The Ohio State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

The 1st Year Student Resource Guide

Created by Students for Students and Updated for the OSU-CVM Class of 2014

Information for the Class of 2014 1st Year Student Resource Guide is provided as a courtesy and is based on information available at the time of publication. To report missing or inaccurate data, please email Dr. Brandt Jennifer.Brandt@cvm.osu.edu.
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INTRODUCTION

"Change is inevitable . . . adapting to change is unavoidable, it's how you do it that sets you together or apart."

William Ngwako Maphoto

Congratulations! No, it’s not a dream. You really are starting vet school! Today marks the start of a whole new chapter in your life. Like most of us, you are probably filled with excitement and enthusiasm (and if we’re being honest, maybe some anxiety as well).

Fortunately, veterinary school is not a solitary experience. You are now following in the footsteps of over 8,361 students who have graduated before you. And look around. On this journey, traveling side by side with you, are over 140 other veterinarians of the future. At some point in time, all (or nearly all) of us folks have experienced feeling lost or overwhelmed. In the jargon of science, I guess that puts us right smack dab in the middle of the anxiety bell curve!

With everything else you have going on right now, you may be asking yourself why we have provided you yet one more thing to read. Here’s why—According to Kate Hissom (class of 2007), “In my first year I found myself in dire need of some information. After struggling to identify and locate the resources I needed, I realized it would have been helpful if I’d had some sort of road map to life as a vet student—and the OSU campus as a whole. After discovering that many other “firsties” felt the same way, I formed a committee with several classmates and faculty. Together, we created the 1st Year Student Resource Guide. With your help in keeping the guide up to date, this tradition can continue for many years to come.”
Putting “T-H-E” into The OSU College of Veterinary Medicine

Do you want to know what makes THE OSU-CVM so special? Take just a moment to consider our contributions toward advancing the art and science of veterinary medical education, clinical care and research:

- OSU-CVM researchers developed the first Feline Leukemia vaccine, patented by Ohio State, licensed to Pfizer, Inc., now routinely used worldwide.

- The OSU-CVM is the lead institution in the Center for Retrovirus Research.

- OSU-CVM faculty members are leaders in the development of advanced orthopedic procedures including fracture repair and arthroscopy in horses and total hip replacement in dogs.

- Faculty in the animal health group at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) are recognized internationally for their work in infectious diseases.

The OSU-CVM takes pride in its mission to benefit society through the education of veterinarians and the protection of animal health. This includes the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and understanding of animal diseases, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge through professional and graduate education, research, and service in the broad discipline of veterinary medicine. The OSU-CVM is an important resource for the biomedical and agricultural communities, contributing to the development of new knowledge and the training of future scientists. In keeping with the land-grant mission, The OSU-CVM is committed to disseminating new knowledge to the public, providing advanced and continuing training for veterinarians, and providing access to specialized veterinary medical services.
Veterinary Student’s Oath

Adopted in 2004 from Michigan State University’s CVM with the permission of Hilda Mejia Abreu, Director of Admissions, MSU CVM:

On this day, as I begin pursuit of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree at The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, I earnestly commit myself to professional development. This includes not only the acquisition of scientific knowledge, but also personal development.

I recognize the veterinarian’s role as a leader in society, and will begin to learn my chosen profession from this day forward with integrity and in keeping with the standards of the College and the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

As a professional student, I pledge to respect and show compassion for my fellow students, college faculty and staff, the animals under my care, and animal owners. I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

You’ll find that The OSU-CVM places emphasis on developing biomedical and interpersonal intelligence. Many of the core professional development courses you take in your first 3 years and your 4th year clinical rotations will focus on the importance of continually developing self-awareness and effective interpersonal communication. The reading of the Veterinary Oath during orientation helps set the tone that it’s not just “what you say, but how you say it” that matters.
ORIENTATION

1st Year Orientation Program

Remember the jitters that many of us experienced on our first new day of school each year? We worried about things like, “Who are my classmates?” “Will they like me?” “What if everyone else is smarter than me?” “What if I’m only here because someone put my name on the wrong list and the school is too afraid to tell me?” Sound familiar? Well, the 1st Year Orientation Program was designed to help reduce some of those fears by helping us form connections with our classmates before classes even begin and to introduce us to the communication and conflict resolution skills that are essential to our personal and professional success.

Orientation-Day One (Friday September 17th, 2010)

“What Should I Wear?” Comfortable clothing (preferably shorts of an appropriate length or pants) suitable for light to moderate physical activity and close-toed shoes. (Think back to your gym class days from elementary school and dress accordingly). The weather can be variable at this time of year, so take a moment to look at the weather forecast before heading to campus day-and dress accordingly. Additional suggestions on what to bring to your first day of orientation are included in the materials that are emailed to you prior to orientation.

On your first day of orientation you will be assigned to work in groups of approximately 10-12 classmates. (Hint: Take a close look at the people assigned to your group on day one because 2-3 of these very same faces will be your lab partners in anatomy!)

The first day of orientation is divided into two sections; the DiSC Seminar and Ground Initiatives. Half of your classmates will start off the day in the DiSC Seminar, while the other half of your classmates will participate in Ground Initiatives. After lunch, the groups reverse. So, if you started the day in the DiSC seminar, you’ll end the day with Ground Initiatives, or if you started the day with Ground Initiatives, you’ll end the day in the DiSC seminar.
What is the DiSC? With 30 years of proven reliability and over 40 million users, Inscape’s DiSC Classic Profile remains the most trusted learning instrument in the industry. It is used worldwide in dozens of training and coaching applications, including organizational development and performance improvement. When applied, knowledge from your DiSC profile can help you:

- Enhance your understanding of your own behavior
- Learn how and when to adapt your behavior
- Improve communication
- Promote appreciation of differences
- Enhance individual and team performance
- Reduce conflict

For more information about the DiSC, you may visit the DiSC website at http://www.disctests.com/default.asp.

Ground Initiatives are activities that require physical and mental cooperation among a group of individuals in order to solve a task. Primary objectives for initiative activities are group cohesion, trust, communication and problem solving skills that result from working together towards a solution to an assigned task. Consider initiative events as a metaphor for the way you approach your life. Following each attempt at an activity, the group is given an opportunity to discuss, process and analyze their experience. Each group is assigned to work with a facilitator specially trained to guide groups through the exercises and discussion. The first day of orientation—generally held at the veterinary college the Friday before classes begin—uses trained facilitators from Camp Mary Orton, located in Columbus, Ohio. For more information about Camp Mary Orton, check out their website at http://www.campmaryorton.org/.

(Hint: The Veterinary Student Affairs Team put a lot of effort and time into planning, organizing and funding the orientation activities. Several corporate sponsors help fund the activities because they’ve seen these activities be effective in veterinary colleges and organizations around the world. We realize that while some of you may absolutely LOVE these types of professional skill building activities, others may not be as comfortable with taking risks, communicating with people you don’t know very well, or feeling vulnerable. However, the orientation activities have been carefully selected to help you begin to form the foundation of your professional
identity. Being a successful professional often requires moving out of your comfort zone. The first day of orientation provides you an opportunity to try something new with skilled facilitators who are very gifted at what they do.

**Orientation-Day Two** (Sunday September 19, 2010)

"What Should I Wear?" Sunday’s activities involve a great deal of sitting and actively listening, as well as walking up to the front of the auditorium to greet Dr. Lonnie King, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and receive a gift (yes, we know what the gift is but we’re keeping it a surprise!). The convocation ceremony is an official “right of passage” event for which some people may choose to dress up, so just a heads up that you may feel a bit out of place if you wear your most casual clothing. That said, Sunday’s orientation activities will begin at the College of Veterinary Medicine, (CVM) require walking over the footbridge from the CVM to the Drake Union for the convocation ceremony, returning from the Drake via the footbridge to the CVM, and CVM campus tours. Due to the walking involved, we strongly advise that you plan ahead and wear or bring comfortable walking shoes!!!

The addition of Sunday activities is new for your class and based on the feedback and suggestions from previous students. (The Student Affairs team will be eager to hear your constructive feedback about the day). What we know for sure is that Sunday’s orientation activities will definitely be a change of pace from Friday’s activities.

The goal of Sunday’s orientation activities is to provide you a more formal introduction to the college. Because parents and/or significant others are invited to attend, we know some of you may worry about whether or not to invite your family and/or friends. (No one wants to be “the only one” with or without family present). However, this is one of those times when you need to ask yourself, what YOU want, and then act accordingly. If you want the significant people in your life to be present, invite them. If you don’t, that’s okay too. Based on previous years, about half of your new classmates may have family member(s) in attendance, and about half may not. The day’s activities include meeting college leaders, learning about the transition from undergraduate to professional school, singing Carmen Ohio (totally not kidding!) and tours of the veterinary campus. This is a pleasant day where
your family can experience a small taste of your new world as you meet your new classmates, faculty and college leadership.

**Orientation-Day Three (Monday September 20, 2010)**

“What Should I Wear?” A range of attire is appropriate this day—but take note that there is definitely a line between “comfortable” versus “inappropriate” attire. Always remember that you are now enrolled in a professional program. Comfortable walking shoes are also suggested.

As with Sunday’s activities, the addition of Monday’s activities, (held at the Drake Union), is new for your class and based on the feedback and suggestions from previous students.

Think about Monday as a day to be completely immersed in robust conversations with your new classmates and to begin your process of becoming more self-aware—both in how you relate to yourself and others.

The first part of the day is centered on The World Café. For those of you not familiar with World Café, it “is an innovative yet simple process for holding conversations that matter. These conversations link and build on each other as people move between groups, cross-pollinate ideas, and discover new insights that are most important to their life, work, or community. As a process, the World Café can evoke and make visible the collective intelligence of any group, thus increasing people’s capacity for effective action in pursuit of common aims.” For more information on The World Café, you may visit their website at [http://www.theworldcafe.com/](http://www.theworldcafe.com/).

The second part of the day is dedicated to “Difficult Conversations” and will include a brief overview of the fundamental guidelines for holding successful conversations about difficult subjects. Following the brief overview, you will be randomly assigned to a small group (of about 10 of your classmates), and given 30 minutes to develop a presentation or skit that demonstrates an effective approach for addressing your group’s designated difficult conversations scenario. Your group will then have exactly 5 minutes to perform their presentation or skit to the larger group.

Again, we know that these types of activities aren’t comfortable for everyone. Many of you (just like many of us) would prefer to sit “in the back
of the room” and let others take the spotlight and perform in front of a
group. This may be especially true when being asked to apply information
and concepts with which you are not very familiar (or confident). But in
many ways, this process models the challenges of being a veterinary student
and veterinary professional. Every day in class, you'll be asked to acquire and
apply information that is new to you. And when you work with clients, every
day may bring new challenges. So our motto is, “feel the fear and do it
anyway.” Recognize that moments of discomfort are also opportunities for
tremendous growth and learning and be open to the experience. Just
because it’s uncomfortable, doesn’t mean it’s not good for you!

Orientation-Day Four (Tuesday September 21, 2010)

“What Should I Wear?” A range of attire is appropriate this day, but as
we mentioned previously, there is a distinct line between "comfortable"
versus “inappropriate” attire. Always remember that you are now enrolled in
a professional program. Also note that this is the day your picture will be
taken for your class “Baby Book”—a picture book compiled by the College,
consisting of a photograph of each member of your class. The book will be
posted on the web early in your first quarter, and it will be referred to
often as you and faculty learn the names and faces of your new “family”. So,
if you are one of those people who like to look presentable in a picture
(definitely not a bad thing), plan accordingly. As always, comfortable walking
shoes are also suggested.

Also known as the “Spend Some Money Day”, come prepared with your
checkbook (and CASH if you did not prepay for your class notes) as
today is the day you will purchase your class notes, your text books, and pay
class dues. And for those of you who didn’t purchase your parking pass in
advance (which we STRONGLY advise) you’ll need to make time to purchase
your parking pass sometime today before classes begin on Wednesday.
(Hint: Plan on making several trips to your car. We suggest that you
purchase your class notes FIRST and then drop them off in your car ASAP
as they are quite cumbersome!) For the convenience of those wanting to pay
by credit card and avoid standing in line, class notes may be ordered online
by going to http://uniprint.osu.edu/coursepackets starting 5 days before
the first day of class. Students who order on line can then simply pick up
their notes here at the college during orientation. Purchasing notes during
orientation is still an option but ONLY CASH payments will be accepted
for on site class notes sales—NO CHECKS or CREDIT CARDS. Although notes will be available throughout the quarter at the Ohio Union’s UniPrint storefront, we strongly recommend students take advantage of these two early sale options to avoid the inconveniences of having to go to main campus.

**IMPORTANT STUFF**

**Class dues:** Each year, veterinary students contribute to their own class fund by paying dues and/or hosting class fundraisers. Dues are necessary for your first year, so your class account can have funds with which you can purchase fundraising supplies. The purpose of establishing a healthy account by the end of your fourth year is to pay for "Senior Send-Off," a celebration dedicated to 4th year students in honor of their accomplishments. This time-honored tradition will be planned by your class for your class. The sky (or your bank account) is the limit on what you can do! Your funds will also go toward purchasing a class gift for The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. This gift honors the relationship between your class and the college. For your convenience, an account has already been established by your "Big Sib" class, and those second-year students will collect and deposit your dues. Dues may or may not be necessary the next three years, depending upon how successful your class is at fundraising—that will be a decision for your student government to determine at that time.

"Baby Book": This is a picture book compiled by the College, consisting of a photograph of each member of your class. The book will be posted on the web early in your first quarter, and it will be referred to often as you and faculty learn the names and faces of your new "family". In the event you don’t like your first Baby Book picture, you will have an opportunity to redeem yourself when the new set of Baby Book pictures is taken just prior to your start in clinics (spring quarter of your 3rd year).

**Buck-ID:** This identification card is your "key" into the vet school. In your orientation packet you will receive a form requesting that you provide your Buck-ID information for the folks in Veterinary Student Affairs. They need this number in order to have your ID programmed properly. The magnetic strip on both the Buck-ID and the Hospital ID are coded to allow you access to OSU-CVM buildings and computer labs during off hours. This ID is
required to utilize athletic facilities located throughout campus, and to purchase discounted tickets through The Ohio Student Unions Board and Explore Columbus. The Buck-ID can also carry a cash balance to use at food venues throughout campus, such as the Campus Grind (a Starbucks kiosk and Oxley’s food cart) located in VMAB. (Hint: If you are in town the week before orientation, you may want to try and get your Hospital ID and Buck-ID before Orientation to avoid any lines. To do this, you’ll first need to pick up a form from the Office of Veterinary Student Affairs in the Deans Suite in VMAB and then take the form over to the Ohio Union.

**E-mail Set-Up:** To access e-mail and restricted sites on the OSU and OSU-CVM web pages, schedule for classes, view grades online, access financial aid information, etc., you must first activate your OSU Internet Username (also referred to as your "lastname.#") and establish a password. Incoming students are sent instructions for activating their account prior to orientation. You can find the webpage to setup your username and e-mail account at [www.admissions.osu/activate](http://www.admissions.osu/activate). (Hint: Due to technical “glitches” that may be experienced, we DO NOT RECOMMEND having your OSU e-mail account forwarded through another account.) If you need help, 8help, the OIT Technology Support Center Help Desk handles questions, problem reports, service requests, and inquiries from faculty, staff, and students regarding computer hardware and software, Internet connectivity, and related topics. You can contact them by phone at 614-688-HELP (4357) (TDD: 614-688-8743) or e-mail at 8help@osu.edu.

**CVMChat:** The CVMchat listserv was created for the purpose of posting unofficial information e.g. sales offers, animals available for adoption, lost-and-found items etc. This allows the use of the student listserves to be used for official business only and keeps your inbox from getting cluttered from optional emails.

