“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 Ohio State University 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 First–Year Student Resource Guide. With your help in keeping the guide up to date, this tradition can continue for many years to come.”

Dr. Kate Hissam, Class of 2007.

The first year student resource guide is not an official document of the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The guide is provided as a courtesy to the incoming class and is based on information available at the time of publication.

To report missing or inaccurate data, or to provide suggestions, please email April Pugh, pugh.102@osu.edu.

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Orientation Overview

Remember the jitters that many of us experienced on our first new day of the school each year? We worried about things like, “Who are my classmates?” “Will they like me?” “What if everyone else is smarter than me?” Or some of you may be secretly asking yourself, “What if I got accepted by accident because someone put my name on the wrong list?!” Sound familiar? The First – Year Orientation Program was designed to help reduce some of those fears by helping you form connections with classmates before classes even begin and to introduce you to the communication and conflict resolution skills that are essential to your personal and professional success. Orientation for the class of 2021 will be held on August 17, 18 and 21, 2017. The Office of Professional Programs will be sending details of the planned activities including times, locations and suggested attire to incoming students later in the summer. So get excited and keep an eye on the mail! New Student Orientation is going to be a blast and it’s the start of your future path to becoming a veterinarian!
**Important Stuff**

**Class dues**
Class dues are about $75 each year. It’s important to budget for this because they are due around September.

Every year, veterinary students contribute to their own class fund by paying dues and/or hosting class fundraisers.

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. Your funds will also go towards purchasing a class gift for The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The 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.”

**Buck-ID/College of Veterinary Medicine ID**
Your Vet Med ID is your “key” to accessing the vet school. The magnetic strip on the ID is coded to allow you access to college buildings and computer labs during evening hours and on weekends.

In addition, the Buck 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.

You will receive a form in your welcome packet that you will need to take over to the Ohio Union. There, you will head to the Buck ID office (located on the 3rd floor), where you will have your picture taken and printed onto your new Buck ID and Vet Med ID.

While in the veterinary hospital, you are required to wear your Vet Med ID at all times.

**Ohio State name.number**
The Ohio State University provides a free email account for all enrolled students, and we strongly recommend that you set up your account with The Office of Technology (oit.osu.edu) before arriving on campus.

To set up your Ohio State email, visit my.osu.edu/activation/index.

**Ohio State Email**
Ohio State offers email accounts for ALL OHIO STATE STUDENTS and we strongly recommend that you set up your account with The Office of Technology (OIT) before arriving on campus.

To setup/configure your Ohio State email see my.osu.edu/activation/index.

**Direct Deposit – 614-292-3337 or (toll-free) 800-635-8944**
We highly recommend that you set up direct deposit with the Office of the University Bursar. This will allow a timelier disbursement of student financial aid and eliminate the hassle of receiving funds via mail. The paperwork can be obtained through the registrar’s office or completed through the Fees and Deposits section on the Treasurer’s webpage at u.osu.edu/treasurer/bursar/students-2/deposit/.
Financial Aid

Kelsey Conklin is your financial aid liaison for the College of Veterinary Medicine and will assist you with any questions.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Miss Conklin is available on-site at the college in room 265 of VMAB.

Contact information: 614-247-8778 or conklin.97@osu.edu

Rabies Vaccinations

Questions regarding any health requirements can be addressed to preventivemedicine@studentlife.osu.edu, 614-292-0146 or 614-292-0150.

The immunization is a series of 3 vaccines, and this past year the cost was ~$275.00 for each vaccine (yep, that’s close to $900.00 for the entire series!) if obtained through Wilce Student Health Center.

If you contact your local health department and they quote you a cost of less than $825.00 for the series, then consider having the series done there.

Most insurance companies will not cover the vaccine series, so if yours does, take advantage of it! In February, all first-year students will have the opportunity to go to campus and get the vaccine (you even get out of class early to do so), so don’t worry about trying to get it done prior to starting school.

HOWEVER, ANY STUDENT NOT SHOWING UP FOR HIS/HER SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO A FINE IMPOSED BY THE WILCE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER.

If you’ve already had the vaccination series, you will need to get a titer test and possibly a booster. The cost for the rabies titer through the Wilce Student Health Center is $60.00.

Any student who has received the rabies series prior to entering vet school must FAX documentation of this to Susan Baker (Preventative Medicine Coordinator) at 614-292-6001.

The College of Veterinary Medicine requires full vaccination by the end of your first year. You will also be required to take a titer test before you enter clinics, as you will be working with live animals and your possible exposure to rabies will increase.

Some students can experience side effects from the vaccinations (flu-like symptoms, soreness, dizziness, etc.). To minimize your experience with any side effects, make sure you get enough sleep the night before and eat a good breakfast and lunch before each vaccination appointment.

Residency Requirements for Out-of-State Students

Please note that the information included in this Resource 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 Student Service Center by email at ssc@osu.edu, phone at 614-292-0300 or in person at 281 W. Lane Avenue, 1st Floor Student Academic Services Building, Columbus, OH 43210.

One of the many great things about Ohio State 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 three 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 semester for which you are applying for residency status. So if you are applying for Autumn Semester 2015 they will review the period from August 2014 – August 2015. In this period you need to prove that you were financially independent. This means that you are paying for everything with your own money or school loans. The deadlines to apply for residency can be found on the Registrar’s website at: registrar.osu.edu/Residency/index.asp.

