Pre-Veterinary Advising Project Outline

**Tips for freshmen**

**Maintain a solid GPA.** One of the first things that vet schools look at is GPA, so time to hit the books!

Start looking into internships to gain animal experience

However, be careful about not taking too heavy of a course load with a lot of extra-curricular activities. We recommend solely focusing on academics your first quarter at Davis, and adding internships and/or research positions in the Winter or Spring if you handled the coursework well your first quarter. Come talk to us if you need any help finding internships and managing your time.

Don’t be afraid to ask for help-> the faculty and staff are here to help you!

Look at our Veterinary school comparison chart early; we hope that you will have a good idea of where you want to apply to veterinary school by the **end of your freshman year!!** This is so that we can accurately schedule which classes you will need to take for the following years, such as which organic chemistry series you will need.

Try many different types of internships/animal experiences (a clinic, a facility internship, research, etc.) You may even find something you like better than veterinary medicine!

Get to know your professors—they can be great sources of advice, where to find research/internship positions, and eventually letters of recommendation.

Plan early: for pre-vet students it is essential to remain on track with coursework, study abroad, etc. so that you will be prepared by the time applications roll around

**Statistics**

\*\*there is a PDF version of the statistics in this folder which will go here.

**Pre-Veterinary Clubs/Organizations**

Vet aide club

Website: <https://icc.ucdavis.edu/aes/vetaides/>

General Information:

By joining the Vet Aide Club, you can learn more about opportunities to gain practical, hands-on experience in a variety of animal care fields. As a member, you can apply to one of our many internship opportunities to volunteer with the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital (VMTH). You can also learn about many more internship opportunities related to animal science and veterinary medicine. Overall, the Vet Aide Club strives to promote fellowship among its members and to provide them with all of the opportunities to be competitive in animal care fields. (Taken from https://icc.ucdavis.edu/aes/vetaides/)

Pre-vet students supporting diversity (PSSD)

Website: <http://pssdclub.webs.com/>

General Information:

Pre-Vet Students Supporting Diversity is an organization designed to support and retain students from underrepresented/disadvantaged communities pursuing careers in the field of veterinary medicine by providing activities that will enhance their preparation to veterinary school. We strive to increase diversity in the veterinary field by providing a support system, mentor-ship, and resources to pre-veterinary students at UC Davis who have faced barriers leading to higher education. (Taken from http://pssdclub.webs.com/ )

Mercer Clinic

Website: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/mercer/>

General Information:

Mercer Clinic for the Pets of the Homeless is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization (completely independent of UC Davis) providing free medical care for the animal companions of the homeless. The clinic meets the second Saturday of every month at Loaves and Fishes, a Sacramento-based organization which provides an array of services to the homeless.

UC Davis Veterinary students and pre-veterinary students over the age of 18 are welcome to volunteer for the clinic. Duties of volunteers may include taking patient histories, performing physical examinations, assisting veterinarians, administering preventative medications and vaccines, pulling patient charts and assisting in clean-up duties.. (Taken from <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/mercer/>)

Mercer 2014-2015 Coordinators: Email Coordinator: Lauren Tseng (lmtseng@ucdavis.edu), Market Coordinator: Nicole Doan (nndoan@ucdavis.edu), Treasurer: Brenda Bui (bbui@ucdavis.edu), and Publicity Coordinator: Jose Ruiz (jjsruiz@ucdavis.edu)

Knight’s Landing Clinic

Website: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/onehealth/students/knights\_landing/index.cfm

General Information:

Knights Landing is an economically underserved community with a large migrant worker population from March through August. This community has many domesticated animals, including dogs, cats, and chickens. The goal of the project is to improve animal health in the community, because this impacts human health and well-being. Not only is the possibility of zoonotic disease transmission reduced, but healthy animals are less of an economic and emotional burden, and could even improve the livelihood of their owners. (Taken from http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/onehealth/students/knights\_landing/index.cfm )

Oakland Fix our Ferals

Website: <http://fixourferals.org/home/about/donate/volunteer/>

General Information:

Fix Our Ferals (FOF) is a community-based, non-profit organization that promotes trap-neuter-return (TNR) to humanely reduce outdoor cat populations in the San Francisco East Bay. We help improve neighborhoods for both cats and people by:

Providing affordable sterilizations and vaccinations, as well as free trap loans with a security deposit, information and advice for implementing trap-neuter-return (TNR) in East Bay neighborhoods

Educating community members, leaders, and decision-makers about TNR as the only humane and effective long-term solution to neighborhood cat issues

Reducing unnecessary killing of cats in shelters by advocating TNR as the superior method of population control (Taken from <http://fixourferals.org/home/about/donate/volunteer/>)

Contact: [volunteers@fixourferals.org](mailto:volunteers@fixourferals.org), or visit the website

Sacramento SPCA Feral Clinic

Website: <http://www.sspca.org/>

Mission Statement: Foster a loving and compassionate community for animals and people by providing assistance, creating lifelong relationships, and saving lives. (Taken from <http://www.sspca.org/>)

Contact: (916) 383-7387, ext. 9133 (for volunteer opportunities), or visit the website

UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine Internships and Fellowships

Website: <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vmth/clinical_training_programs/internships_fellowships/index.cfm>

**Extra Requirements**

\*\* I made an executive decision to just upload the pre-veterinary requirements handout that we already have made. Let me know if you think the information would be better suited to a different format

There are two handouts that I think would be good for here:

1) Veterinary Prep at UC Davis

2) Worldwide Vet school requirements 2015

\*\*these are already in the folder with pre-vet stuff as PDFs

**Important dates and deadlines**

Freshmen: Know which veterinary schools you want to apply to by the END of your freshman year! This will affect which organic chemistry series you take at UC Davis.

Transfers: Know which veterinary schools you want to apply to as soon as possible! This will affect which organic chemistry series you take at UC Davis, if you have not taken one already.

You must apply the **year before** you plan on entering veterinary school. If you are not taking a gap year, this means you will apply at the end of junior year; if you are taking a gap year, you will apply at the end of senior year.

Application Timetable:

Early May: Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) opens.

Early August (of the year in which you are applying): the last chance you have to take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE).

Note that you can take the GRE well before applying to veterinary schools; test scores can be used up to 5 years past the date that they are taken, so it would be a good idea to take them early! Also plan for extra time to take it again if needed (the retake must be at least 21 days after the previous test).

Early September: VMCAS closes; all application material for schools using VMCAS is due.