CVMchat is an "opt-in" list, which means that unlike VetAll and the student listserves, only those students and personnel who wish to receive or send sales or other types of unofficial messages will be members of CVMchat. You must be a member of the list in order to send messages to other list members or to receive messages sent to the list. The value in this approach is that you are targeting an audience that are much more likely to be interested in what you are selling, and you are not bothering those who do not want to be solicited.
Subscribing to CVMchat: Because CVMchat is an opt-in list, you must send a subscribe request to the mailing list processor in order to participate. The list processor is an automated system which processes subscribe and unsubscribe requests. To become a member of the CVMchat list, send a message to the e-mail address below and include the following text, replacing the bracketed information with the correct value. Do not include any graphics, signatures, or other information, as these may confuse the list processor.

Send your subscribe request to:
- listproc@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu
- Subject: The subject is ignored so you can leave it empty.
- Body of message: subscribe cvmchat [First name] [Last Name]
- For example, if Jonathan Doe wished to subscribe, he would simply send a message which contains the following line all by itself:

  subscribe cvmchat Jonathan Doe

That’s all there is to it! Once you send the message, within a couple minutes you should receive a response from the list processor indicating that you’ve been successfully added as a member of the CVMchat mailing list. You are subscribed using the e-mail address from which you sent the request.

Sending a Message to Other CVMchat Members: Once you are subscribed you will automatically start receiving messages sent by other list members. To send a message yourself that will be read by other list members, simply send to cvmchat@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu. (Users of the Exchange server can just address their message to "cvmchat" and Exchange will fill in the correct address for you.)

Unsubscribing from the CVMchat List: If you no longer wish to participate in this list, you may unsubscribe yourself at any time by sending a message to the list processor with the following line: unsubscribe cvmchat

Fees and Payments/Direct Deposit: (614) 292-3337 or toll-free 1-800-635-8944. We highly recommend you set up direct deposit with the treasurer’s office. This will allow a more timely disbursement of student
financial aid, and eliminate the hassle of receiving funds. The paperwork can be obtained through the registrar's office, or completed online through the Fees and Deposits section of the Treasurer's webpage at http://www.treasurer.ohio-state.edu. In order to access the paperwork online you must have an OSU internet username and password.

**Financial Aid:** (614) 292-0300. Your financial aid liaison for the College of Veterinary Medicine will assist you with any questions you might have about your financial aid. Currently, Jane Woodland (woodland.4@osu.edu) is your source of information. On Wednesdays and Fridays Ms. Woodland is available on-site at the CVM in room 265 of VMAB.

**Rabies Vaccinations:** Questions regarding any health requirements can be addressed to preventivemedicine@studentlife.osu.edu, (614) 292-0146 or (614) 292-0150. The best advice we can offer is to have them done before you get here. It’s not a big deal if you don’t, just an expensive deal (and some people report that they don’t feel 100% for a day or two after the vaccines so you may want to consider that when making your decision as to when you obtain your vaccines). Most insurance companies will not cover the series, so if yours does, take advantage of it! Rabies immunization is a series of 3 vaccines and the latest information that we were provided indicated that EACH vaccine costs $221.00 (yep, that’s $663.00 for the entire series) if obtained through the Wilce Student Health Center. If you contact your local health department and they quote you a cost of less than $663.00 for the series, then consider having the series done there. (Because cost information is subject to change, you are encouraged to call the OSU Student Health Center for an up-to-date and accurate price quote). Talk to your employer, family doc, or anyone else you might know to see if you can get the series cheaper elsewhere. Keep in mind that the series entails 3 shots. The 2\textsuperscript{nd} shot is given 7 days after the first. The 3\textsuperscript{rd} shot is given 21 days after the first. So plan accordingly!!!!! If you have already had the vaccination series, you will only need a titer test and possible booster. The cost for the rabies titer through the Wilce Student Health Center is $60.00. **Any student who has gotten the rabies series prior to entering vet school must FAX documentation of this to Susie Baker, PM Coordinator, at 614-292-6001.** The College of Veterinary Medicine requires full vaccination by the end of your first year, and then they have titer tests run before you enter clinics - the time you truly need the benefits of the vaccinations. The school
is not particular about where the vaccinations come from, just that you have documentation that you have received them. Please be aware that there is a process you can follow if you choose to decline receiving the rabies vaccines. However, there will be times when you may be exposed and rabies is not a disease you want to take a risk of contracting.

A note about Student Health Insurance and the Rabies Vaccinations: Rabies Vaccinations are scheduled during your first year at school as a part of the curriculum schedule. The class is divided into groups, and each group marches over the river via the footbridge to the Student Health Center for their shot. If you have the Student Health Insurance Full coverage plan, you will have a "pot" of $300.00 which covers immunizations and preventive medicine items such as titers—but only at 50%. The remainder of the series comes directly out of your pocket. These may be important things to consider if you have other options! ALL STUDENTS MUST GO TO THE WILCE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER AS INDICATED ON THEIR CLASS SCHEDULES OR MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ON YOUR OWN WITH THE WILCE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER FOR ANOTHER ACCEPTABLE TIME OPTION. ANY STUDENT NOT SHOWING UP FOR HIS/HER SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO A FINE IMPOSED BY THE WILCE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER.

Residency Requirements for At-Large Students:(614-292-9330) Please note that the information included in this Student Survival Guide is to assist you in preparing for your residency application and is in no way a complete list of what you may need to know or do. For more detailed information regarding the residency process or for questions regarding your personal residency status you may contact the residency office: Office of the University Registrar, 320 Lincoln Tower, 1800 Cannon Drive, Columbus, OH 43210-1230.

One of the many great things about OSU is that you can apply to be considered a resident of the great state of Ohio after your first year, so that you will be eligible to receive the in-state tuition rate for the remaining 3 years! In order to do this you do need to jump through a few hoops. The following is a short list of information that we have found to be helpful.

- The review period that the residency office looks at is the 12 months prior to the quarter for which you are applying for residency status. So if
you are applying for Autumn Quarter 2011 they will review the period from September 2010 - September 2011. In this period you need to prove that you were financially independent and DID NOT receive any funds from outside of Ohio to help you pay for anything. Applications are due at least 2 weeks before the quarter that you want to be considered an Ohio resident.

- You must be registered to vote in Ohio and have an Ohio Drivers License. If you have a car it must be registered in Ohio. If you file taxes, you need to do so as a resident or part-year resident of Ohio (submit copies).

- The application requires that you list all of your expenses (tuition, fees, books, rent, utilities, food, clothing, auto and health insurance, gas/auto maintenance, recreation, cell phone, car payment, etc.). Then you must list all sources of income including loans, scholarships, employment and any savings used. If you use money from savings, you must prove that you had the money for 1 year prior to the review period. For example, if you're applying for Autumn 2011, you need bank statements from June 2011, September 2010, and September 2009. This is their way of assuring that someone from out of state did not give you money. You may receive money from a resident of the state of Ohio, but they must submit a sworn affidavit that they gave you the money from their own personal funds, and they must submit proof that they had the means to do so (a copy of a W2 should suffice).

(Hint: Be proactive! Speak to a representative from the Registrars office before Spring Quarter. This is to insure you have all the information you need and that there are no misunderstandings between what is accepted and what you may think is accepted. The residency process is detailed and requires patience, so please don't wait until the last minute to apply. If you are interested in possibly attaining residency or are just curious about the process, more information can be found at www.ureg.ohio-state.edu/ourweb/more/Content/Residency/Procedures_new.htm.)
ACADEMICS

If you are like a lot of us, you spent a lot of time prior to vet school focusing on your grades. The world of “A” became equated with being good or worthy. The world of “Anything Less Than A” somehow became equated with bad or unworthy. If that’s the case, it’s time to consider adopting a new paradigm!

Instead of focusing on rote memorization of facts that are provided directly to you from the instructor or the text, think now about studying information in greater depth so that you can apply fundamental concepts to address more complex questions. As you immerse yourself in learning, it should become less about “Did I get an A?” and more about “Do I understand and am I able to apply the material?”

People often say that veterinary school is competitive. But you have to believe the “A’s prove I’m better” mantra in order for the competition to affect you. And you can’t blame your classmates if you choose to keep believing that…um…garbage. Our advice? As a baby step, tell yourself that a grade of C still equals DVM. Maybe that will remove some of your self-imposed pressure and free you up to enjoy the privilege of learning. As your inner confidence grows, consider telling yourself that the grades of your classmates are none of your business nor are they a reflection of your ability or character. (I know, easier said than done.) The truth is, the more you keep the focus on your own personal and professional growth process, the better you will be.

Books: You will receive a list of “required” and “recommended” books to purchase prior to the quarter in question. Despite the length (and cost) of the book list, you may not need to purchase all of the books on the list. OVESS (the “bookstore” of the vet college) will be able to supply you with an alternate book list that has been developed over the years with input from student surveys. You may also get by with using the reserved material in the library or borrowing upperclassmen’s books. We’ve even had professors provide a more personalized list when contacted, complete with advice to hold off on purchasing particular books due to upcoming new editions.

Class Notes: Provided the first day of each quarter, you are required to purchase these, as they contain the majority of the material from which you
will be taught and tested. Although the cost for the class notes varies with each quarter and the number of electives you take, we recommend budgeting approximately $100 per quarter for this expense.

**Finding Course Information:** Web Vet ([http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/webvet.htm](http://www.vet.ohio-state.edu/webvet.htm)) is located on the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine’s webpage. The Web Vet site is accessible to the public and therefore only provides a limited amount of information. Most information (e.g. course changes, lecture notes, etc.) will be made available either on the MyCVM website at [https://mycvm.vet.ohio-state.edu/](https://mycvm.vet.ohio-state.edu/), or on Carmen at [https://carmen.osu.edu](https://carmen.osu.edu). Professors utilize these sites to distribute lecture notes, post online quizzes, update information, and provide access to slides and images. Once you have your OSU User ID and Password, take some time to get familiar with these sites.

Throughout your courses, you will find yourself frequently accessing “Reserve Material”, “AT Center Slide sets”, and “Course Material”. (Hint: Carmen maintains a record of whether or not you actually look up the information that the instructor has posted on the site. Unfortunately, we do have the occasional classmate who complains to the teacher about how “confusing the lecture or test was”—implying the teacher is to blame—when that classmate never even bothered to look up the resources that the teacher took the time to post, or attend the optional review sessions that were made available. Not good. Not good at all.)

Okay. Here’s a brief synopsis of each course broken down by quarters.

**Fall Quarter Classes**

**Canine Anatomy:** As your introduction to veterinary anatomy, this course covers the anatomic landscape of the canine species and provides a foundation for the language utilized in veterinary medicine and throughout your education. Dr. Inpanbutr, the course instructor, usually sends an e-mail via the student listserv to further expand on the goals of this course and provide instructions for a program available for you to use to prepare yourself before the quarter begins. If you have limited experience with anatomy, you might want to brush up on general terms.
As tempting as it may seem, and as much as you may want to have photographic evidence of your fun-filled anatomy endeavors, you are not allowed to take pictures in the anatomy lab. This goes for equine and food animal anatomy too. You will have the opportunity to take pictures for your Wiki project (which Dr. Inpanbutr will explain during class), but you may not post them anywhere or retain them for personal use. It is an Honor Code violation to do so, unless otherwise approved by Dr. Inpanbutr.

The Anatomy lab door is usually open during the assigned lab times, but if you want to access the lab outside of class time, you must have your BuckID to get in. Depending on what time you’re attempting to access the lab, the doors to Sisson Hall and to VMAB may also be locked, so you’ll need to have your BuckID to get into those, too. The amount of time spent outside of class time in the lab varies with each student. Some feel that they get plenty of experience and study time during the scheduled lab time, while others will come for hours upon hours of their own time. Do what fits you best. If you think that you aren’t quite clear on some points and just want to cement them in your mind, go to the lab for a bit of additional time. If you don’t work well in a noisy environment and need to do all of your supplemental studying outside of the lab time, you can certainly do that too.

The exams in this course are comprised of both written and practical tests. The written portion is usually multiple choice or matching. For the Lab Practical Exams, specimens are pulled out in the lab and set up in approximately 60 or so stations. Each station has a pin marking an organ or structure which you must identify. And yes, SPELLING COUNTS!!

(Hint: Wear scrubs to lab because it will get messy. Many students choose to wear scrubs to school and change out of them after lab. This saves time so that you won’t need to go through the trouble of finding an open bathroom stall and changing, although there are separate men’s and women’s changing rooms available by the lockers in the basement.)

Cell Biology: This is the class where you will learn everything you ever wanted to know about glycolysis, DNA structure, replication, proteins, etc. You will learn the details of cellular pathways and the vital molecules needed to keep the system functioning normally. The quantity of work in this class is another sign that you are striving toward an important goal—becoming a DVM—and just a hint of what is to come from classes later in the year. (And
don’t complain about the volume of information. Would you prefer the tradeoff that we not have to learn any of this stuff before going out and practicing on live animals?) For those who have recently completed their undergrad, Cell Bio may seem to be quite easy—or not. For those who have been out of the classroom for a while, appreciate the experience of getting to learn this information at a greater depth than ever before!

**Histology I:** Histology is a course with many different areas of focus. The first series of histological topics include the cell, epithelium, connective tissue, muscular, ocular, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and urinary systems. It is important to note that this class is not just about identifying tissues; you will also be expected to know functional information about the tissues you discuss. There will be a team of instructors - approximately 6 - teaching each of the focused areas. (Hint: Remember the DiSC from Orientation? A good approach for this or any course is to understand the unique styles of each instructor. This will help you better customize your study efforts for that particular instructor's material.) (Another Hint: On the midterm and final there will be a cumulative slide show portion of the test that includes slides from every topic taught in this course. There have been instances in which the campus computer system has been down/crashed before finals and tests. Therefore, it may be a good idea to view and save the slide pictures from online to a PowerPoint format, on a zip disk or CD so that you can go back and review; though recently the Information Technology department has begun providing course-related CDs which may include all the images you need to study. This ensures that you are not relying on the computer system when it comes time to study the slides.) Make SURE to use the recommended Wheater's Histology text for this course. This book has great pictures and descriptions that will be very useful to you for this course.

**Epidemiology:** This class examines the origins, prevention and containment of potential diseases. The focus of the course is to analyze the effects of disease on a population rather than any single individual. You will learn about the history of epidemiology and diseases of concern within animal sectors, like equine, bovine, porcine, ovine, and small animals. Throughout the quarter, Dr. Garabed presents the basics of epidemiology and guest lectures present information on many various topics. An introduction to tropical and foreign disease is also presented in this course. This class has weekly quizzes and assignments; familiarizing yourself with Microsoft Excel and
Microsoft Word programs will be beneficial. Regular attendance in this course is highly recommended as pop quizzes may be given. Toward the end of the quarter the class takes a mandatory field trip to the OARDC and OSU-ATI livestock farms, providing an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in a real-life setting. At the end of the quarter each student must write a case report containing all of the elements of epidemiology learned within the course. This writing assignment replaces the typical final exam.

**Radiology I: Introduction to Diagnostic Radiology:** The first quarter of radiology begins with an overview of the production of radiographs. This includes a summary of the physics behind radiographs and factors affecting image detail and contrast. The first part of the course covers the equipment used in radiology and reviews basic techniques and technique chart-making. The remainder of the course is dedicated to the interpretation of radiographs. This part of the course covers the interpretation of bone, joint, thoracic and abdominal radiographs. Although the course focuses primarily on the interpretation of normal radiographs, many examples of radiographic pathology will also be given. The course is one credit, and there is a midterm and a final. The lectures are in a PowerPoint format that will also be available on Carmen. There are also required readings from the text. The textbook is expensive, but a good reference for this course and later radiology courses. There is a copy of the text in the reference section of the library. The diagrams and pictures in the text are useful and there is a radiographic anatomy section in the back that is beneficial for canine and equine anatomy.