All state specific documents should be changed to Ohio, such as driver’s license or state ID, and voter registration (if you are registered to vote in another state). If you have a car titled in your name, 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 one year prior to the review period.

In this year time period, you cannot leave the state for more than 30 days and no more than two weeks at a time. All trips out of the state must be reported.

Be proactive! Speak to a representative from the Student Service Center or visit the Registrar’s website well in advance to ensure 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: registrar.osu.edu/residency/

Academics

Your world will begin to shift from, “did I get an A?” to “do I understand the material and am I able to apply it?”.

Vet school is not difficult because the material is too hard, it is difficult because of the sheer volume of material you are required to master in a short time frame. It will be an adjustment for each individual.

Don’t get worked up about grades or you will stress yourself out far too much. Right now, tell yourself that getting a “C” still gets you a DVM. Continue to remind yourself of this fact as you make your way through school. This should help alleviate some of the self-imposed pressure.

Don’t forget to enjoy learning and just do your best. And remember, instructors are always willing to help with confusing topics so use them as often as you need!

Also, try not to worry about others and how well someone else might be doing. The truth is, the more you keep the focus on your own personal and professional growth process, the better you will be. With the stress of school, always remember to have an outlet to de-stress and have fun!

Books

You will receive a list of “required” and “recommended” books to purchase prior to each semester. You may not need to purchase all of the books on the list. The vet school library keeps all books required for class in stock for students to use. This is a great way to utilize some of the books without buying them.

In addition, OVESS (Ohio Veterinary Educational Supply Services) will supply you with an “alternate” book list. This list contains input from student surveys about which books they found most helpful. This may be useful in deciding which books you should purchase.

OVESS is located in the Veterinary Medical Center, room 0010 (just past Subway).

You may also consider borrowing from upperclassmen or looking into purchasing older editions to help cut costs. Some professors provide lists of “must have” books for their classes and offer advice to hold off on purchasing particular books if there will soon be a new edition available.

If you are someone that learns best from a book and wants to purchase it, don’t feel bad! Remember, it is always an investment to buy a particular book, especially one that focuses on an area in which you are considering specializing or even one that you would like to keep in your professional collection for future reference.
Class Notes
All classes prior to the Class of 2019 were provided with printed notes that they had to purchase. The school is no longer providing printed note packets. Instead, all notes are posted online on Carmen in PowerPoint or PDF format. Some professors supply online notes for the entire semester while others post individual lectures the night before. It’s important to download the lectures prior to class as it can take a few minutes.

All students are required to have an electronic device to view the presentations and to take notes during class. Laptops, tablets, and IPads are all acceptable. Selecting the best one for you is based on personal preference. It has been recommended by past students to use the app “Notability” for Apple products users and to use “One Note” for all others. These applications allow you to type or draw on the notes. Again, the type of app you use to take notes is completely based on preference.

Finding Course Information
Most information (e.g., course changes, lecture notes, etc.) will be made available either on the College of Veterinary Medicine Community website at cvmcommunity.osu.edu or on Carmen at carmen.osu.edu.

Note: The academic schedule for each semester and for each individual course is usually not posted to “CVM community” until a week or two before the start of the semester.

Big Sib Program
Before school starts, you’ll be asked to complete a survey with information about yourself. This will help members from the class before you to pair up with you as part of the “Big Sib” Program. Your big sib will reach out to you and be there to help answer any questions you may have about vet school and how they handled each part of it.

Autumn Semester Classes

CLIN PATH (four credits)
There are weekly quizzes and labs to practice reading CBC’s (complete blood cell counts).
The material is really interesting because it directly applies clinically.
If study guides are provided, be sure to answer all questions, as they may be similar to the exam questions.
It is really helpful to answer the learning objectives provided in the notes to keep up with the material.
Follow along with case examples and try to solve them on your own.
It is challenging material, but the professors aren’t “out to get you” on the exams. They really just want to help you understand the material.
It is important to keep up with the material, because there is so much of it in this course, and it is easy to fall behind.
Final Exam – mostly new material, but a small percentage will be cumulative (nothing to worry about if you kept up with the material).

HISTOLOGY (three credits)
There are different sections (e.g., bone, skin, kidney, liver, etc.) to this course, and a different professor often teaches each section and the lab section that goes with it.
Colored notes are extremely helpful, since you’ll label many images in class and on exams.
There are two parts to the exam: practical & written
Practical Exam – images are shown in ExamSoft at the beginning of the exam, so it is important to attend class to get the information and attend lab for the description of the images (computerized slides) because many of the same images will be on the exam.
Written Exam – standard multiple choice part, usually three questions per hour of lecture. Information tested is usually the information that was most emphasized in lecture.
Lab – labs give you the opportunity to look at the histology slides that go along with each lecture. These labs are usually for participation points only. The slides from the labs are a good learning tool that you can access from your home computer to help you study.
Get used to looking at other specimens, not just your own, and be able find structures on other dogs – many anatomical structures can look different on each individual specimen!

Our class organized “mock” practicals, which were helpful in preparing for the lab portion of each exam.

