LORs/ and update your resume.	Prepare for Interviews.



### Graduation & Beyond

Many pre-vet graduates go on to veterinary school to earn a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. Other job opportunities include positions with zoos, parks, wildlife organizations, and pet stores.

### Points of Pride

Our graduates are accepted into veterinary schools at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and many other institutions outside of Ohio.



## BGSU RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

**E**stelle Dobbins, retiree from BGSU and owner of Willow Wood Farms offers a valuable, longstanding connection with the University and its students allowing the students to work with her on her farm to gain Pre-Vet experience.

The Pre-Veterinary Medical Association is a group for students with the goal of becoming veterinarians, meets weekly at Willow Wood Farm just off campus. The farm is home to goats, sheep, llamas, donkeys, and chickens.



Kayla Tubbs (graduated) with two donkeys (June and Hannah) at the farm

## For the Love of Animals

**B**owling Green State University does well nationally placing graduates into veterinary schools, according to VetTechColleges.com, which names Bowling Green among the top 10 programs in the country for undergraduates planning a career in veterinary sciences. VetTechColleges.com noted the helpful advising BGSU offers, including with applications to veterinary school, and the fact that BGSU sends some students to the high-ranking Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine

“It’s much more selective than med school,” Ray Larsen said, noting that Ohio alone has about eight medical schools but only one veterinary college. Larsen is the adviser to the Pre-Veterinary Program in the biology department and the Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club.

What’s BGSU’s secret? Larsen said it amounts to course planning, a lot of hard work, “a rigorous foundation in biological and physical sciences, and not taking the path of least resistance. We channel them into a curriculum that is most consistent with their career goals with courses that will serve them best as a professional.”

Pre-vet students go beyond the normal degree requirements in biology, taking, in addition to calculus, not one but two organic chemistry courses, two physics courses and usually at least one semester of biochemistry.

As for providing the compelling factors that distinguish students, the Pre-Vet Club plays a major role in helping students get the veterinary-related extracurricular experience so important in successfully applying to veterinary programs, from sharing information on internships to volunteer opportunities.

“It’s a very competitive environment,” Larsen said of being accepted into veterinary school. “You need to have a 3.7 or 3.8 GPA to be competitive plus something else really compelling to make you stand out.”

As for providing the compelling factors that distinguish students, the Pre-Vet Club plays a major role in helping students get the veterinary-related extracurricular experience so important in successfully applying to veterinary programs, from sharing information on internships to volunteer opportunities.

Along with the networking and support it provides, the pre-vet club organizes field trips and speakers from organizations such as the dairy cow industry and large-animal veterinarians. In addition to the funding it receives from the University’s Student Activities Organization, its members work hard to raise extra funds to host even more events. “The club is a very vibrant organization,” Larsen said.



Ray Larson