**Basic Life Skills:** Veterinary hospital employers and clients have emphasized the need for veterinary college curriculums to prepare veterinary students on business acumen and communication skills associated with a successful veterinary practice. The KPMG and Brakke studies provided information that many graduate veterinarians lack skills needed to optimally contribute to the success of the veterinary practice. A model curriculum evolved from workshops of veterinary college practice management educators and practice management consultants by developing a “Template for a Recommended Curriculum on Veterinary Professional Development and Career Success.” Basic Life Skills is taught in the Professional Development curriculum to provide students with a variety of skills and information
necessary to be successful in the first year of veterinary school, the veterinary profession and in life.

**Introduction to Animal Behavior**: Intro to Animal Behavior, taught by Dr. Croney teaches students the basics of small and large animal behavior. This course is designed as a typical lecture but, much time is made available for discussion. These discussions cover the fundamental processes of animal behavior and also analyze the implications for animal management, production, housing and welfare. There are assigned readings and on-line quizzes used to access your progress with the material. The course is one-credit hour but much time is required for this course, do not put it off. At the end of the quarter an exam is used for your final assessment.

**Electives**: 1st year veterinary students may take one hour of elective credit in autumn quarter. See VCS 729 below:

**Pet Loss Education and Grief Support (VCS 729)**
Joelle Nielsen, coordinator of the Honoring the Bond program, teaches the Pet Loss Education and Grief Support course. Please note that first year students are limited to 1 hour of elective credit in fall quarter and 1 hour of elective credit in winter quarter. VCS 729 is the elective that first year students may enroll in during fall and/or winter quarters, so it’s a great way to get a jump-start on your electives! This course will provide students with the techniques for communicating effectively with pet owners (clients) during difficult times. Students will have the opportunity to utilize these techniques by working the required shifts on the Companion Animal Listening Line (C.A.L.L.), a nationally recognized and utilized hotline. This elective is exciting not only because students receive credit, but also because it offers a much needed and appreciated service to pet owners. The workshop is laid back and interactive and there are no exams or quizzes. The intention is for the student to have fun while learning how to help others.

The class is a 5-hour workshop that is typically held on two evenings in the 1st or 2nd week of the quarter. Once the workshop is completed, the student is required to sign up for and cover 2 shifts on the hotline. (The hotline hours are weekdays from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm and weekends from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm). For every 2 shifts that are completed, the student will receive 1 hour of elective credit. The course
instructor generally e-mails special instructions for registering for the class, so keep an eye on your inbox if you are interested. The workshops are limited to 40 students and tend to fill up fast, so register early. If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail the instructor at honoringthebond@osu.edu.

Winter Quarter Classes

**Equine Anatomy:** The goal of this course is to gain an understanding of the anatomy of the equine (*Equus caballus*) body. The content of the course has been divided into anatomic units; starting with the neck and head and then moving caudally through the thorax and abdomen, spending considerable time on the anatomy of the limbs and hooves. The ability to accurately diagnose an equine patient relies on an understanding of normal anatomy as well as the function and interaction of that structure in relation to other structures. The course is designed with lecture and lab twice a week. Laboratory sessions begin immediately after the conclusion of the lecture. (Hint: Wear scrubs to lab because it gets pretty messy!) Come to the lab prepared to begin the dissection (read the lab guide and know what you’re supposed to find during the dissection). The lab is divided into groups of 6 students per horse. You may find it difficult to get everything done during the lab period, but you will have 24-hour access to the lab (unless they are setting up for a practical). Just remember to bring someone else with you as it may be difficult to maneuver the specimens alone! Grades in the course are based on 3 quizzes, 2 exams (written and practical portions), and a final exam during finals week (written and practical portion). Some material from previous exams or quizzes may appear on other exams. Quizzes may include tagged images and diagrams projected onto the screen, while the practical portions are in the laboratory and involve tagged specimens. Study guide questions included in your notes will be helpful, and remember: *Equus caballus*!

**Bio I: Pathology:** Bio I expands on histology by introducing the processes of pathologic changes and the basics of immunology. This course supplements lectures with computer lab quizzes (based on histological slides), as well as optional opportunities to grossly observe pathologic specimens (very interesting - you should go!). Be sure to pull out all the stops for this course! Don’t ever give up on pathology and get some outside resources to help fit the pieces of the “immunology puzzle” together. As previously mentioned,
grades are not what vet school is about. Dr. Krakowka cares about your individual development in veterinary school. A unique teaching style provides more for the student than just academic development in this course. Focus on what you are learning in this course...not the grade you think you have on Carmen. This course is difficult and my advice is to RELAX! It will be what you make it and you will get out of it, what you put into it....literally. If you think you’re failing (trust the process), instead of asking how you can get your grade up ask what you can do to learn more.

**Bio II: Virology, Parasitology, Bacteriology, Toxicology:** This multifunctional course introduces disease-causing organisms broken down into species. Virology explores the mechanisms of infection, as well as major groups and characteristics of viral organisms. Bacteriology also covers disease-producing organisms, introducing specific bacterium and their type as well as reproductive and infective mechanisms. Parasitology covers specific parasitic organisms and their characteristics, life cycles, hosts and diseases. Toxicology is a part of this course as well. In the Toxicology section, you will learn about toxins in general, lethal doses, general treatments and about specific toxins and their effects on different animals.

**Histology II:** The topics in this course include, skeletal, hematopoietic, lymphoid, integumentary, placental/embryonic, reproductive, hepatobiliary, nervous, and endocrine. The course is set up identical to the first histology course that you took autumn quarter. Utilize the same methods that worked for you in Histology I. If the techniques you used didn’t work, don’t keep doing more of the same. Be proactive e.g. Talk to the instructor! Get a tutor! Get help early and often!

**Ethics:** This course covers an introduction to the veterinary profession and problems confronted by practicing veterinarians in relation to communications, ethics and laws. Lecture topics include the Honor Code, medical records, Ohio Veterinary Medical Practice Act, professional liability, animal rights and welfare, the business of veterinary medicine, animal laws, responsible use of drugs, regulations and safety in practice, and public relations. Discussion based lectures provide an interactive environment for students to engage their thoughts with professors and peers. Remember, everyone has an opinion and EVERY opinion is to be respected.
Electives: 1st year veterinary students may take one hour of elective credit in winter quarter. See a description of Pet Loss Education and Grief Support VCS 729 listed under Fall Quarter Electives.

Spring Quarter Classes

Food Animal Anatomy: This course covers the anatomy of the bovine, ovine, caprine, and porcine species and is divided into 10 mini-courses (each lasting 1 week) with a handout and study questions for each. The course is composed of 2 different types of lecture, held twice weekly; General Information Sessions (GIS) and Applied Anatomy Sessions (AAS). In the GIS, Dr. Masty goes over any rough spots for the upcoming mini-course, and reviews any questions from the previous one. The AAS is with a clinician who reviews clinical aspects of the anatomy discussed in the previous mini-courses. Take notes because the information presented in the AAS will appear on the quizzes! Students are divided into 4 different lab groups which are assigned a certain lab period each week (meet once/week). During the lab, or Self Study Session (SSS), you walk through stations with specimens and labeled diagrams and fill in the blanks on your handout. You do not need to go to the lab during your assigned SSS, but those are the only times when team members will be present in the lab to answer questions and assist you. Grading for the class relies on 6 Personal Evaluation Sessions (PES). While there are 6 Personal Evaluation Sessions throughout the quarter, the PES is not to be considered a quiz! This is an assessment of a broad range of material and is much like a traditional exam. Each PES covers 1-2 mini-courses and involves both multiple choice questions and projected images/diagrams which are also multiple choice. Remember to do the study questions!

Radiology II: Introduction to Ultrasound, CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Radiation Biology and Safety, and Radiation Therapy: As the title reveals, this course deals with ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), nuclear medicine and radiobiology. The basic physics behind each modality are presented and normal/abnormal examples are provided. Techniques and interpretation of each modality are discussed. The course is one credit, with a midterm and a final. As in the first quarter class, the lectures are given in PowerPoint formats and most will be available on Carmen. There are suggested texts for reference.
material (most of which can be found in the library), and there are notes prepared for the class by the professors.

**Neurology**: Neurology involves learning the anatomy, function, and dysfunction of neurologic structures and pathways. The neuroanatomy section is taught by Dr. Masty in a format similar to what he uses in general anatomy. The amount of material presented in the neuroanatomy section is a challenge to organize and learn, but much of it is re-visited by the clinical faculty later in the course. Clinical faculty review neuroanatomic pathways, neurologic functions, and how signs of neurologic dysfunction found on a neurological examination can help you localize lesions in the nervous system. Clinical faculty then break down the nervous system into components (cerebrum, brainstem, cerebellum, spinal cord, peripheral nervous system) and discuss the more important diseases commonly found in these locations. In the past, notes have been more for reference material, with some of them presented on Carmen. Cases were presented as a way to review important principles of neuroanatomy, neurolocalization, and nervous system disease, and the examination contained many case examples. The textbook “A Practical Guide to Canine and Feline Neurology” by Dr. Curtis Dewey may be required because there may not be a complete set of prepared notes, and this text serves as a useful reference. Many students find this 6 credit hour course to be extremely difficult, especially if they do not keep up on the information. Study this course regularly. Most students feel the exams get progressively more difficult. Neuroanatomy is the first section covered in this course, learn it well. You will need to know the anatomy to do well in the remainder of the course and you want to go into the next 2 exams with a bit of a cushion. Do not expect any grade adjustments in this course.

**Endocrinology**: This will be your only introduction to Endocrinology until either the Third Year elective, or clinics. There is a lot - repeat, A LOT - of material to learn in this course. The text “Veterinary Endocrinology and Reproduction” by McDonald is an excellent resource, as well as the new textbook by McGavin and Zachary "Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease", 4th edition (formerly known as Thomson's Veterinary Pathology) and Wheater's Histology (the words, not the pictures). You will learn about the hypophysis (formerly known as the pituitary), the adrenals, thyroid, parathyroid, pancreas, and a couple other endocrine organs/regulators. The biggest key to this class is to learn the concepts of the material and the pathways of hormone action. The exams for this class emphasize understanding concepts and problem-solving rather than rote memorization.
It is extremely important to keep up to date with the material presented in lecture, as it is not readily assimilated by cramming the night before the examination!

**Pharmacology**: This course covers the biochemical and physiological aspects of pharmacology. The course is divided into two sections: pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. As Dr. Strauch discusses, "pharmacokinetics is the effect of the animal on the drug and pharmacodynamics is the effect of the drug on the animal." Pharmacokinetics covers drug absorption, distribution and elimination. Pharmacodynamics covers the mechanisms of action of different drugs. The course is three credits and there are quizzes in addition to a midterm and a final. Be sure you understand the mathematical formulas and the conversions! There is optional homework/problem sets provided in this course, doing them is a great assessment of your progress. Get help if you are unable to do the homework problems. There is a moderate amount of memorization in this course—drug names and their mechanisms of action and effects on the animal system—but the primary focus of the course is how drugs work. Dr. Strauch prepares notes for the class and also provides a list of texts that are helpful for reference. Overall, the notes and study problems are most useful when studying for quizzes and exams. If you find you are stuck on a concept, Dr. Strauch is extremely helpful one-on-one... and be prepared to find him for help with "The Eye"!

**Electives**: At some point during the Winter Quarter, you may be invited to attend information sessions about offered electives. Whether you choose to take an elective in a discipline you are familiar with, wish to explore new options, or perhaps take a class that can supplement a core course you weren't fully comfortable with, this is your opportunity to take something of your own choice. In order to graduate, you are required to have completed 32 elective credit hours (27 elective hours must be completed prior to your clinical/4th year; 5 elective hours will be completed during the final quarter of your clinical year). If you are on academic probation and unable to take elective courses right away, don't panic. Third year gives you a chance to load up on electives if you are a little short. Just keep chugging away and things will fall into place!
CLASS ETIQUETTE

Cell Phones: Just like movie theaters, hospitals and airplanes, classes are not the place for cell phones. If you bring your phone to class, turn the ringer to silent or off (setting the phone to vibrate WILL irritate your neighbors so we don’t recommend this as an option). Text messaging during class is not advised as the instructors tend to notice that you aren’t paying attention to them! Also, be aware that if you leave your phone unattended and it starts ringing/vibrating during class, you will likely irritate everyone around you and subject your belongings to a search so that the offending phone can be turned off.

Punctuality: Things happen. Anyone can be late and the occasional tardiness will be excused, provided you enter the room quietly and create minimal disruption to your classmates. However, chronic tardiness will get you noticed by the course instructor—and not in a good way. Just remember, you are now in training to become a successful professional—and successful professionals are organized and punctual. Tardiness is disrespectful to your professor and future colleagues and reflects poorly on you.

Talking During Class: If you aren’t asking the professor a question or dialoguing with your classmate(s) because you were asked to do so by the professor, don’t talk in class. Really, do we need to say more?

You Are Not Invisible!: Even though there may be 140+ of us in class, the teachers CAN see and hear us. They observe (and remember) who arrives late or leaves early. They know who is sleeping, doing a crossword puzzle, text messaging, surfing the web, rolling their eyes, sighing loudly, socializing, etc. Just because the instructor doesn’t call you on it, don’t assume your behavior wasn’t noticed. Part of earning the respect of your colleagues and instructors is behaving like a professional at all times. Don’t behave in a way that draws negative attention to yourself.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the first quarter, you will develop your own techniques for organization and studying. A word to the wise is that what worked in
undergrad may or may not work now—and applying a faulty technique “harder” will only result in the same poor results. Sometimes, you need to think outside of your own proverbial box to identify a new set of skills that are effective for this specific learning environment. For many of us to do this successfully, we need some outside help. (More on that a bit later).

**Clothing for Anatomy Lab:** You will actually begin dissecting your canine cadaver on your VERY FIRST DAY of classes. You are required to wear a lab coat and/or scrubs. You can wear your street clothes into class, which is generally held just prior to your lab. There are locker rooms located in the basement floor of VMAB where you can store extra clothes, books, etc. (please note the lockers are very thin and won’t hold a lot of bulky items). Most students change into their scrubs or lab coat immediately after class and before entering the anatomy lab. You will want to change back into your street clothes following your lab. Designate a pair of rubber boots or washable shoes solely (no pun intended) for wear in anatomy lab. Trust us. You and your friends will appreciate you changing back into your regular shoes before heading back to class!

**Blanket:** You think we’re joking but when you’re really cold, it can be hard to focus. Temperatures in the auditorium and labs may fluctuate from meat locker cold to sauna hot, so dress in layers. As far as blankets go, some students even resort to the electric variety!

**Colored Pencils:** These are more of a requirement than a suggestion, as you will find yourself using them for your anatomy courses as well as a few others. The more colors, the better—it will save you from trying to figure out how to color that 13th item!

**Exam Gloves:** Nitrile gloves are the BEST!!!! If you use regular latex gloves, be prepared to smell like preserved cadavers for the rest of the day! (And contrary to popular belief, Bath and Body Works products do NOT “mask” the odor, though oranges seem to help). You can double up on the regular latex gloves, but we highly recommend that you stick to nitrile—you’ll be a little harder to identify as a first-year student!

**Dissecting Kit:** If you haven’t already, make sure you stock up on blades, and engrave your initials on each instrument to prevent mix-ups! If you want to create your own kit, include scalpel handle, blades (22 and 10 especially),
blunt probe and scissors (some have found both large blunt-tipped and small fine-tipped to be of use). Hemostats can also come in handy.

