

Hi, my name is Sara. I am a freshman in Animal Sciences/Pre-Vet at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Last time I wrote was over two years ago! So much has happened to me since then - most importantly earning a spot in the Purdue Veterinary School through an early admission program called the Veterinary Scholars Program. For those of you also interested in pursuing a career as a veterinarian, I have some advice:

Animals. Even now as a college student I am meeting so many pre-vet majors who have virtually no animal experience. Do yourself a favor and go play with some critters! Vet schools look for individuals who have logged many (official) hours at clinics, rescues, shelters, 4-H, etc.



Students who come into undergrad with a variety of animal experience are substantially ahead of their peers who come without it.

Take the tough high school courses you really don't want to take (i.e. the hardest math and science classes your school offers). Trust me, you will be glad you did. Once you reach college you will suddenly be thrown into an immense pool of other vet-wannabes who are competing with you for limited spots in the vet school and on top of that, your academic courses will be challenging! The pre-requisites for vet school include Calculus, Statistics, both organic and inorganic Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Microbiology (just to name a few). But don't be scared, nothing is out of your grasp.

Try to get good grades and standardized test scores as well but don't kill yourself. Remember that vet schools are also looking for well-rounded individuals with lots of interests and capabilities. Maybe you didn't have the highest SAT but you spent a summer helping with a research project at the local zoo. Hey, that's something!

Be open to where life may take you and jump for any veterinary-related experiences you can get. Just remember that whatever happens, all will be well. My best of luck to you!

“Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy.”

Norman Vincent Peale