Helpful books: Guide to the Dissection of the Dog®, Saunders Veterinary Anatomy Coloring Book®, and Saunders Veterinary Anatomy Flash Cards®

Dyce’s Textbook of Veterinary Anatomy® can also be useful (it will come up again in Herbivore Anatomy second semester), but keep in mind that all the books are upstairs in the library if you can’t afford to buy them.

Remember to talk to your group about expectations or if there are any disagreements.

Anatomy information is extremely detail-oriented for the exams, so make sure to study dissected images to prepare for the ExamSoft quizzes as these images may be seen again on the exams.

The bone displays in lab are considered “self-study”, but they will appear on both the written and practical exams, so make sure you study them. It may be helpful to review the bones before the semester starts, and it will come in handy in Radiology!

**Final Exam** – A large portion of the final exam is new material, but a small percentage of the final will be cumulative, which is mostly clinically-relevant information.

**CANINE ANATOMY (four credits)**

It’s important to put in the time for this course, both in lab and outside of class!

Be proactive in studying and reviewing the notes.

The professors use clinical correlates to provide real-world examples. These are usually IMPORTANT and will be seen on tests.

There are weekly online quizzes – these help to keep you on top of material and to prepare you for the exams.

Online quizzes are only worth 10 points each, so if you do poorly on one, it won’t hurt your overall grade. Still, it’s obviously better to do well on the quizzes, so make sure you study!

**Exams** – There are a total of three exams.

Each exam consists of a practical and a written portion, both of which are taken online (via ExamSoft software) – NO discussion and NO looking at notes in between the two portions. Half the class will take the practical first and the other half will take the written first, then each half will switch when done.

**Lab** – For lab, note which structures you’re supposed to know and get used to finding them without having to touch the cadaver. This is because you will have to ID some of them for your practical exam, and you won’t be able to touch any animal during the exam.
CELL BIOLOGY (two credits)
Dr. Dewille is great! He is extremely helpful and really wants you to understand and learn the material.
Read his notes and you will be fine because his questions are a reflection of those notes.
Some exam questions are detail-oriented so make sure to read closely. He is extremely helpful and really wants you to understand and learn the material.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (one credit)
You can learn about different types of vet jobs (government, food production, zoo, wildlife, academia, etc.)
You will get from this class what you put into it.
This is a relaxing class, yet really insightful and informational.
There are weekly online quizzes that cover the previous week’s lecture, and you can use the notes to take them – all the quizzes are pretty straightforward forward too.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (two credits)
One of the favored classes among our class – you get to touch live animals!
Helpful to learn basic handling techniques of both large and small animals.
Very interesting and helps teach you about basic behavior problems that you may see in practice (example: cats going outside of the litterbox, aggressive dogs, etc.).
No book required.
Two exams – information is straightforward and from the notes.

RADIOLOGY (one credit)
Helpful and makes the “fuzzy grey stuff” look like actual structures.
You don’t need the book, but it helps clarify some concepts! Remember, the Library has all the books if you just want to reference.
Two exams – pretty detailed questions. Don’t underestimate the tests even though the class is one credit!

EPIDEMIOLOGY (three credits)
A TON of group work – randomly assigned but helpful in working on your communication skills and learning how to work on a team!
You do have the chance to change groups between assignments if you want.
Do not get frustrated if Dr. Garabed has a hard time answering questions in class- if you have a question, post it on Carmen, email her, or go to office hours. She is much clearer when explaining in-person.
Read the pages she recommends online – these will help supplement the notes for the quizzes on Carmen!
There are both graded and practice quizzes online.
For the projects, to best understand what she is looking for, you should go to office hours or send her emails – she is very helpful and will read what you wrote to make sure it is what she is looking for.
Do well on group projects because they end up counting for the majority of your grade. And she helps you prepare for the final, so it is not too bad.

Spring Semester Classes

GROSS ANATOMY II (Horse and Cow)
This class focuses on horse anatomy with anatomic differences discussed between the equine and ruminant species.
Do your best not to skip this class! Most of the information is fill in the blank and requires you to either be in class or utilize lecture capture.
Write down almost everything that Masty says. He may not explicitly mark certain things that are on the exam and you may miss something that may be on the exam if you do not pay attention. Some of the things he says that aren’t on the notes may be extra credit questions in the class as well!
Utilize the study guide! This focuses your studying in the class and gives you examples of the types of questions he will ask on quizzes and in the exams.
His quizzes and exams are written with spelling mistakes yielding zero credit for that particular question. This seems worse than it really is, but it definitely is a change for most students.
TURN IN EVALUATION SHEETS FOR EXTRA CREDIT. Dr. Masty will give the class one extra credit point after each section ONLY IF 93% of the class turns in their evaluation sheets. This can lead to about 10 – 12 extra credit points by the end of the semester, which can make a difference in some students’ grades.
BIOLOGY OF DISEASE I: PATHOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
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!).
A complete understanding of the verbiage used is CRITICAL to “getting it”.
A unique teaching style provides more for the student than just academic development in this course.
It will be what you make of it, and you will get out of it what you put into it…literally. If you think you’re failing, remind yourself to “trust the process” and seek help from the professor. Remember, professors are your best resource if you are struggling.