**Tape Recorder:** So, maybe you don’t want to relive the 5 hours of lecture you hear each day through instant playback, but in case you miss information, it’s good to have something to go back to. Recording lectures is an especially helpful tool for auditory learners (who learn best by hearing information). You can re-listen to lectures while you are exercising, walking your dogs, during lunch or whenever. This may be especially helpful when trying to understand some of your foreign-born instructors. It is respectful to first ask the professor if they would allow you to record the lecture before doing so.

**Removable Index Tabs:** These write-on tabs are extremely useful in organizing sections of your notes. Some courses will jump from section to section within the provided notes packets. Indexing them might save you the headache of flipping pages, as well as offering a quick reference.

**Binders:** We can’t emphasize enough how much you will need to organize your notes. Some students choose to have each course’s notes bound individually with spiral edging. For those who would like to limit the load you carry to class by bringing just the current sections of the notes, your binder will become your best friend. Keeping your indexed notes in well-labeled binders will help you when you need to refer to specifics during later classes and clinics.

**Index Cards:** As you go through a class, it might help to create note cards of the material. You will be required to memorize thousands of terms, from bones and muscles to bacteria and parasites. Placing them in an easy-to-quiz-yourself format such as note cards will provide you with a great study aid. Please note, you’ll have too many terms to learn to wait until the last minute, and making index cards can be time consuming, so develop a plan for staying on top of this task if you plan to use index cards as a study tool.

**Dry Erase Markers:** In theory, the study rooms will each have at least one. More often than not, though, you will find yourself running up and down the hall looking for any marker that has a little ink left. Do yourself a favor and carry some with you; you’ll use them more than you think.
**Scientific Calculator**: You will definitely need this for the Respiratory section of cell biology, and it is a must for Pharmacology!

**Laptop Computers**: If you prefer to bring your laptop to class, you do have a hook-up at your seat for power and internet. You will be required to take your computer to ITS (located in the basement of the vet hospital building) for a system check to ensure you have updated virus software. The school also supplies WiFi in most major areas of VMAB. Do not use your computer during class for personal business e.g. surfing the web, catching up on emails etc. It’s disrespectful and distracting.

**GPA and OTHER STUFF**

**Wait-listing**: Some electives have limited enrollment. If you register for an elective that is full, the system will automatically place you on a wait-list. In the event that a position becomes available for you, the registrar’s office will contact you by e-mail to inform you that you have been registered for that course.

**Independent Study**: Some professors offer an independent study course as an elective in a specific discipline. If you find you are highly intrigued with a particular class and want to learn more in that field, speak to the team leader of that class – they may have suggestions for you.
Calculating your GPA: We’ve provided an example for you:

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Total Credit Points Earned = Credit Hours x Credit Points

Example:

- Cell Bio: 5 credit hours x B+ (3.3) = 16.5 credit points
- Anatomy: 5 credit hours x C+ (2.3) = 4.6 credit points

Divide the total number of credit points earned by the total number of credit hours, and you get your GPA. For the example above: 21.6/10 = 2.16

Academic Probation: At the end of Fall and Winter quarter of first year, a GPA below 2.00 will result in you being placed on academic probation. At the end of Spring quarter first year, and throughout the remaining three years, the probation limit is 2.25. In the event you are placed on academic probation, you are not eligible to take electives.

Freshman Forgiveness: If by some chance you must repeat a year due to GPA or failing a course, you will be required to repeat all classes in which you received a C- or below. The forgiveness is this: up to 15 credit hours for grades from those classes which fall under your freshman curriculum will be completely replaced by the new grades, rather than averaged in with them. This gives you an opportunity to salvage your GPA and get back on more solid ground. While it is not part of your original vision of going to vet school, having to repeat a year is not uncommon nor is it the end of the world.

AUTUMN QUARTER ACTIVITIES

Wooster Day: Your Epidemiology course will take you to the OSU extension in Wooster, Ohio. Here you will tour several facilities and possibly private farms to experience first-hand the inner workings of food animal production. This is a day-long trip by bus. We recommend preparing for cold weather,
and consider bringing movies (VHS or DVD depending on the charter company). **Attendance at Wooster day is required!**

**IPC Halloween Party:** The most well known of IPC’s social events is the annual Halloween party. With an attendance of approximately 1500 students, the party is always a huge success! In 2009, the party will be held at The Lodge Bar in downtown Columbus.

**Career Fair:** This is an opportunity to experience the different options veterinarians have in the workforce. From pharmaceutical companies and pet food manufacturers to branches of the military and agricultural divisions, it is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn of options perhaps unknown to you.

**WINTER QUARTER ACTIVITIES**

**Midwest Veterinary Conference/OVMA:** The MVC is an annual symposium filled with classes for every interest and trade representatives for virtually every product and company. During this time, classes are suspended as the College **REQUIRES** students to attend on the Friday. Classes are suspended for this purpose. Learn more about your specific field of interest or perhaps explore your range of options. You will be given an opportunity to volunteer your services, which is a great way to meet your future colleagues and perhaps begin networking for the future while collecting SCAVMA points in the process!

**SPRING QUARTER ACTIVITIES**

**Colerain Day:** Classes are suspended for the morning as the first and second year students—and their pets—visit a school for disabled and challenged children. This is an amazing experience, and **EVERYONE IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE!** You will have a choice as to how you will spend your day—pair up with a child and spend the day sharing activities, or lend your creative talents and operate the crafts tables. You can also volunteer at the exotics station, large animal petting zoo, or the animal care and behavior station. Watch as all the children come through in awe and excitement over their favorite day of the year—“Vet Day”! A PowerPoint
presentation will give you a better understanding of how inspiring and exciting this day is!

**Open House:** In Spring Quarter, the College of Veterinary Medicine extends an invitation to all those interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine to come to the school for a tour and informational sessions. Undergraduate students and high school students from all over attend with their families to learn about our profession and what our school has to offer. First year students are highly encouraged to attend in order to help out with tours and anything else that is needed, and a SCAVMA point may be involved!

**GETTING INVOLVED**

Enrich your experience of life as a veterinary student by becoming involved in various organizations, clubs and fraternities. The experience not only provides you with a sense of balance between academics and socialization, it allows you an opportunity to learn more about your interests, develop leadership skills necessary for the workplace, and forge strong bonds with your future fellow colleagues. Explore your options. Perhaps becoming a member of your class’s student government piques your interest, or the social structure of a fraternity fulfills your desire to form connections toward your future as a veterinarian, or maybe you are the typical “poor college student” in need of a decent meal (most clubs provide free food to entice members)! However, if you sign up to attend a meal/event it is your duty as a professional to follow through on your commitment. It is unacceptable and unprofessional to accept an invitation and not show up. It is also unacceptable to show up without a reservation and eat before everyone else, who RSVPd has been served. Don’t be rude! These activities are for your edification but are not an entitlement. Do not let your poor behavior be the cause for discontinuation of these events.

There are a million and one opportunities to get involved in personal and professional development activities. This also means that there are a million and one things to enable that unfortunate habit of procrastination. We definitely encourage you to get involved, but it is very easy to get too involved and over-extend yourself, which only leads to unnecessary stress (and a lot of it). Learn how to say no (without being defensive or offering
unnecessary excuses) when you cannot participate. Don’t blame others if you take on more than is optimal for you. It will be *your* responsibility to pick and choose where you want to distribute your time (think depth versus breadth). You don’t have to go to every club meeting, and you don’t have to be a member to go to that club’s meetings. If you see a lecture that is of interest to you, GO!

**SCAVMA:** This is the one club in which you need to be an active participant all four years. When you become a member, you need to obtain a certain number of points each year to remain in good standing. These points can be earned by attending lunch lectures and other SCAVMA-sponsored events. The meetings are usually informative and/or fun and they feed you too!

**Inter-Professional Council (IPC):** IPC is one of three student governments at The Ohio State University. IPC has a constituency of approximately 3,000 students from the six professional schools: Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law, Medicine, Optometry, and Veterinary Medicine. The role of IPC is to act as a liaison between the students and administration. To accomplish this goal the IPC Senators serve on several committees throughout the University, including University Senate, Athletic Council, Council on Student Affairs, Parking and Transportation, Commencement Speaker, etc. IPC is composed of an executive committee, as well as a Senate which is composed of 5 Senators and 1 Justice from each of the professional schools. Inter-Professional Council is an important governing body that is responsible for representing the professional student viewpoint across the university, but it also provides both social and service projects for professional students as well as Professional Development Funds (PDFs). Professional Development Funds are funds that you can use to help defray the costs of educational opportunities, such as externships and conferences. Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis, and more information can be found at [ipc.osu.edu](http://ipc.osu.edu). IPC sponsors a number of happy hours to help you get to know other professional students, as well as speakers and an annual soccer tournament. There are also service projects held throughout the year that professional students are invited to participate in. Elections for new IPC officers will occur in early October for first year students. If you have any questions on this organization, or are interested in a position, please contact Meghan Slanina at [slanina.3@osu.edu](mailto:slanina.3@osu.edu).
**Student Government:** Each class has the following student positions available: (You'll receive more information on running for these positions and what each position entails from the second-year president).

- President
- Vice President (2)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Ring Representative
- Student Council Reps (2)
- SAVMA/SCAVMA Delegate
- IPC Delegates (2)
- OVESS Representatives (2)
- Historian

**Fraternities:** There are currently two veterinary fraternities available for students to join. You will receive more information from the members of the fraternities on why you should join and how to join.

- Omega Tau Sigma (OTS)
- Alpha Psi

**Professional Organizations:**
- Alpha Psi Fraternity
- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)
- American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB) (“Behavior Club”)
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) (“Equine Club”)  
- American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) (“Cat Club”)  
- American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV)  
- American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP)  
- Association of Vets for Animal Rights (SCAVR)  
- Behavior Club  
- Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF)  
- Diversity Committee  
- Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (SCAAEP or Equine Club)  
- Food Animal Club  
- Gay and Lesbian Veterinary Medical Association  
- Holistic Vet Med Club  
- Human Animal Bond Club (HABC)
• Integrative Medicine Club (American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association)
• International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM)
• Inter-Professional Council (IPC)
• Omega Tau Sigma Fraternity (OTS)
• Pain Management Club
• Pathology Club (SCACVP)
• Radiology Club
• Student Chapter of American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA)
• SCAVMA Auxiliary
• Shelter Medicine Club
• Student Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society (SVECSS)
• Theriogenology Society
• Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA)
• Veterinary Canine Association (VK9)
• Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE)
• Veterinary Student Surgery Organization

Many more are added each year, so be sure to listen up for new clubs!

**Veterinary Information Network (VIN):** VIN is an excellent resource available free to students through a grant provided by Royal Canin. VIN is a huge network of veterinary information, resources, education and personal forums. We encourage you to sign up to take advantage of this free membership which normally costs hundreds of dollars annually. Once you have an OSU e-mail address and can be verified as a vet student, go to [www.vin.com](http://www.vin.com) and click on “Join VIN.” Complete the information requested. You DO NOT have to provide a credit card number. Just enter through that page and you will soon be linked to the largest veterinary information superhighway available! You WILL be required to access information through here at some point during your years at school, so poke around to get a feel for it and take the tutorials on “How To Use VIN” to maximize your use!

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

We highly recommend NOT working for at least your first quarter in vet school. Trust us. You have NO idea yet about the volume of work that you
are in for. That said, students often ask if it’s possible to work while in school. That answer of course depends on the individual. A bigger question might be, “Just because I can, does it mean I should?” If you need a small source of income during school, there are several opportunities for on-campus positions with flexible scheduling. You might become a student representative for a prominent company, or perhaps a few hours of work study is more your idea.

There are a few ways to make money while in vet school that aren’t too demanding on your time. Most of the jobs available on campus allow you to work when you are able and offer a wide range of hours.

**Work-Study:** Work-study jobs are offered throughout the college and university. The only negative aspect of these jobs is that you are only allotted a certain amount of funding and after you have used it...well you have to strike a deal with your boss, work for free, or get a different job. This doesn’t seem to happen too often. If you are interested in this kind of work and want to be involved in some kind of research project, contact the faculty that works in your area of interest. You can also talk to the Student Affairs Office (located in the Deans Suite), as they keep tabs on these opportunities. The third way to find a work-study job is to look on the web. You can find that information at [www.sfa.osu.edu](http://www.sfa.osu.edu) under Jobs, then under Student Jobs.

**Student Representatives:** Another way to earn money and make some connections in an accommodating position is by becoming a student rep for one of the veterinary corporations. Iams, Hills, Purina and Oxbow are the biggest companies to apply to. As a student rep, you are responsible for knowing the product and for setting up lectures and food pick-ups. Drug companies such as Novartis, Bayer, Merial and Nutramax Laboratories have also recently begun utilizing student reps for local support.

**Summer Positions:** As you may already know, summer is the time to make money. If you plan on staying in Columbus during summer and want to find a veterinary related job, or any job for that matter, make sure you start looking in March/April. There is also the possibility to change your work-study employment to “real” employment. Toward the end of the school year, you may find job opportunities popping up in your e-mail. They range from research to laboratory work to administrative to fair vetting. Take your
summer to explore Ohio with the fair vets, or try research on for size. You never know what opportunity may play a key role in your future as a veterinarian.

**FUNDRAISING**

During the next four years, your class will establish funds to cover the expenses of your Senior Send-off and your class gift. The goal of fundraising is to provide a source of income other than collecting annual class dues. As a first year class, you are traditionally expected to purchase merchandise left over from the current fourth-year class's fundraising efforts. This purchase is made through the collection of class dues early in your first quarter. Establishing merchandise stock early will allow your class to take advantage of fundraising opportunities while you work to select your own choice of products to sell in the future. Not only do you have immediate access to marketable products, but purchasing the fourth year merchandise gives your class first right to the designs they had reserved. This can eliminate the hassle of creating, approving and setting the design on merchandise you would like to stock. In addition to merchandise, your class can explore other fundraising options. Let the creativity flow! Common and effective events include dog washes, cookouts, and working at sporting events.

**Freshman Orientation:** After a long summer vacation, it is easy to forget this opportunity, but with the incoming students and their families looking for concrete evidence of their accomplishments, this is a great time to sell!!

**Christmas Sale:** Before the Winter Break, classes and clubs have an opportunity to display and sell their merchandise. This event is organized through SCAVMA and traditionally held in the basement of the teaching hospital. The Christmas Sale is a wonderful opportunity to bring your family and begin your holiday shopping early!

**Midwest Veterinary Conference/OVMA:** During the Midwest Veterinary Conference, our students are given a chance to sell their merchandise in the exhibit hall. This is the largest opportunity in fundraising as thousands of attendees pass through!
**Open House:** While prospective students and their families explore Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, our students have an opportunity to provide them with OSU merchandise. As second year students, you will also be in charge of the cookout. The proceeds from this cookout go to your class to cover expenses and provide a profit. The college guarantees income by purchasing a meal for each student and faculty member that volunteer during this event.

**Graduation Sale:** The culmination of four years of hard work deserves a last-chance gift opportunity. This is also a SCAVMA-organized event, so look to them for information.

**TAKING CARE OF YOU**

This section is about your most important resource—YOU. The authentic and often hidden YOU—the YOU that may inadvertently become your last priority while in school. It’s easy to develop blind spots about your personal health when you are so involved with your studies—we can all fall in the habit of neglecting ourselves at some time or another. So, it is very important to be aware of how you are doing—physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. If you find yourself feeling anxious, depressed, stressed, lost, confused, overwhelmed, or just in need of someone to talk to, SEEK SUPPORT!!! And by the way, you may not notice that you aren’t taking care of yourself, but your friends and family members will. If people are telling you that you don’t seem to be acting like yourself or that you’ve suddenly become moody etc. take time to do a quick self-assessment and know that help may be just a phone call away.

**Dr. Jennifer Brandt:** Speaking of help...Dr. Brandt is an Assistant Director of Veterinary Student Affairs and a Licensed Independent Social Worker. In addition to teaching professional development courses and coordinating disability service accommodations, Dr. Brandt provides **free, confidential** short-term counseling, information, and referrals for students who are experiencing academic or emotional difficulties (stress management, test anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, eating disorders, etc.). Her office is located in Room 127-W, on the first floor of VMAB in the Dean’s Suite. The best way to schedule an appointment with Dr. Brandt is to contact the Student Affairs program assistant, Sara Conroy by email:
Sara.Conroy@cvm.osu.edu or phone: 292-8831. (Emergency/drop-in appointments are available during Dr. Brandt’s work hours on a first-come/first-served basis). If you are in need of support, this is a great place to start. Dr. B’s motto is “come early and come often”!

Office of Disability Services (ODS): www.ods.ohio-state.edu (614) 292-3307. A variety of services are offered to students with documented disabilities. Some of the services provided include: exam accommodations (extended time, alternative format), disability counseling and advocacy and alternative media. Students with diagnosed disabilities are urged to send their documentation to ODS as soon as possible for timely assessment of needs. ODS can also be contacted by students who wish to be evaluated for a possible learning disability. Only ODS is authorized to determine the accommodations for which a student is eligible. The quarter system moves fast, so if you believe you qualify for accommodations or want information on where you can be tested for a disability, contact ODS as soon as possible.

Dr. Brandt is the college’s on-site ADA Coordinator. If you’ve been approved for accommodations through ODS (and received the appropriate written documentation from them), you must meet with Dr. Brandt each quarter to obtain the paperwork required by the college for scheduling your exams/arranging your accommodations.

Younkin Success Center: The Younkin Success Center offers a range of assistance dedicated to facilitating and achieving success for all students. Assistance is provided in areas such as learning and teaching assistance, career counseling, and personal and social counseling. There are five units housed in the Success Center: Walter E. Dennis Learning Center, Career Connection, Counseling and Consultation Services, Student Athlete Support Services, and Faculty and TA Development. Two of these, the Walter E. Dennis Learning Center and Counseling and Consultation Services, are highlighted below:

Walter E. Dennis Learning Center: http://www.dennislearningcenter.osu.edu. If you find you are struggling in tasks such as time management, organization, prioritization or the like, you can schedule to take a computerized evaluation test. This will determine the areas in which you may need assistance. You will then be provided with computerized learning modules to address those concerns. You can take the modules at your own pace, but they are only available at the learning lab at
the Yonkin Success Center. (Please note that these services have been helpful to a few students. However, most students have indicated that the lessons taught are too remedial to benefit a professional/graduate level student. If this is the case, you may also request an individual meeting with a Learning Center consultant for a more detailed assessment).

**Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS):**
http://www.ccs.ohio-state.edu/ (614)292-5766. Counseling and Consultation Services on main campus offers a full range of confidential mental health services including individual, couples, and group counseling, crisis intervention, skill enhancement workshops, psychoeducational outreach, and psychiatric consultation, psychiatric medication management. Core counseling services are free. Psychiatric services and extended psychotherapy are offered at a modest fee. Consultation is also available to those concerned about someone else. Because wait lists for services can sometimes be several weeks long, we recommend first meeting with Dr. Jennifer Brandt-Assistant Director for Veterinary Student Affairs. She can provide short-term support services to you until you can schedule an appointment with CCS. Dr. Brandt can also call CCS on your behalf to request an urgent appointment for you (in urgent matters you can usually be seen by CCS the same day, or the next day). If you'd prefer to be seen by someone off campus, please see Dr. Brandt for a list of recommended mental health providers that accept OSU student health insurance.

**Peer Tutoring Program:** Each year Dr. Brandt compiles a list of students who are willing and able to provide tutoring services. (These students were already successful in the courses in question and will likely have some great strategies for improving your performance). They can give you good advice on how to prepare, what to expect, as well as explain things to you in a “different” way from the professor. The service is free and the tutors want to help! So take advantage! A list of current tutors is located on MyCVM under the student resources section. (Please note, Dr. Brandt generally recommends contacting at least two tutors for a given subject, just in case one tutor is not available or does not get back with you. If you experience any difficulties with a tutor, promptly report your concerns to Dr. Brandt.)
OTHER IMPORTANT STUDENT RESOURCES

Office of Minority Affairs: http://oma.ohio-state.edu. OMA provides a variety of scholarships and financial support to programs and activities that improve personal development. While this office is traditionally for undergraduates, OMA is able to provide the support that is needed to all minorities.

Multicultural Center & Ethnic Student Services: (614)-688-8449 http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu. The Multicultural Center provides all OSU students with cultural and intellectual enrichment. This outreach is done through programs, services, and facilities that recognize cultural differences, respect cultural uniqueness, and facilitate cross-cultural interaction, learning and appreciation.

While Ethnic Student Services is geared toward four major ethnicities, (African-American, American-Indian, Asian-American and Hispanic), it strives to aid all OSU students. The office coordinates a variety of theme weeks and events that expose students to different ethnicities. There are four main divisions of Ethnic Student Services.

- African American Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AfAm
- American Indian Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AISS
- Asian American Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AsAm
- Hispanic Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/HSS

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services: http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu/default.asp?id=9 (614)688-8449. This office provides services and programs as they apply to gender and sexuality. The Office of GLBTSS advocates with, about, and on behalf of OSU GLBT students. The Office of Women Student Services provides women-centered events and programs throughout the year. These offices may also be able to advise on job opportunities, financial assistance, and legal advice as it pertains to GLBT and women's issues.
Student Housing Legal Clinics (SHLC):  [http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/shlc/](http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/shlc/). SHLC provides legal advice and representation to OSU students with landlord/tenant issues. If you have any concerns about your rights as a tenant, SHLC will assist you. SHLC also provides attorneys and certified legal interns for student representation in Franklin County Courts. While the clinic does not charge for its services, students may be required to pay filing fees and court costs. Informational materials are available by either calling (614)247-5853 or visiting the above website.

Technical Services–Office of Information Technology (OIT):  [www.oit.ohio-state.edu](http://www.oit.ohio-state.edu). OIT offers many services to enhance your computer savvy, including internet access, e-mail, or just plain computing. The most important services that OIT provides are establishing OSU usernames and low-cost software. Your OSU username allows you access to not only the OSU computer system, but to virtually the entire universe (or so it seems after the first couple of weeks of vet school). Really, make sure you establish your username and password to save yourself some difficulties. Go to the above address and click on “Activate OSU Internet Username”.

Buckeye Bundle: The Buckeye Bundle is a very nicely priced package of Microsoft software. You can purchase the most current Microsoft Office package for about $150, and other products are available for those MAC users. To find out more about the buckeye bundle and other software options go to  [www.oit.ohio-state.edu/buckeyebundle.html](http://www.oit.ohio-state.edu/buckeyebundle.html).

Virus Protection: OIT offers free downloadable software protection to students. This is currently Virus Scan, and can be found at OSU Site Licensed Software - [http://www.osusls.osu.edu/](http://www.osusls.osu.edu/) - you will need a valid OSU internet username.

Insurance Options: As you begin school, you may be presented with a number of options for health insurance. One is the AVMA Student Insurance Plan, and another is the OSU Student Health Plan. A recent survey of students have indicated that the AVMA insurance plan does not provide the same amount of medical and financial coverage as is available through The Ohio State University. Whether you have insurance coverage
through your parents or your job, or you wish to enroll in a new plan for school, carefully review your options and always ask questions.

Most students are very pleased with the coverage Ohio State offers in their Student Health Insurance program—currently through Klais & Company, Inc. It is highly recommended that you continue coverage through the summer to prevent lapse in care and potential for “pre-existing conditions” clauses to bite you in the rear later on. To maintain coverage through the summer quarter you do need to pay out of pocket – to the tune of almost $500! This is still quite comparable to most other coverage available.

**Wilce Student Health Center:** (614) 292-4321. Let’s face it. Sometimes bad cooties happen to good people. Whether you find yourself struck down with the flu or you need to schedule your annual dental appointment, the Student Health Center is your main contact. You will be directed where to go once your appointment is scheduled, and they take care of the paperwork. Keep in mind, certain things like annual check-ups are not covered through student health insurance and dental and eye exams are at discounted rates. You should also know that dental and eye exams often come with long waits - both in scheduling and office time! If all you need is a dental cleaning, it may be more time-efficient to go to the Wilce Student Health Center than the dental school. Students seeking or requiring medication to treat a psychiatric condition, such as anxiety or depression, who are unable to obtain a psychiatric consult, may contact the Wilce Student Health Center to request an appointment for evaluation and discuss medication options.

**Athletic Facilities:** [http://www.ohiostaterecSports.org/facility/index.htm](http://www.ohiostaterecSports.org/facility/index.htm). A number of athletic facilities are located throughout campus. The largest, most popular, and newest update is the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) located on W. 17th avenue. Here you will find plenty of court space, swimming pools and state-of-the-art weight centers. A word to the wise—It is often easiest to walk across the river to the athletic center rather than find a parking spot, as there seems to be never-ending construction in that area.

Jesse Owens recreational facilities have north, south, and west buildings and provide space for basketball, volleyball and some organized workout classes. The new Adventure Recreation Center (ARC) is located just west of the vet school campus. This state-of-the-art West Campus recreation facility
boasts four hardwood basketball courts (converts to five volleyball courts), two indoor turf fields, free weights, strength training machines, and cardio equipment. There are also day-use lockers and individual shower facilities; and the building is fully accessible and air-conditioned.

How cool is this?...It may be possible for you to audit undergraduate physical education courses. In order to do so, you will need to clear it with the course instructor and fill out an Enrollment Permission form. That form can be found at www.ureq.ohio-state.edu. Click on the Current Students tab and scroll down to On-line Forms. If you have any other questions, please contact the Registrar’s Office at 614-292-8500.

**Tax Support:** If you choose to do your own taxes, you may want to check out Turbo Tax online. Search around for the Tax Freedom project... this provides free online preparation and filing for incomes under $25,000... regardless of whether you are eligible for the EZ or have to fill out the long form. The Law School at OSU also offers tax assistance - keep an eye out for flyers during tax season!

**HAVING PETS**

For those of us who happen to be owned by a pet (or two or three...), being a student does have its advantages... and its challenges!

**Feeding your Pet:** Major pet food manufacturers spend endless time and money educating our students in the benefits of their products. Whether you have a personal preference or are interested in test-driving their products for yourself, chances are you can obtain enough food to feed your zoo.

**IAMS:** IAMS provides students with the opportunity to purchase pet food at a discounted price. This program also covers Eukanuba and IAMS Veterinary Diets. Order forms are located on the IAMS billboard in the Veterinary Medical Center and must be turned in to the front desk of the hospital. Payment is due at the time of order, and pick-up is weekly. IAMS has a strong partnership with the CVM and is proud to support the education of future veterinarians. IAMS has a student representative position that is held for 2 to 3 years at a time.
**Hill's**: Hill's distributes free food to veterinary students. You will be required to place an online order for each distribution during the open window. For prescription diets, a form must be filled out and signed by your veterinarian in order to obtain your food. You only need to turn that form in once, and after that you will have permission to order that specific type of prescription food. Distribution occurs at the OTS house, during which time you can also purchase an additional quantity of food—that you must pre-order.

**Purina**: Another pet feeding option that students in the CVM have access to is the Nestle Purina student advocacy program. This program is simple and easy, and entitles you to one food credit per month, shipped to your Columbus home at no cost! The food credit can be applied to a bag of the premium ProPlan diet (canine or feline), ranging in size from 8# to 35# (up to a $58.00 value). With a valid prescription from the OSU Teaching Hospital, students can also apply their credit towards a Purina Veterinary Diet. At orientation (and throughout the year), students will have the opportunity to sign up for an advocacy card, which provides them with a user name and password for the Purina University website ([www.PurinaUniversity.com](http://www.PurinaUniversity.com)). Nestle Purina also has a student representative program, which gives one or two students per class the opportunity to help Purina be a liaison to OSU’s veterinary college. Student reps help with the advocacy program, host interactive lunch lectures with Nestle Purina veterinarians, and distribute funding to different student activities. These positions are paid and are a great opportunity to get involved in veterinary nutrition! Any more questions? Check out the website for more information and contact information for the current Purina student representatives.

**Oxbow**: Oxbow Animal Health’s Educational Partnership (EPP) is designed to partner veterinary students interested in small and exotic animal medicine with a company who shares the same interest and passion. Oxbow has been able to remain on the cutting edge of exotic animal health and nutrition because of their strong relationship with veterinarians. The Benefits of the program include: special discounted student, faculty, and staff pricing, free brochures and information, support for continuing education projects and conferences focused on exotic species, on-site presentations, student scholarships, and more! Oxbow orders are usually placed once a month.
through the current Oxbow Student Representative. Look for e-mails on CVMChat to take advantage of this great program!

**Renting with Pets:** It is sometimes difficult to find housing that will accept your pets. Perhaps the breed is too large or you have more than the limit. Often, big-sibs have already faced this issue and can provide useful information. You may also find that renting a larger house in the area with other veterinary students may allow the accommodations you need for your pets. Leniency is variable, but nothing is impossible. Columbus Dog Connection has a nice list of apartments that allow pets. Visit [www.columbusdogconnection.com](http://www.columbusdogconnection.com) for information and links.

**Dog Parks:** Columbus has had a recent explosion of dog-specific parks. Many have spay/neuter policies and a “membership fee,” while some others are a little less stringent about those who visit. For more information, please visit the following website: [www.columbusdogconnection.com/dog_information_links.htm](http://www.columbusdogconnection.com/dog_information_links.htm)

**Doggy Day-Care:** There are a couple of day-care facilities available near campus for your beloved pooch. Some offer discounts for vet students, so be sure to ask! For a more extensive list of options, visit [www.columbusdogconnection.com](http://www.columbusdogconnection.com)

**OSU Veterinary Medical Center:** (614) 292-3551. The OSU-VMC is happy to provide medical treatment for your personal animals at a 20% discount (meaning YOUR animals—not your parents’ animals, your siblings’ animals your friends’ animals, or anyone else’s animals. Period). This discount is a privilege. In order to maintain the discount, you will be expected to adhere to all VMC policies including registration of your animal and prompt payment of your bill.

Students are expected to pay their VMC bills. Failure to make regular payments will result in the loss of further privileges until appropriate financial arrangements can be made and are fulfilled.

**ALL** animals that you bring to the VMC **MUST** be registered and have a chart/medical record created. Even if "someone" e.g. staff, faculty, another student, etc. tells you "it's okay to just bring your animal in" it is YOUR responsibility to know that you cannot "just bring your animal
in" without first registering your pet with the front desk and having a chart created. This policy applies to any visit, at any time, including drop off/overbook, blood donor, weekend and emergency visits.

Please do not jeopardize the services and discount provided to students, faculty and staff by circumventing VMC policies.

**EXPERIENCE COLUMBUS**

While it may seem like life only exists within the walls of our school, there is a world out there waiting to provide you with great food and entertainment! Take advantage of great discounts open to OSU students and enjoy all Columbus has to offer!

As far as getting acquainted to your new city, we refer you to the Experience Columbus website, [www.experiencecolumbus.com](http://www.experiencecolumbus.com) where you can click your way to an enjoyable evening, or request a free visitor's pack to help you plan ahead. Columbus has a lot to offer for many different lifestyles. In addition to the website, there are two alternative free papers that inform us as to what's going on in the city on a weekly basis. *Alive* and *The Other Paper* are usually distributed in the same locations. UDF is a good place to find them, as well as various restaurants around town. By all means get to see the city and what it has to offer, just remember that you probably have a test the next day!