BIOLOGY OF DISEASE II: VIROLOGY, PARASITOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY
This multi-functional course introduces pathogenic organisms broken down into species.
Virology explores the mechanisms of infection, as well as major groups and characteristics of viral organisms.
Bacteriology also covers organisms, introducing specific bacterium and its type, as well as its reproductive and infective mechanisms.
Parasitology covers specific parasitic organisms and their characteristics, life cycles, hosts and diseases.
Each section has its moments when it can feel overwhelming. So, take it slow and spend time on the weekend trying to get terminology down. This is usually the hardest part, but once you understand the language, you can begin to understand the material.

MUSCULOSKELETAL
As your first “systems” course, Musculoskeletal will focus entirely on mammalian bone, cartilage and muscle. You will be taught how to recognize injury to musculoskeletal structures and the medical protocol required for appropriate healing.
Topics covered include musculoskeletal physical examinations of patients, bone formation and remodeling, congenital and developmental disorders, fractures, joint diseases, growth plate disorders, tendon and ligament disorders and muscle disorders for various animal species.
Grade will be determined through a combination of exams, quizzes and labs.

There are a total of two exams and two quizzes in this class. Be sure to study in between exams! Each exam is usually the equivalent of 10+ lectures that will be covered, which can be a little overwhelming if you attempt to study it the night before the exam. The more you prepare, the better you will do on the exams.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT II
This course is an introduction to professional life skills for success in finding summer positions, research positions, externships, and ultimately a job upon graduation. In addition, the class will begin discussing leadership and expand the topic of personal finance.
Very informative, relaxing, and interesting course that may help you out in the future!

PRINCIPLES OF VETERINARY 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. Be sure you understand the mathematical formulas and the conversions! A lot of his questions are based on the formulas, so understanding them is key!
There are optional homework/problem sets provided in this course and doing them is a great assessment of your progress. Get help if you are unable to do the homework problems. This is very helpful in studying for his exams.
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” (you’ll understand when you see it)!
READ THE NOTES. His teaching style is good for some and may not be so good for others, but his notes are very thorough and will help with your understanding of the subject.
INTRODUCTION TO CLINICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE

As your second introductory course to clinical topics, this class has been developed to hone your clinical reasoning skills. It will be a 1-credit course combining lecture/readings and laboratory sessions.

The class centers around three main goals: learning the basic skills required to approach a clinical case, understanding the appropriate attitudes for approaching a case and recognizing the importance of keeping up to date with current scientific literature.

Assessment of your progress in achieving these goals will be determined through class discussion, submitted reflections and presentations.

Overall, this is a very interesting course that helps create a baseline for future learning and experiences not just in the curriculum, but for your outside learning experiences as well.

ELECTIVES

At some point during Autumn semester, you may be invited to attend information sessions about offered electives. Whether you choose to take an elective in a discipline in which you are not familiar, wish to explore new options, or perhaps want to 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.

To graduate, you are required to have completed **42 elective credit hours** (20 elective hours must be completed prior to your clinical/4th 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!

Be sure to add all of your desired electives on your “wish list” prior to your enrollment. This will make your life immensely easier when you sign up for classes since you will need to confirm your choices to get the classes you want.

CLASS ETIQUETTE

Cell Phones

Be sure to put your phone on silent in class. The vibrate setting can be quite irritating in lectures and exams, so do your best to avoid that. Also, texting during class is not advised as the instructors tend to notice that you aren’t paying attention to them, and when they take the time to teach, it’s important that you take the time to listen.

Punctuality

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. That said, things happen. Simply make an solid effort to be on time.

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 160+ 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. You never know which professor you may want to write a letter of recommendation someday.
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE CODE OF CONDUCT AND HONOR CODE

As a profession, we are expected by society to regulate ourselves as veterinary physicians, to judge the actions of our peers, and to protect the health of animals and people. We are obligated to have and maintain a high degree of honesty, integrity, and discretion. Therefore, the College of Veterinary Medicine has developed a Code of Conduct and Honor Code. During orientation you will be asked to read the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Code of Conduct and Honor Code. Upon completion, you will sign a document acknowledging you awareness of the college’s policies on these matters and the consequences for violating them. Both documents are extremely important and provide guidelines for your behavior as a professional student and eventual member of the veterinary profession.

The Veterinary Code of Conduct can be found at vet.osu.edu/education/veterinary-code-conduct. Please take note of the College’s policy on social networking sites:

“Posting material relating to any client, patient, College owned, or research animal, in any form, to any public or social networking site is forbidden. Visual images such as photographs of surgery, rectal examination and necropsy that veterinary students are accustomed to could be upsetting to many in the general public. In addition, these images could be copied and misused by other groups, resulting in permanent harm to veterinary education programs. Students are required to maintain and respect client and patient confidentiality as well as respecting the dignity of all animals and their owners.”

One of the ways that the Veterinary Code of Conduct affects day to day class activities is that students are trusted as a class to take exams without a proctor in the room. Sometimes, they stop in periodically to answer questions, but you will be trusted not to cheat. This applies to online exams as well. It is in your best interest to rise and meet these expectations. The handling of suspected violations of this and any of the other listed guidelines is described at the bottom of this document.

The Veterinary Honor Code (vet.osu.edu/education/veterinary-honor-code) is a more cohesive document that includes the purpose, application and ethics/professional behavior expected of us. It also clarifies the role and processes of the Judiciary Committee of the Student Council in handling suspected violations.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

During the first semester, you will develop your own techniques for organization and studying. Since there is a larger quantity of material in vet school than in undergrad in a given semester, some of your study habits may need tweaking for time purposes. You are all very smart and have succeeded in getting to this point, and as you go through your first semester you’ll identify what works and what doesn’t work for you in veterinary school. Start with what you know works for you, and adjust from there. You can always ask students in classes ahead of you (like your Big Sib!) for specific tips.