**Discounts (or, “Perks for Being a Buckeye”):** The ticket office at the Ohio Student Union, through Explore Columbus, carries a number of opportunities for entertainment on a student’s budget. Visit [www.explorecolumbus.com](http://www.explorecolumbus.com) for a full list of upcoming events as well as current prices on general discounts. The Explore Columbus discount ticket program is funded by the student activity fee to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional students at Ohio State with access to cultural and sporting events at a discounted rate. Some discounts are in limited quantities and released at specific dates and times.
You can receive up-to-date ticket and discount information by subscribing to their list serve. Simply send an e-mail to: exploreColumbus-subscribe@lists.studentaffairs.ohio-state.edu

**Broadway Series Entertainment / Ballet Met:** Throughout the season, discount tickets are offered in limited quantities to the students at OSU. These include seats to the latest Broadway shows, as well as concerts and ballets. If you have a penchant for performing arts, you won’t have to starve as a student! Keep your eyes peeled, as these tickets can go fast.

**Sports Series** (Reds, Indians, etc.)
- Columbus Zoo
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Funny Bone Comedy Café
- Cedar Point
- COSI
- Dave & Buster’s
- Drexel Arena Grand Movie Tickets
- Franklin Park and Conservatory
- Pro-Football Hall of Fame
- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- Wyandot Lake

**Dining Out:** Looking for a quiet authentic Italian restaurant? How is the local Chinese take-out? For this section we can refer you to the Experience Columbus “Official Visitor’s Guide.” We can also give you our 2-cents worth of good food and good drinks, to help pave the way to your favorite hangout. One of Columbus’s national acclaims is its culinary diversity. Columbus is well-known as the launching pad for many successful restaurants, and we get to benefit as guinea pigs!

There are a few restaurants that are within walking distance of the vet school. There’s Baja Sol, **Champps Americana** (American food), **Cup’O Joe**, and **Johnny Rockets**. These restaurants are located in the Lennox Shopping Center. Lennox also offers Target, Old Navy, Famous Footwear, Barnes and Noble, Staples, Bath & Body Works, and some other stores.

On the days when you get out of classes early (you can count them on one hand) and you feel like a sit-down meal, the following are close and offer good food and service: **Grandview Café** (American), **Old Bag O’ Nails**
(American-Irish), Panera Bread (American-deli), and El Vaquero (authentic Mexican). If you want to get further away from campus, we have the following suggestions: Easy Street (American and Greek) in German Village, Thurman Cafe (American-huge burgers) in German Village, Claddagh Irish Pub (Irish) at Polaris or Downtown, Elevator Brewery and Restaurant (brewery and American) in Downtown, The Arena District (Buca di Beppo, O'Shaughnessy's Public House, Gordon Biersch, bd's Mongolian BBQ (very, very good!), etc.). The Short North has a ton of places to eat, drink and be merry! Of note in the Short North are The Happy Greek, Betty's (open 'til 2-3am), Lemongrass Asian Bistro, and Haiku (sushi and such). The North Market is also a wonderful plethora of variety - this indoor market is located on Spruce Street in the northern edge of downtown and offers fresh produce, delis and international foods. The North Market is also host to several events throughout the year, from a wine festival featuring Ohio vineyards to a farmer's festival near the end of the summer.

This is just a list of suggestions! P.S. bd's Mongolian BBQ is a great way to fill up and customize your dinner. You get to pick your own toppings and sauces, they cook them and you eat them over rice or in a tortilla. We highly recommend trying this restaurant out. There's one Downtown and one at Sawmill. Damon's serves a good steak, but if you're a Vegetarian try Dragonfly on King Ave., or Whole World Natural Bakery & Restaurant on High in Clintonville. If you're craving the feel of the eclectic diners of undergrad we highly recommend The Blue Danube on High (or the Dube as many who love it call it).

Let's talk pizza. We may not be pizza connoisseurs, but we do appreciate a good pie - like a good beer! Adriatico's is a popular favorite. Their Sicilian crust is thick and their sauce is blended with garlic and onions and lots of it. It gives the pizza a bite that is irresistible. The toppings are high quality and worth every penny, not to mention Monday and Tuesday large pizzas for $5. (They also deliver to campus for late-night study sessions!) Hounddogs Three Degree Pizza is very close in quality to the afore-mentioned Adriatico's, but they offer a different approach. Not only do you have a bunch of toppings to choose from, but they offer a selection of sauces and crusts - Indecisives' beware! The "Smokin' Joes" crust seems to be popular, and the spicy sauce is yummy. Rumor has it that King's in North Campus area on Indianola offers good pies and other Italian food. Plank's Bier Garten in German Village offers a thin crust pizza that is tasty, similar to Donato's,
but cheaper. If you want to bake your own at home, there’s **Mama Mimi’s Take ‘n Bake** in Clintonville. There are also the old stand-bys: Papa John’s, Domino’s, Donato’s, Pizza Hut… Just keep in mind – pizza is the “free-lunch” of choice on campus, so you might end up getting too much of a good thing – or is that possible?

For dessert, one of Columbus’s “Must Try’s” is **Jeni’s Ice Cream** – here you will find creative concoctions such as Thai Chili, Salty Caramel and Kentucky Burbon Butter Pecan, as well as seasonal specialties like Sweet Corn Ice Cream and Sweet Basil with Honey and Pine Nuts.

**Entertainment:** If you like sports, Columbus is a great place to be! Columbus has baseball, hockey, football, indoor football, soccer, and more. The Columbus Clippers are a minor league baseball team (the Yankees’ minor team to be exact), and the Blue Jackets bring a lot of hockey fans to the downtown area. The Columbus Crew is our major league soccer team, and who can leave out the Buckeyes!? (You will soon have a love/hate relationship with our Bucks because, while they bring a wonderful study break, they sometimes demand a study break, meaning you cannot do anything on football Saturdays but watch football and see people parade around in scarlet and gray.)

If you don’t like sports and are looking for something else to do on weekends, there’s always the Columbus Zoo, Franklin Park and Conservatory, or the parks along Riverside Drive. Columbus also offers a great deal of music. Polaris Amphitheatre is the major place to catch your favorite music celebrity. The Schottenstein Center also draws some big names. The Newport and Promo West Pavilion bring in big and small names and offer a closer atmosphere. Skully’s, Little Brother’s, and a host of other bars usually showcase local bands, and 501 is a great jazz bar. If you want to keep track of who’s coming when and where, the “alive” newspaper does this for free.

**The Short North:** A section of High Street just north of Downtown offers a wide variety of entertainment venues, from bars with live music, to shopping and dining. The “can’t miss” event: Gallery Hop. From 6pm to 10pm on the first Saturday of every month, the galleries and shops open to the street, with live entertainment, good food and plenty of beverages.
**Shopping:** Columbus seems to be the shopping Mecca of Ohio. If you are looking for new, in-style pricey stuff, then Easton, Polaris and Tuttle Malls offer the most. If you want stuff a little more practical, Tuttle still offers this, as well as City Center, Sawmill, and some places at Easton. If you want big names for less, go to Schottenstein, Filene’s Basement (Sawmill), Marshall’s or TJ Maxx, and there is a great second-hand store near University Village called Red Planet X that has really nice name-brand clothes for very low prices. Easton and Tuttle are within the I-270 loop (highway). Sawmill is a great place to find whatever you’re looking for, but it’s always a driving nightmare because there are so many people there. Polaris is about 30min. north on I-71 and has a lot of shops. If you’re looking for small unique shops, try The Short North on High Street Downtown, Clintonville’s section of High Street, or Grandview.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

If you are like us (and no doubt you are), you have a LOT of questions running through your mind right about now. If you don’t know something—Ask! And don’t just ask anybody. Ask the appropriate person in charge of that issue so that you get the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Urban Legends and the rumor mill may be entertaining sources for your information, but the accuracy of these sources leaves a little-make that a lot-to be desired! Here are some accurate answers to common questions.

**Exam/Quiz Questions:**

1.) **What is the format of tests?** Most examinations that you will take will be multiple choice. There are a few professors that deviate from the norm and have fill-in-the-blank, short answer, true/false, and/or essay. Anatomy will be the main class in which you will NOT have multiple choice tests, especially for the laboratory portions of the tests.

2.) **What do you think is the best way to study for classes?** That depends on the individual. If you established good study habits in undergrad, you should be able to apply them to your vet school studies. Many students use the flash-card method, while others feel it is better to re-write the important parts of the notes. Others find it helpful to have
the lectures recorded so that they can listen to them as they review the lecture materials. Studying with others may be helpful for some, while others may prefer seclusion. Find the method that works best for you, and stick with it. One thing we know for sure is that if what you are doing isn’t working—don’t keep doing it! Form a study group, get a tutor, talk to the professor, go to the learning center etc. Know all of your options and be willing to try new approaches to find the methods that work best for you in a given class.

3.) How many hours of studying should I devote to each class in an average week? Again, this is a question that varies depending upon the individual. Some students are gifted and can listen thoroughly to the lecture, review the materials once or twice, and be set on the information (and yes, there are some of these in every class). Others, like the rest of us, however, have to review their notes numerous times in order to finally understand them. You may find that you spend an hour studying for each hour of lecture you have, or you could need more. Find what works for you and stick with it—and don’t compare yourself to those who seem to work less, yet get better results. Because in the end, what really matters is that you obtain your DVM. Right? I mean, are your clients going to care (or know) that you had to study harder than the person sitting next to you?

4.) Are our final exams cumulative for the entire quarter? This depends upon the professor. Most classes build upon certain concepts, so you have to understand the material from the first half of the class in order to understand the materials presented after midterms. Most of the finals are not completely cumulative, but many professors take about 25% of the final and dedicate it to previous material.

5.) Are tests curved? What about grades? This also depends upon the professor. For the most part, the grade you receive is the one you get. Most professors will, however, throw out a test question or two if more than a certain percentage of the class misses it.

6.) How many quizzes and exams will there be during the quarter? Each class has different criteria as far as the number of tests and quizzes. Some classes do not offer any quizzes and are all test-based. Other classes use quizzes as a way to not only keep you current with your studying, but to also boost your grade.
7.) Are there time limits on tests or can you stay for as long as you need? The allotted time for each exam is usually 2 hours, but finals and midterms may allow up to three hours. If you have been approved by the Office of Disability Services for extended time to take exams based upon the impact of a documented disability, you must meet with your professors and with Dr. Jen Brandt well in advance of the exam, in order to complete the required paperwork and be sure that the appropriate arrangements are made.

8.) Do we get our exams back? Generally, no. Your exam booklets are retained by your instructor or kept in Educational Design & Systems, to be accessed only with your instructor's permission. After all students have completed the exam, a copy is made available in the Wenger Computer Lab and can be checked out from Ken Matthias with your picture ID, but cannot be removed from this lab. This copy will be available throughout the quarter. To determine your performance on an exam, student scores, as well as a secured key, and any adjustments, will be posted on Carmen. A student who has a question about his/her score can obtain a copy of their bubble sheet by contacting Educational Design & Systems. Remember that make-up exams are administered on occasion. Therefore, any discussion of the exam questions and/or key before every student in the class has completed the exam could potentially jeopardize your exam and/or be a violation of the honor code.

9.) Do professors hold review sessions prior to exams outside of class time? Many professors do offer review sessions outside of class time, and some are actually fit into your schedule and labeled as “Optional Reviews”. As the name states, you do not have to attend these sessions if you do not want to, but they can be very helpful, even if you don’t ask any questions yourself. If you see there are no reviews scheduled, talk to your class president and make them aware of the fact that some students may need a review session with the professors. Your president may then be able to initiate the appropriate steps in order to get a review session scheduled.

10.) Do professors provide sample questions or old test questions for students to study? Many professors provide study questions for the major points that they would like you to take away from their lectures. Completing these questions will never hurt you, and may show you that you need to concentrate a bit more on a certain section of your notes.
11.) Is it possible to take exams (regular or final) early/late in case of an emergency or a prior obligation? Is it possible to reschedule an exam for personal reasons (i.e. a wedding, funeral, etc.)? This depends upon the professor and the type of examination in question (e.g. practical exams may require multiple people to assist and/or may take hours to set-up, thus requesting an alternate date for a practical exam should be limited to life and death emergencies only!) If you have an urgent obligation that you know about beforehand, some professors may be willing to work with you to take the test early. Many professors frown upon taking an exam late. In the event of a medical emergency prior to or the day of the examination, contact your professor and/or a representative of student affairs as soon as feasible. A doctor's note may be required, and you will be expected to arrange a make-up exam within a reasonable time frame.

12.) Are grades based solely on tests? This depends upon the course. Some courses only have tests, others have quizzes, and others also include homework assignments.

13.) What if I fail one exam? Am I automatically out of vet school? No! Everyone has their bad days and one failed test will not get you kicked out. However, if you do fail an exam, we strongly advise reviewing your test and meeting with the professor of that subject. Figuring out what you did wrong and what types of questions you missed the most will only help you in the long run.

14.) How long before a test should I start really buckling down and studying? Start studying as early as you possibly can. A simple review each night of the materials covered in class that day is a great way to stay on top of the material. By studying a little bit of information each night, you cut down on the "cramming" factor, and may reduce stress when exam time approaches.

15.) I do better on tests when I’m by myself in a quiet area rather than in a large lecture hall. Am I allowed to go somewhere to take the test by myself? As a general rule, students who have not been approved for accommodations due to the impact of a disability are not permitted to take their exams in an alternate location. This is in large part due to the fact that students far outnumber the availability of secure, alternate testing locations—and if one student’s request for a private exam space is
approved, it opens up the door for others to make the same request. Since this option cannot be offered to everyone, it creates a problem. Thus, faculty have generally been advised to decline these requests.

We aren’t going to lie to you. The sniffling, sneezing, tapping, chewing, breathing, coughing, etc. that occur during an exam—when you are already stressed out to the max—can be distracting—really distracting. But here’s the thing—noise happens. It’s a normal part of life and will be a normal part of the world you will work in, so learning to live with it and function with it is actually a good life skill to develop. That said, lots of students wear hats with a bill to help reduce visual distractions during exams and many wear earplugs to minimize the impact of the noises around them. If you find these measures aren’t effective for you and that the distractions are negatively impacting your performance on exams, waste no time in contacting Dr. Brandt to discuss potential options, including possibly being tested to determine if you have a disability that requires accommodation.

One more note about exams. Just because you are done, does not mean the rest of the class is done with the exam. Do not linger outside the lecture hall and talk about the exam or anything else for that matter. RESPECT your classmates by allowing them to complete their exam in peace.

16.) If we don’t get our exams back, how do I know what grades I got on my exam? Your grades should be posted on the Carmen website. Each course is listed individually, and you can find out your scores for each of your tests, quizzes and assignments. For most of the grades, you can even look at the report to see what the averages were in your class for that specific test.

17.) Do we take any online tests or quizzes? Some courses do require online quizzes, but usually not tests. In order to access the quizzes, simply go to the Carmen website and find the appropriate course listing. There should then be a heading labeled Quizzes where you can find what you need to take.
Class Questions:

18.) What happens if I fail a class in the first quarter? Do I have to start the year over? Unfortunately, yes. If you fail a course, you are dismissed from the program. Students who have been dismissed from the College of Veterinary Medicine due to a failing grade in a class or classes may request readmission through petition via the Academic Standards Council to the Executive Committee. Petition forms are available in the Student Affairs Office. Students who are readmitted to the College are subject to any special requirements the Executive Committee deems appropriate. If a student who has failed a course is readmitted via the above process, s/he will be required to retake any course in which a C- or lower was obtained (and receive a C or higher in those courses), as well as retake the course that s/he failed, and earn a grade of C or higher.

19.) What is the lowest passing grade? The lowest passing grade up until clinics is a D. However, you have to repeat any classes in which you received a C- or lower if by chance you were dismissed due to failing a class or classes. In Clinical Rotations, grades below C- are considered failing; therefore D+ and D grades are not used during the fourth year. Clinic grades of D or D+ will be recorded as E on your official transcript.

20.) Are there core schedules of classes that should be followed for certain specialties (i.e. equine, exotics, etc.)? No. We are not a tracking school, therefore you take the same core classes as everyone else. However, you can get specialty classes in your electives. You can take one elective per quarter for Autumn and Winter quarters of your freshman year (The Pet Loss and Grief Support Course), and then as many as you feel you can handle thereafter.

21.) Am I allowed to bring my pet to school? Unless your pet is a patient at the VMC, you may not bring your pet into school. You can walk your pet on campus on a leash, but bringing your pet into the school is prohibited and an honor code violation.

22.) Where can I look to find my complete course schedule? You can access your complete core course schedule online using the MyCVM website. Once you are logged on, select the Students tab at the top of the page. On
the left of the next page, select Scheduling Info and Changes and then Core Schedules (VMEI, VMEII, and VMEIII) on the next page. The following page will then display the quarters and student years (i.e. VME I Spring 2009), so pick the appropriate option to show your schedule.

23.) What should I do if I am struggling with a class? We cannot stress enough the importance of GOING TO YOUR PROFESSOR. As soon as you believe that you are struggling, contact the professor in charge of that material and talk to them. They may be able to explain the material to you in a different way so that you understand it. They may also suggest getting a peer tutor for that subject, provided for you through the school, free of charge. These tutors are older veterinary students who have already had that subject, and know how to explain things in a way that other students will understand. More information about tutors can be found above, listed under “Taking Care of You”.

24.) Are the schedules provided for us online accurate? In theory, yes, the schedules are accurate. However, things happen, conflicts come up, and schedules have to be changed. When schedule changes are made, you generally receive an e-mail and an announcement in class to alert you to the changes.

25.) Is class attendance mandatory? All students must attend classes, clinics, and certain other events such as OVMA, Colerain Day, Research Day etc. as scheduled. Each teaching team or instructor is responsible for regulating class and clinic attendance and reporting irregular attendance and/or excessive absences to the Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs for disciplinary review. The College Executive Committee is authorized to place students with excessive absences on probation and/or recommend their dismissal.

26.) Will the lecture materials always be posted in advance? In a perfect world, yes, they'll be posted before the class takes place. We do have to remember, however, that many of our professors are also practicing veterinarians, and they have a few other things on their minds beyond getting PowerPoint presentations posted onto Carmen. If they aren't up by the time class begins, they'll usually be posted shortly thereafter. Keep in mind, that there was a time when people actually took their own notes—with a pen and paper (gasp!)...and being able to take effective notes is an important
skill for professionals. So, be appreciative that notes are provided for you-but don’t depend on them so much that you are lost without them.

27.) Is there a limit on the number of credit hours that I can take in one quarter? For the first two quarters of your first year of vet school, you can only take one credit of elective to allow you to focus on developing a sound study program. Once you have the option to expand and take other electives, however, there is technically no limit to how many classes or hours you can take. All students must complete a minimum of 32 elective credit hours in order to graduate. Five out of the 32 hours must be completed during the clinic elective quarter in the senior year. Therefore, 27 of the elective credit hours must be completed prior to beginning clinics.

28.) Are there any clothes that would be considered inappropriate for class (i.e. hats, pajamas, flip-flops, etc.)? Although there is no official dress code designated by the University or College, as a student, you represent both the College and the veterinary profession. Students are expected to maintain a clean and professional appearance at all times. This is not to say that you cannot ever wear sweatpants, sweatshirts, t-shirts or shorts. Use your better judgment when selecting clothing. Don’t wear shirts with inappropriate pictures or language on them, don’t wear clothes that are inappropriately cut too low or too high, and don’t wear clothing that have excessive holes in them. You are a professional student and should therefore present yourself well. During the clinic year, seniors are expected to wear professional business attire. Certain rotations will have specific requirements and will provide you with information in their orientation materials.

29.) How important is your rank within your class? To be honest, it’s as important (or unimportant) as you make it. For some people, rank means everything. However, unless you’re going to be trying for a residency or internship, or if you’re planning to transfer to another veterinary college, your rank does not matter that much. Even so, with residencies, they’re getting away from relying on your rank in your class, and leaning more towards your skills and recommendations. As long as you pass your classes and graduate and pass your boards, you’ll all be veterinarians, and you probably won’t even remember, or care, what your rank was.
30.) How often are the lights in the lecture hall turned off? Almost every professor will have some sort of presentation to supplement their lectures, and these are best viewed with the lecture hall lights dimmed. The lights are only turned completely off on rare occasions and for short periods of time in situations such as tough-to-view radiographs and pathology slides. Other than that, the lights are only dimmed to allow for better PowerPoint viewing and note-taking.

31.) I missed a few classes due to illness. Is it an honor code violation to have my friend photocopy the notes she took during the lectures that I missed? No, this is not an honor code violation. However, if you are ever unsure as to what would be an honor code violation, ask your professors and/or someone in Student Affairs.

32.) Can I bring guests to class? If you feel that it would be appropriate for a guest to attend a certain lecture or a certain day of lectures, you must obtain permission from Dean Sander and Student Affairs. If approved, you will be provided with guidelines and rules for your guest's attendance that must be followed.

33.) What happens if I am sick and I have to miss a lab? If something like an illness suddenly crops up, you need to contact your professor and make other arrangements. Most times there are at least two sections of lab, so if you miss yours, you can possibly arrange to meet with the other section. Many labs look at your attendance for points in the class, so be sure to contact your professor and see if other arrangements can be made.

34.) Can we study Histology slides outside of class? Most of the Histology slides that you will need to know will be available online for your viewing pleasure. Your professors will tell you how to find them, but for the most part, they are located on the MyCVM website.

35.) Is there competition for grades (i.e. there are only a certain number of As, Bs, etc.)? No. The grade that you earned at the end of the quarter is the grade you will receive.

36.) Are we going to be able to learn anything about business management, or are our classes going to be purely medical? As far as core courses go, you will have several business-related classes. In addition,
there are electives that are offered that deal with the aspect of business management and owning a practice. There is also a club called the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA) that you can join if you are really interested in the business aspect of veterinary medicine.

37.) I hear that the race for a good seat in the lecture hall is brutal. Is this true? Amazing, but to a degree, yes, this is true. Folks tend to become territorial with “their” seat. Some students actually get to school an hour or more early in order to secure themselves and their friends “good” seats in the lecture hall. This may continue for about a week or two after classes start. After that it is often assumed that everyone will continue to sit in “their” regular seat. It is not required that you sit in the same seat all year, but you may receive some not-so-nice looks or comments from classmates who have previously “secured” their seat—so proceed with caution.

38.) Do we sit in the same lecture hall (and in the same seat) all day, or do we get to move to different classrooms? For the most part, you will be sitting in the same seat (unless you can find a willing volunteer to switch seats with) and in the same lecture hall all day. The only time that you’ll have class outside of your lecture hall is during labs in the Alumni Lab, in the computer lab, or in the anatomy lab.

39.) I have low blood sugar. Are we allowed to snack/drink during class? If you have a health issue that requires accommodation, you’ll need to talk to Dr. Jennifer Brandt. She will help you determine the most appropriate course of action. Otherwise, it is an honor code violation to have food in Dunlap and Wexner auditoriums. All drinks must be in an approved container (have a secure lid or cap of some sort on them), and any spills must be cleaned up IMMEDIATELY.

Financial Questions:

40.) Can I get a job? Should I get a job? It is possible to have a job and be in vet school at the same time, but we do not recommend getting a job until after you see how you can handle your course load. If you feel that you can juggle school and a job and still maintain good grades, then by all means, do it. If, however, you think it would be better to just concentrate on school and not throw a job into the mix, don’t feel bad. Many students
feel that same way and have come out better by not having a job. If you want a little extra cash and flexible hours, we do suggest looking for a work-study job. They tend to let you pick and choose when you work and are not hard on you if you need to study instead of work.

41.) Is it really possible for me to pay off vet school? Do I really have to take out loans? Vet school is a very expensive endeavor, but yes, it is possible to pay it off. If you are independently wealthy and not tight for money in any aspect and can pay for school out-of-pocket, then no, you don’t have to take out loans. However, if you’re like the other 99.9% of us, you’ll need to take out at least a few loans to help you through school. Scholarships and grants are also available, so there are some parts of school that you will not have to repay. If you have any questions about financial aid, contact Jane Woodland. She is the vet school’s liaison for Ohio State financial aid and is always willing to help and answer any questions that you might have.

42.) If I don’t get paid for my externship and it is not near my home, how will I pay for the cost of the trip? Unfortunately, at first, you’ll probably have to pay for your trip out-of-pocket. However, after your externship is finished, groups such as IPC and SCAVMA offer funds for those who have done externships to help toward your education. You have to apply for the funds, and there are a few things you have to do to receive those funds, but in the end, it helps defer the cost of your trip up to a certain amount of money.

43.) What are the scholarships/grants that in-state residents are eligible for? In addition to University-sponsored aid, each spring the College Scholarship Committee solicits applications from currently enrolled students for special scholarships sponsored by alumni, organizations and companies, such as the Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association, Pfizer, the Salisbury Foundation, etc. The College Scholarship Committee reviews all submitted applications and makes awards to the most qualified and deserving students based on criteria supplied by the scholarship’s sponsor. There are almost always e-mails that are sent out alerting students to these scholarships, but if you ever want to know which ones are available, stop by Student Affairs and they will point you in the right direction.
44.) Why is vet school so expensive? The cost is based on many things, but mostly the cost is high because it is so expensive to maintain the equipment and supplies required to train future DVMs e.g. animal usage (both live and cadavers), animal facilities, feed, etc. Radiology, surgery, anesthesia and many other clinical sections must maintain costly equipment and supplies in order for us to learn. Faculty and staff time is another considerable expense as are the costs involved in maintaining the facilities (building square footage tax, cleaning crews, lawn care, etc.). As a state institution, we do receive some funding from the state to support the cost of education, but that covers less than half the costs, so tuition is required to cover the balance. Despite the amount of tuition each student pays, we should be aware that our fees do not come close to covering the actual costs involved to educate each student.

45.) Who takes the money at orientation? There will be separate stations that you need to go to in order to pay for different things. For example, there will be separate tables to purchase your parking pass, to pay your microscope fee, and to pay your class dues. You will find these tables with a group of people, so don’t be afraid that you won’t be able to find them!

46.) When we pay our dues and fees at orientation, do we need to pay in cash, use a check, or can we use a credit card? We only accept checks at orientation.

47.) Can I stay on my parents’ insurance and be considered for residency? Answers to your residency questions can be found at www.ureg.ohiostate.edu/ourweb/more//Content/Residency/Procedures_new.htm.

48.) Textbooks are expensive. Are we allowed to share or use reference textbooks instead of buying them? OVESS will provide you with a list of books that are suggested and required for different courses. Many of these books are available for you to reference through the vet school library. You are more than welcome to combine money with a friend and buy a book to share, as long as you can work out the schedule to fairly share the book.
**Miscellaneous:**

49.) *What is the attrition rate?* Less than 1% of students are gone for good, but at least student leaves the school each year (some are returning students that don’t make it). A little over 2% are dismissed and return successfully. In addition, there are a few that transfer in and out that have not been included in the statistics.

50.) *When do clinics start?* Clinics begin in the spring quarter of your third year. Clinics then continue on through the summer quarter and through your fourth year.

51.) *How much free time can a vet student expect to have?* This will be different for each and every student. Some students don’t have to study as much as others, and therefore have more free time. Others need to devote more time to studying, resulting in less free time. If you are poor at time-management, creating a schedule for yourself to follow can allow you to adequately study and still have time for things other than school.

52.) *Are all four summers off-quarters?* You first two summers are off-quarters. Many students choose to do an externship or two during these off-quarters, while others use them to relax. After your second summer, you go straight through your third and fourth years without a summer break.

53.) *What percentage of each class passes their boards?* From 2000 to 2008, 94.75% of students from Ohio State passed the NAVLE as compared to the national pass rate average of 91%.

54.) *How much club participation can a student reasonably expect to have time for?* This, again, depends on each student individually. Some students can manage their studies along with being officers in multiple clubs. Others have trouble balancing their schoolwork with anything more than participation in one club. We suggest going to a few clubs that you are interested in, hearing what they are about, looking at the schedule and planning accordingly. Remember, you don’t have to attend every single meeting for every club that you’re involved in.

55.) *Can we show the classrooms and labs to our friends and family on weekends or in the evenings when classes are not going on?* As far as
VMAB goes, as long as you are not causing a disruption and as long as you do not go up to the third and fourth research floors, you may show your friends and family around. If you are interested in showing the Anatomy lab to your friends and family, you must first get permission and instructions from Chris Frasure.

56.) **What are externships?** Externships are usually non-paid positions taken on by a veterinary student at a veterinary clinic or hospital. The main goal of externships is for the student to learn, see, and do as much as they possibly can. Some students end up being paid for their externships (but don’t count on it). Many people go out of state so that they can gain the most from their externships by being in an area that has a heavy case-load of a certain type of medicine (i.e., some students will go to Texas for more equine experience while others will go to Minnesota for dairy experience). These externships are usually done over the summer off-quarters after your first and second years of school.

57.) **What is the worst thing that a student could do in their first year?** Although many different people may say different things, in our opinion, the number one worst thing that a student could do in their first year is to not ask for help early enough in the academic quarter. When the first signs of struggle appear, many students shrug it off and wait until the load builds up and it is too much to take. If you feel at all that you are having trouble understanding even one concept on your own, ASK FOR HELP!!!! Go to your professor, form a study group, ask a classmate who understands the material, get a free student tutor, or talk to Dr. Jennifer Brandt. You will never regret asking for help—only not asking for it. And incidentally, if you DO end up failing a class, and applying for readmission, it won’t help your cause if you have to document that you chose NOT to access any of the numerous resources that were available to you. Remember—doing more of the same will only get you the same results. So, if what you are doing isn’t working, step out of your comfort zone and go get help!

58.) **What opportunities are available to learn about zoo/wildlife/avian/exotic animal medicine?** Although there are not a lot of core courses that concentrate on these types of medicine, there are many opportunities to take electives if you wish. The one core course that is offered is the Non-Mammalian class that you’ll take in your second year,
which covers the basics about birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. There is also a Zoo Club that concentrates on exotics and zoo animals.

59.) What do first year vet students usually do during the summer? Many students choose to use their summers as more time for education. Some students do externships, some find new jobs at veterinary clinics, and others choose to do a research project through Ohio State. Some students go back to old summer jobs, while others use their time off as a vacation and for relaxation. It is not required that you complete an externship or a research project during the summer, but learning from different veterinarians around the country can be a very valuable learning experience.

60.) How hard is vet school, REALLY? This really depends on the person. Overall, most students say that vet school is the hardest education that they have ever been through, in large part due to the volume of information being taught, and the expectation that you do more than memorize facts. In other words, you'll have to be able to link concepts and apply information in new ways which requires that you understand the material, not just that you recognize certain terminology for a multiple choice test question. Some students do not find it much more difficult than their previous schooling, while others say that they were not prepared for how difficult vet school would be. You will need to gauge the difficulty of vet school for yourself. One thing is certain, however. As soon as you feel that you are struggling with ANYTHING, don't hesitate to ask for help!

61.) Is there a list of researchers and what research they are doing that I can access? If you would like to find out any information about research possibilities within the school, and/or summer research possibilities, your best contact would be Michele Morscher. You can contact Michele via e-mail at morscher.1@osu.edu.

62.) How does a student start a club? This information can be found on the CVM web site http://www.vet.osu.edu/5024.htm and OSU website at: http://www.ohiounion.osu.edu/studentorgs/orgs.asp.