Clothing for Anatomy Lab

You will actually begin dissecting your cadaver on your VERY FIRST DAY of classes. You are required to wear scrubs (and lab coat if you prefer) and safety glasses. 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 don’t hold bulky items). Most students change into their scrubs or lab coat immediately after class and before entering the anatomy lab. Others arrive to school wearing their
scrubs in order to save time and get to the anatomy lab early. Whichever works best for you, you will want to change back into street clothes following the lab.

**Sweatshirt/Blanket**
The temperature in Dunlap is never consistent, so be prepared for being too cold some days and too warm on others. We’ve had classmates show up with buckeye snuggies and ugly Christmas sweaters!

**Colored Pencils/pens/highlighters**
Many students tend to use some form of colored tool for anatomy, and some use the colored pens for other classes as well. It’s up to your individual study/note-taking habits.

**Exam Gloves**
You’ll need at least two boxes of gloves to get through canine and equine anatomy. Nitrile gloves are best. If you use regular latex gloves, be prepared to smell like preserved cadavers for the rest of the day! It’s a pretty tough smell to cover up, so it’s best if you avoid it instead. You can double up on the regular latex gloves, but this does not work as well as one pair of nitrile gloves.

**Dissecting Kit**
If you haven’t already, make sure you stock up on scalpel blades. OVESS sells a dissection kit ($28) that has all the stuff you will need for lab. You can purchase safety glasses ($6) from OVESS as well.

If you want to create your own kit, include:
- scalpel handle
- scalpel blades (#10 blades and #22 blades especially)
- tissue forceps
- blunt probe and scissors (large blunt-tipped and small fine-tipped can be useful)
- hemostat (one or more)

**Class Notes**
Paper notes are no longer offered through the college. Some students choose to print each course’s notes and keep them in binders. Places, like Office Max and Staples, can do this if you do not want to print them out on your own. Most students take notes electronically, but if your class prefers, you can have someone in your class try to organize printed notes for everyone for individual purchase.

**Dry Erase Markers**
In theory, the study rooms will each have markers available. 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 Epidemiology and Pharmacology. It’s great if you can pick up a standard calculator that has logs, exponents, and general calculator functions. Many classes will let you use a graphing calculator when needed. Also, Examsoft has a built-in scientific calculator.

**Laptop Computers/Tablets**
There are power outlets for laptops and tablets in the auditoriums. The school also supplies Wi-Fi college wide.

Don’t use your computer during class for personal business (e.g., surfing the web, catching up on emails, etc.) It’s disrespectful to the professor and distracting to your classmates.

**GPA and OTHER STUFF**

**Wait Lists for Electives**
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 seat becomes available for you, the registrar’s office will contact you by email 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.

Grade Credit Points
A   –  4.0
A-  –  3.7
B+  –  3.3
B   –  3.0
B-  –  2.7
C+  –  2.3
C   –  2.0
C-  –  1.7
D+  –  1.3
D   –  1.0
E   –  0.0

Total Credit Points Earned = Credit Hours  Credit Points

Example:
B+ in Cell Bio: 5 credit hours x  3.3 = 16.5 total credit points earned
C+ in Anatomy: 5 credit hours x 2.3 = 11.5 total credit points earned

Divide the total number of credit points earned (16.5 + 11.5 = 28) by the total number of credit hours (5 + 5 = 10), and you get your GPA (28  10 = 2.8)

AUTUMN SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

IPC Halloween Party
The best known of IPC’s (Inter-Professional Counsel) social events is the annual Halloween party. With an attendance of approximately 1500 students, the party is always a huge success! It’s a party for all the professional schools at Ohio State, so it’s a great opportunity to meet new people and win prizes!

SCAVMA Social Events
SCAVMA will have a couple social events over the Autumn Semester.

Many more!
Every club will have free lunch lectures and/or wet labs in which club members can sign up and participate. In addition, many clubs will provide you with information about conferences and other opportunities related to that club. Both fraternal organizations (Alpha Psi and OTS) are very active professionally and socially. There are loads of other activities that will be announced throughout the year. Information will come through the vet2020 listserv. It can be frustrating to get such a high volume of emails that don’t seem to apply to you, but you don’t want to miss that one incredible opportunity either.

Colerain Day
Classes are suspended for the morning as first and second year students (and their pets!) visit a school for disabled and challenged children. This is an amazing experience, and EVERYONE IS EXPECTED 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. For these kids, “Vet Day” (as they call it) is their favorite day of the year. The Class of 2019 student government representatives will talk with you more about it.
SPRING SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

Midwest Veterinary Conference/OVMA
The MVC is an annual symposium filled with classes for all animal-related interests as well as trade representatives for virtually every product and company. Friday classes during the MVC are suspended as the college expects students to attend the symposium for at least that day. 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!

Buckeye Exploration Day
Spring semester, the College of Veterinary Medicine extends an invitation to undergraduate students interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine to come to the school for tours and informational sessions. This event is a big merchandise sale opportunity for the different organizations.

GETTING INVOLVED
You can enrich your experience as a veterinary student by becoming involved in the various organizations, clubs and fraternities. The experience not only provides you with a sense of balance between academics and socialization but it gives you an opportunity to learn more about your interests, develop leadership skills necessary for the workplace, and forge strong bonds with your future colleagues. Perhaps in becoming a member of your class’s student government, you pique your interest in a career in veterinary politics. Or maybe through the social structure of a fraternity you fulfill your desire to make connections that will one day benefit you as a veterinarian. Possibly, you are someone who thinks less about the “future” and more about the “now” such as, “now that I’m in vet school, I’m a broke joke”. If you are the typical “poor college student”, who is just in need of a decent meal, most clubs provide free food to entice their members to attend lunch lectures (because who doesn’t like free food!). However, if you sign up to attend a meal or event, it is your responsibility 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 those, who did RSVP. Also, if you eat, you must STAY for the presentation!!! Don’t be rude! These activities are for your edification but are not an entitlement. Do not let poor behavior be the reason these opportunities are discontinued.

There are a million opportunities to get involved in personal and professional development activities. This also means that there are a million and one things to enable the 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 vet school is stressful enough without you adding unnecessarily to your own burden. It is ok to say no, and you can always join clubs after your first semester if you find that you are interested. All of these opportunities are to give you a chance to meet people and learn more about different subsets of veterinary medicine, but you don’t have to do all of them by any means. Just make sure to have fun and enjoy yourself! Vet school doesn’t have to be all work and no play.

SCAVMA
The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association is the one club that you must 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 can be fun. Plus, they feed you!
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 and a Senate which is composed of five Senators and one 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. IPC sponsors a number of happy hours to help you get to know other professional students, hosts guest lecturers, and organizes an annual soccer tournament. There are also service projects held throughout the year in which professional students are invited to participate. Elections for new IPC officers will be held in early October for first-year students. If you have any questions about this organization or are interested in a position, ipc.osu.edu/about/delegate_directory/college_of_veterinary_med provides a list of the current delegates for the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Student Government

Each class has the following student positions available:

- President
- Vice President (2)
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Parliamentarian
- Historian
- Student Council Reps (4)
- AVMA/SCAVMA Delegate
- IPC Delegate
- OVESS Representatives (2)

(You’ll receive more information on running for these positions and what each position entails from the second-year president).

Fraternities

You will receive more information from the members of these fraternities about why you might want to join and how to join.

- Omega Tau Sigma (OTS)
- Alpha Psi
Professional Organizations:
- Alpha Psi Fraternity
- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)
- American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP)
- American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)
- American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP)
- American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV)
- American Association of Zoological Veterinarians (AAZV)
- American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
- American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB)
- Association of Vets for Animal Rights (AVAR)
- Buckeyes for Greyhounds
- Christian Veterinary Fellowship (CVF)
- CVM Culture & Inclusive Diversity (Diversity Committee)
- Feline Medicine Club
- Food Animal Club
- Heifer International Committee
- 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)
- Josh Project
- Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association (LGVMA)
- Omega Tau Sigma Fraternity (OTS)
- Pathology Club (SCACVP)
- Shelter Medicine Club
- Student Chapter of the American Animal Hospital Association (SCAAHA)
- Student Chapter of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (Feline Club)
- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Dental Society (Dental Club)
- Student Chapter of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (SCAVIM)
- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association (SCAVMA)
- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association – Auxiliary (SCAVMA Aux)
- Student Counsel
- Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (SVECSS)
- Theriogenology Club
- Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA)
- Veterinary Canine Association at Ohio State
- Veterinary Dermatology Club
- Veterinary Explorers Post
- Veterinary Public Health Club
- Veterinary Radiology Club
- Veterinary Students As One in Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE)
- Veterinary Surgery Club
- Zoo Club

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 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 super-highway available!

Student Ambassador Program
Student Ambassadors are representatives of the veterinary medicine student body at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine dedicated to the positive advancement of the college. Ambassadors promote and participate in student and alumni events, recruiting activities, and assist faculty and staff with college events. There will be an application process in Spring Semester your first year, and several students from your class will be selected to represent the college as student ambassadors until their fourth year/clinical rotations begin. If these selected students meet a minimum number of volunteering hours as student ambassadors, they receive a scholarship towards their tuition. Applications become available around January.
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We recommend NOT working during your first semester of vet school. Vet school is a tremendous adjustment, and you don’t want to have the added stress of a job on your hands to make that transition more difficult. We strongly recommend prioritizing your education first and getting the swing of things before finding a job. However, when you feel like the time is right to get a job, make sure your employer will be understanding and flexible with your school schedule. For example, some students work on weekends or evenings in a local veterinary clinic to supplement both their education and their wallets. It is possible to have a job, but it will take excellent time management skills.

Student Representatives: One 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 that students apply to represent. As a student rep, you are responsible for knowing the product and for setting up lectures and food pick-ups. Drug and equipment providers such as Novartis, Bayer, Merial, Zoetis, Idexx, Abaxis, and Nutramax Laboratories have also recently begun utilizing student reps for local support.

Work Study and School Jobs: There are a few paid positions available through the college during the school year. The anatomy lab hires five first-year students each year to help with keeping the lab clean and stocked as well as to help with specimen preparation. Other various opportunities are offered, including employment in the pathology lab, the surgery department, Small Animal ICU, or Equine ICU. When these opportunities become available, an email notification will be sent to the class, so be sure to check your email often.