63.) What are clinics really like? Many students fear clinics because they are afraid that they will not remember the information that they learned in their previous years of vet school. Clinics are designed to help you see what working in the veterinary world is really like, and to expose you
to situations you may be faced with in your career. Attendance, punctuality, a positive attitude, and an eagerness to learn are key requirements for clinics. You work in group settings, and are not expected to make independent decisions until you are ready. The clinicians are there to help and guide you, and they want you to get the most out of your time spent at the hospital. The hours are varied, and each rotation has its own set of rules, so allow for an adjustment period between rotations.

64.) Is there an organization for the family and significant others of students? The SCAVMA Auxiliary is a branch of SCAVMA for the family members, friends, and/or loved ones of veterinary students. This group provides a support base for family/friends of vet students, and organizes events that can be attended by the whole family.

65.) What benefits does a professional BuckID have over an undergrad BuckID? When you obtain a professional BuckID, you are granted access to the veterinary college that a regular BuckID does not allow. You are put into the system as a veterinary student, and provided with a necessary hospital ID in addition to the professional BuckID. If you choose to keep your undergrad BuckID and not get the professional one, you will not have access to VMAB or the anatomy lab after hours, so obtaining a professional BuckID is in your best interest.

66.) How do I deal with the stress of vet school? What is the best way to keep a balanced life? If you are beginning to struggle with keeping your life balanced, or if you just want to be ahead of the game when it comes to planning out your schedule and time management, don’t hesitate to talk with other students to find out how they are managing, talk to your big sib, or talk to Dr. Jennifer Brandt in Student Affairs.

67.) What do I do if I change my name? What do I do if my address changes? These changes need to be reported to the Office of Veterinary Student Affairs, which is found in the Dean’s Suite in VMAB. Give them a call or stop over and they will give you instructions on what you need to do.

68.) If I want to specialize in a particular area of veterinary medicine, what is the protocol (i.e. when do I do an internship, residency, etc.)? When students have graduated from the College and have passed their boards, they can choose to either go out into general practice, or they can complete an internship. After completing an internship, if the student
chooses to do so, they can then complete a residency, which is a highly competitive position. It takes hard work and good grades to obtain a residency, so if you are thinking of applying for one further on in your education, be on top of your grades from the beginning of your vet school career.

69.) Do I have to do an externship? Many students complete an externship during their two summers that are off-quarters, but this is not required. Externships are valuable experiences for getting up-close and personal with the world of veterinary medicine, and for creating contacts that will be priceless for your future career.

70.) Are there opportunities to work with live animals while in my first year? As far as your core classes, you won’t be working with live animals during your first year. However, there are opportunities throughout the school to work with live animals. The milking team allows you to get hands-on experience with cows, regardless of whether or not you’ve ever touched a cow before. Some clubs offer the opportunity to be on special teams for emergencies. The Therio Club has a Dystocia Team that gets called in when a difficult birth comes to the hospital after-hours. Food Animal Club has a Food Animal Emergency Team that gets called in when there are any after-hours food-animal cases. There may be more opportunities to deal with live animals depending on the clubs and what they have scheduled, so keep your ears open for announcements.

71.) I forgot my mailbox combination. Where do I go to retrieve it? Go to the Student Affairs desk and simply ask for it. They keep the information on hand because forgetting your combination is not uncommon!

72.) I live pretty close to campus, but I don’t want to pay for a parking pass and I don’t want to walk all the time. What are my options? The Campus Area Bus Service (CABS) provides convenient transportation in and around the campus. It is part of the University’s Transportation and Parking Services department. You can find more information at http://tp.osu.edu/cabs/index.shtml. The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) has a contract with the University, so you can ride those buses also. For more information on this transportation system, go to http://www.cota.com/go_bus.asp.
What is Carmen? Carmen is an online Ohio State student resource that you will appreciate and get to know very quickly. All of your courses that you are taking are listed on Carmen, and you can view your grades and posted lectures for each class. Some classes with homework will post the assignments on Carmen, and if an online quiz is required for a class, Carmen is the place to take it. Navigating around Carmen is not difficult, and you’ll learn to use it soon enough!

Who can use the study rooms on the second floor? Do I need to reserve one in order to use it? The study rooms are available for use by any veterinary student at Ohio State. If a room is open and there is not a sign stating that the room is reserved, you are more than welcome to use it. However, especially around testing time, these rooms fill up quickly, so it is recommended to reserve a room for yourself. If you use a room without a reservation, you run the risk of being asked to leave the room if someone else signs up to use it. You are only allowed to reserve the room for one hour for each person using the room. So, for example, if there are three of you that will be using the room, you can reserve the room for three hours. Reservations can be made by seeing Priscilla Vitelli in the Dean’s Suite.

I don’t have time or I don’t want to pack my lunch everyday. Is there a place on campus where I can buy lunch? VMAB has a food stand called Campus Grind that offers breakfast and lunch options. There are also vending machines in the basement of VMAB and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital that can be used by anyone. If you do decide to bring your own lunch and it requires microwaving, be aware that the line for the two microwaves in VMAB (which are located in the basement by the vending machines) is usually pretty long. If you are in a hurry, consider using the microwaves located in the 1st floor vending area of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

I already received my rabies vaccinations before I came to school. Who do I need to tell so that I can show proof of my vaccinations? Students who received their rabies immunization prior to arrival at OSU should submit documentation to Student Health Services, either by completing the “Immunization & Lab Studies” form, including the signature of the physician, type of vaccine given and the route of administration or providing a copy of the vaccine record (including all three doses).
77.) I have not received any rabies vaccinations or tuberculosis testing. Can I do that through the school? The college has set up times during the school day for groups of students to be tested for tuberculosis and to receive rabies vaccinations, so you do not need to worry about setting that up on your own. It is done through the Student Health Center on main campus.

78.) Do I have to get my rabies vaccinations and tuberculosis testing before my first year is over? You are required to have your rabies vaccinations before clinics begin in your third year. If you do not wish to comply with the rabies immunization requirement, you must complete a Rabies Immunization Waiver form prior to matriculation in the College. This form will be kept on file in the Student Affairs Office until you graduate. Students who sign a waiver assume the responsibility to cover any expenses not covered by their health insurance.

79.) Do I have to get Ohio State insurance? The College of Veterinary Medicine requires that all students have health insurance coverage during their four years in College. You may choose to enroll in the OSU Student Health Insurance Program or in any equivalent program. All students are required to submit a Health Agreement form stating they will maintain health insurance coverage during their veterinary medical education program. You will receive this form during the first week of the Autumn Quarter, and it will be kept on file in the Student Affairs Office until you graduate. If you change insurance carriers during your matriculation, the Health Agreement form should be updated. If you are injured or become ill while a student, you will be responsible for any expenses not covered by your insurance, including injuries during clinical rotations.

80.) Do I have to buy a parking pass? If you plan on driving to school and would like to park anywhere that is considered “on campus”, you must purchase a parking pass to avoid being repeatedly ticketed and/or towed.

81.) What kind of parking pass do I need to purchase? You will need to purchase a C parking pass in order to be able to park in the vet school parking lots. For your convenience, there will be a table set up at orientation where you can purchase your parking pass.
82.) Hi, I was curious how many people have gone through vet school while they were in a committed relationship. How did they manage it? I imagine it can be done (I'm guessing that it's not always easy though), but what factors go into that? What does a "normal" partner do about his/her significant other "always" studying?

a. Everyone adjusts/adapts differently. For example, my partner and I live apart. Some of my classmates' partners agree to take on more household chores/errands than before. Some partners have a more difficult time than others not being the center of your attention or not getting as much time with you as they used to in your "life before vet school". However, that is all dependent on you, your partner and your relationship.

So, think about what you would normally do with a partner after working a typical 9-5 day. Then realize that with homework, extra time in the anatomy lab, and/or clinic hours, you no longer live a 9-5 life. My partner and I both worked long hours professionally before I started vet school—so we didn't experience much of a change except that we now maintain two households.

b. I'm married and I have 3 kids so my husband is either working (to maintain a once two income family) or taking care of the kids while I'm at school or studying. It's hard on him but he knows it will be worth it in the end. At our school we have a social club for spouses/significant others to network, insert contact information of group so if you both are new to the area and your partner doesn't have established friends or is working, name of group can help with the isolation (and yes...sometimes frustration or resentment) that some partners feel. If your partner doesn't need to work, this is an awesome time to volunteer someplace in the community, or explore other hobbies.

c. I think there is a huge variation among schools. Here at Ohio, more and more of my class is getting engaged and married. We had like three married people in my class first year, and now we have probably 7 married people and probably 25 engaged people. And that's probably a conservative estimate. I warn students when they apply that vet school can be stressful on relationships. Especially when the other person is not in a medical field, because as much as they try (or say
they try to) commiserate, they really can't understand what it's like to study all the time. The couples I've observed who seem to do the best are those that are dating med students or other vet students. Their partners really understand the pressures that you are under. (However, depending on the health of your relationship going into vet school, this may also "breed" competition between you and your partner—which may or may not be a good thing for either of you.

We have the Auxiliary here as well, for the significant others of vet students. It's a great group but in the end, you have to decide whether your significant other can handle you being in veterinary school. I've seen a lot of couples break up because their partner didn't understand that they can't go and drink on a Friday night or party, because they have to study. Realize that school is hard on everybody, not just the students and have an honest discussion with your partner before committing to vet school so that s/he recognizes that the dynamics of the relationships and the distribution of labor within the household may have to change for the next four years. Good luck!

d. I'm fortunate that my husband is in the medical field, so he is very understanding. However, I've also been on the other side of this issue (sort of). I was out of school when my husband went to med school, and we weren't sure what to expect. They actually had an orientation for spouses at his school which I attended, and they stressed the point over and over that I shouldn't expect to see too much of him for the next several years. Many couples find it helpful to talk with Dr. Brandt at the beginning of the first year—she can talk with both of you about what vet school is "really like" for both people in the relationship. If this is what you really want, don't be dissuaded! In the end, it's your life and external factors can change unexpectedly at any point in time (whether it's divorce or an unfortunate death or disability, you have to remember that there's no guarantee that your partner can or will always be there for you).

e. As long as your partner has his/her own interests it shouldn't be a problem. Going out with friends to the pub, playing sports, going to the gym, playing video games, building stuff, making music, whatever floats his/her boat. You run into trouble if s/he is one of those people who
refuses to do anything fun unless you go too. Or if you are one of those people who gets jealous if your partner is out having fun without you. If you trust each other, can have fun without each other, and make the moments you do have together count, then all should be good! So goes my theory at least!

f. My partner knew my beliefs on equality and fairness before we ever married. There are days and even months where I have done the vast majority of the chores because of his career, and there are days when he does the vast majority because of mine. However, if he came home and asked for dinner, or laundry, or such and I was clearly studying for exams or too tired to answer, he would figure out something for both of us. So, I guess what you need to consider is 'what did you agree to coming into the relationship and if you want to change that, how do you go about doing that?' It really comes down to the ability to communicate openly and respectfully before, during and after issues arise. Some people see no good reason to be flexible in a relationship, and some people are way too flexible (the proverbial doormat)...but only you can determine what is best for you.

g. Here, I think we have so many married folks because we have a really diverse class that includes a lot of non-traditional students. We also have a number of people who married the summer before vet school. When things happen unexpectedly (pregnancies, illnesses, accidents etc.) the entire class seems to pull together to offer cooking, transportation, money, study help, etc.

h. My husband isn’t in medicine, but he does have a very demanding career of his own...and he certainly uses that experience to understand the time constraints I am under. There are still moments that are challenging (we haven’t seen each other in a month because of finals and conferences.) It seems to work best when the spouses have independent interests and hobbies to occupy their time.

i. My husband married a strong, independent woman. I have experienced my share of hardships and tragedies. While that means I have really high standards for how labor is divided in our household, it also means when his life was shattered three years ago, I kept all the pieces tied
together for both of us over the next two years. The year before that (our first year of marriage) I also took care of all the chores—he traveled so much for his career he was never home to help (the few days he was home he came in after 11pm and left by 8am the next day)—whether that was shoveling out the cars from 4' of snow or cooking meals. Now, he gets to return the favor....he gets to do some of the extra work to keep it all working smoothly. For us, that included him dealing with an $800 monthly pay cut, because I didn’t have time to figure out where all we could cut corners, contact internet providers, cancel and reduce services, etc. However, by focusing on what we both enjoy the most, what is most important for each of us each month/week, we can handle the stress of living apart, of visits, of family and friends swamping our together time, of drastic lifestyle and economic changes...because we share our goals and dreams and support each other in what is important to each of us. In the long run, is it really important that I have dinner prepared and ready when he gets home? I used to all the time (I love to cook) and packed his lunches and prepared his breakfasts. But a decade from now, he won’t remember whether I cooked the roasted chicken or it was picked up from the grocery.... and I bet within a month he won’t remember who picked it up or served it. Now, I do other chores, ones he used to do, like cleaning the gutters at home over fall break, or changing car oil...the ones that I can fit into the chunks of time that I have available to contribute (and that he doesn’t get around to because he visits up here on weekends). And when he is up here, he often cleans carpets, washes windows, and makes this home more pleasant for me. For me, that is what a relationship is about, both partners giving their best the majority of the time, embracing balance and exchange, prioritizing the most important things to each, and accepting and even disregarding the less important things. Obviously, if we didn’t share some core values, we wouldn’t have married. He had other options, he could have found a wife who was raised in a different cultural tradition and/or who would have been happy without a career, but there are trade offs in that path as well. I had other options also. I could have married a man who wanted every minute of my time, and did all the outside chores that I enjoy. The people in my class with kids aren’t complaining about lack of time for kids. Their children range in age from newborn (1 month) to older (teenagers). OK, the newborn’s dad isn’t so happy about lack of
sleep...but.... that would happen with or without vet school. I think all the spouses work. I do think one difference for a lot of them is that they have been in undergrad recently, so their kids didn’t come into this experience without some pre-emptive experience. Also, I do think those students prioritize differently....they aren’t shooting to ace classes, they don’t stay around for study sessions, they study at home with their kids and they don’t participate in as many wetlabs. And their spouses believe in their career aspirations as much as they do. One of my classmates has arranged volunteer trips with her two eldest kids, one to a pet rescue, and the other on a vet mission trip. These will give the kids a chance to contribute, share an amazing experience with their mother, and she will still get the experiences she needs. It takes creativity, flexibility and balance....but it is possible for your relationship to survive—and even thrive—while you are in vet school.

j. You have to have a very understanding partner and you must go into vet school knowing that things will be different. My partner and I look forward to grocery shopping because it is something we can do together. The weirdest thing for my partner has been that approximately 2 times per quarter, when I get super stressed out, I freak out and cry. A lot. That was hard for him to get used to because I'm usually pretty easy going.

You do have to make some sacrifices. Could I be a straight A student if I did nothing but study? Probably, but I choose to make time for my partner and am happy with my B’s (and sometimes C's!). But that is my choice and it is totally worth it for me. However, I do know of people who get divorced because of the stresses of vet school. And probably half of boyfriend/girlfriend relationships don’t last (at least not in my class). On the other hand, though, about a half a dozen classmates got married this past summer!

k. I’ve been married 4 and a half year, and school was definitely a change. I went from working part time and being home to make dinner and clean when necessary to eating Lean Cuisine, letting the dishes wait until he takes care of them. Instead of cleaning the house every week, vacuuming and dusting are now saved for "special occasions" (like his mother coming over to visit). I won’t lie and say it’s easy but
my husband is incredibly supportive and understanding and he pulls his weight. He actually pulls my weight a lot of the time too... sure there are sacrifices but I wouldn’t change any of it.

On behalf of the creators, authors and everyone who has helped put this guide together over the years, we welcome you to The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine!

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