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 February or March, perhaps even earlier depending on what you are interested in doing. Toward the end of the school year, you may find job opportunities popping up in your email. They range from research to laboratory work to administrative to clinical medicine. Keep an open mind to jobs that you may not have considered before. 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 Senior Send-off and your class gift. The goal of fundraising is to provide a source of income other than the collection of class dues. As a first-year class, you are traditionally expected to purchase merchandise left over from the current fourth-year class. This purchase is made through the collection of class dues early in your first semester. 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-years’ merchandise gives your class first right to the designs they had already established. This can eliminate the hassle of creating, approving and producing a design on merchandise that you would like to stock. Let your 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 your class merchandise!!

Christmas Sale: Before Winter Break, classes and clubs have an opportunity to display and sell their merchandise. This event is organized through SCAVMA. The Christmas Sale is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on Ohio State CVM merchandise begin your holiday shopping early!

Midwest Veterinary Conference/OVMA: During the Midwest Veterinary Conference, we are given a chance to sell merchandise in the exhibit hall. This is the largest opportunity in fundraising as thousands of attendees pass through this hall!

Buckeye Exploration Day: While prospective students and their families explore Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, we have an opportunity to provide them with Ohio State merchandise.
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!! You may not notice that you aren’t taking care of your- self, but your friends and family members will. If people are telling you that you don’t seem to be acting like yourself, take the time to do a quick self-assessment and know that help is just a phone call away. There is nothing more important than your health. Seriously.

Dr. Jennifer Brandt: Speaking of help...Dr. Brandt is 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, personal health information, and specialist referrals for students who are experiencing academic or emotional difficulties (e.g., stress management, test anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, eating disorders, etc.). Her office is located in Room 265 on the second floor of VMAB at the end of the hall. Emergency appointments are available during Dr. Brandt’s office hours on a first-come, first-served basis, but you can stop by her office any time, and she will direct you to someone who can help. If you are in need of support, this is a great place to start. Dr. B’s motto is, “come early and come often.”

Let’s Talk Program: Implemented at The Ohio State University in 2013, this program provides drop-in informal consultations that are FREE and CONFIDENTIAL. Let’s Talk is an outreach program designed for students who may not need traditional counseling, but who benefit from one-on-one support and consultation.

What to expect from “Let’s Talk: Students will receive a one-on-one, 15 to 20 minute informal consultation with a staff member from Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS). No appointment is necessary. No paperwork is needed. Just someone who will listen closely to your concerns, offer support, and provide information about resources available on and off campus.

For more information, visit CCS – Counseling and Consultation Service (ccs.osu.edu). They can also be reached at 614-292-5766.

Office of Disability Services (ODS): Many services are offered to students with documented disabilities. Some of the services include exam accommodations (extended time, alternative format), disability counseling, advocacy and alternative media. Students with diagnosed disabilities are urged to send their documentation to ODS as soon as possible for a 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. If you believe you qualify for accommodations or want information about 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 have received the appropriate written documentation from them), you must meet with Dr. Brandt each semester to obtain the paperwork required by the college to schedule your exams and arrange your accommodations. To avoid a delay or gap in accommodation services, Contact ODS or Dr. Brandt to discuss your request for accommodations.

Visit ods.ohio-state.edu or call 614-292-3307

Younkin Success Center: The Younkin Success Center functions as a hub for services related to student success. There are five units housed in the Younkin Success Center:

1. Dennis Learning Center (DCL) – dennislearningcenter.osu.edu
2. Career Counseling and Support Services – ccss.osu.edu
3. University Center for the Advancement of Teaching (UCAT) – ucat.osu.edu
4. Buckeye Careers – careers.osu.edu
5. Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) – ccs.osu.edu

All of these programs were designed to help a student get ahead and stay ahead.

Please visit the websites for more information about what each program has to offer.

Walter E. Dennis Learning Center: If you find you are struggling in things such as time management, procrastination, study skills, motivation, academic stress, or any other school-related issue, you can schedule an appointment to take 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 in the learning lab at the Younkin Success Center.

Please know that these services have been very helpful to some of the vet students.

However, some students have indicated that the lessons taught are too remedial to benefit a professional or 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): As mentioned in the ‘Let’s Talk’ Program section, the CCS can be reached at ccs.osu.edu or 614-292-5766.

Counseling and Consultation Service on main campus offers a full range of confidential mental health services including individual, couples, or group counseling, crisis intervention, skill enhancement workshops, psycho-educational outreach, psychiatric consultation, and 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. Brandt. 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 (for urgent matters you can usually be seen by a CCS counselor the same day or next day). If you’d prefer to be seen by someone off campus, please contact Dr. Brandt to obtain a list of recommended mental health providers.

Peer Tutoring Program: The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine Peer Tutoring Program (PTP) offers you FREE tutoring at a convenient location agreed upon by you and your tutor. All PTP tutors have been very successful in the courses they tutor and have demonstrated a genuine interest in helping students. They understand the struggles of a veterinary student and will give you good advice on how to prepare, what to expect, and can help to explain things to you in a “different” way than what is taught by your professor.

Remember, these people were chosen because they want to help. So take advantage!

Each year, the updated list of tutors is located on CVM Community under the ‘Student Resources’ section – cvmcommunity.osu.edu/students

(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 Diversity and Inclusion: odi.osu.edu
The ODA’s main goal is to increase diversity on Ohio State’s campus by taking initiatives aimed at the recruitment, retention, and success of underrepresented students, faculty, and staff. It provides a variety of scholarships and financial support to programs and activities that advocate for campus diversity and inclusion.

Student Life Multicultural Center: 614-688-8449, mcc.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.

The MCC is keen on welcoming ALL students, staff, faculty, and community members to its events, while at the same time supporting and celebrating specific groups (including African & African-American, Asian & Asian-American, American Indian/Indigenous, Hispanic/Latino, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Women, Men, and Faith communities). The office coordinates a variety of theme weeks and events that expose students to different ethnicities.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Initiatives: mcc.osu.edu/resources/lgbtq-allies
LGBTQ programming provides services and programs to those who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or allies. These initiatives through the Multicultural Center inspire reflective thought and increase awareness of identity and community through an understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity.

LGBTQ programming initiatives accomplish these goals via programs and services in four primary areas – student cohort groups, leadership opportunities, education programs, and signature events. Please visit the website for more information.

Student Housing Legal Services: studentlegal.osu.edu
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. More information is available either on the website or by calling 614-247-5853.

**Technical Services – Chief Information Officer (CIO):**

ocio.osu.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 MAC users. To find out more about the buckeye bundle and other software options go to www.oit.ohio-state.edu/buckeyebundle.html.

**Virus Protection:** OIT offers free downloadable software protection to students. This is current Virus Scan, and can be found at OSU Site Licensed Software - 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 you do need to pay out of pocket – to the tune of almost $500! This is still quite comparable to most other coverage available. Please visit shi.osu.edu/ for more information.

**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 Wilce Student Health Center is your main contact. The Wilce Student Health Center is located “across the river” over on main campus, just in between the RPAC & the Thompson Library. 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 discussion of medication options.

**Athletic Facilities:** recsports.osu.edu/facilities. 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 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.

The hours for these facilities as well any special events or recreational sports teams that are being formed can be found at: recsports.osu.edu/

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 registrar.osu.edu/. Click on the Current Students tab and click Course Enrollment Permission under 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 Ohio State also offers tax assistance – keep an eye out for flyers during tax season!

**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 veterinary students on the benefits of their products. Whether you have a personal brand preference or are interested in trying new products, these companies provide discounts on their products for the vet students to take advantage. These discounts will end up saving you a TON of money on food for your pets.

**Hill’s:** Hill’s distributes discounted 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 location will be determined and designated by your Hill’s representative prior to pick-up.

**Purina:** Another pet feeding option that veterinary students have access to is the Purina University Feeding Program. This program is simple and easy and entitles you to one food credit per month that is 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 8lbs to 35lbs (up to a $58.00 value). With a valid prescription from the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center, 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 (purinaforprofessionals.com/purina/pro/university)

Nestle Purina also has a student representative program, which gives one or two students per class year the opportunity to help Purina partner with The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Student reps help with the advocacy program, host interactive lunch lectures with Purina veterinarians, and distribute funding to different student activities. These positions are paid and are a great opportunity to get involved in veterinary nutrition!

**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 a leader in exotic animal health and nutrition because of its strong relationship with veterinarians. The programs benefits 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 in advance through a current Oxbow student representative.

**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 number of animals allowed. 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. [columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html](http://columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html)

**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: [columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html](http://columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html)

**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 an extensive list of options, visit [columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html](http://columbusdogconnection.com/dogcat-info.html)*
Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center: 614-292-3551. The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center 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), but 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 veterinary hospital 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 medical chart created for them. Even if someone (e.g., staff, faculty, another student, etc.) tells you that it’s okay to bring your animal in, it is your responsibility to know that you must first register your pet with the front desk. This policy applies to any visit, whether it be a drop-off, blood donor, weekend or emergency visits.

EXPERIENCING 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 Ohio State 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, (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 (United Dairy Farmers convenience store) is a good place to find them and various restaurants around town also offer them. If you are going to be living in Columbus, you should give yourself the opportunity to see the city and what it has offer. Just make sure it isn’t the night before a test!

Discounts (or, “Perks for Being a Buckeye”): The ticket office at The Ohio Union carries a number of opportunities for entertainment on a student budget. Visit the “d-tix Discount Ticket Program” link on the Ohio Union website at activities.osu.edu/programs/dtix for a full list of upcoming events as well as current prices with student discounts. The student discount ticket program is funded by the student activity fee that is built into our tuition to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional students at The Ohio State University access to cultural and sporting events at a discounted rate. In addition to ticket discounts for places like Cedar Point and the Columbus Zoo, there is also a limited number of special-event tickets available for purchase. Be sure to sign up on the D-Tix website for a chance to get those discount event tickets! Students can pick up their D-Tix tickets at the Information Center in the Ohio Union.

Here are some of the places that D-Tix offers discount tickets to:

- Sports Series (Reds, Indians, etc.) Columbus Zoo
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Funny Bone Comedy Café
- Cedar Point
- COSI
- Dave & Buster’s
- Drexel Arena Grande Movie Tickets
- Franklin Park and Conservatory
- Pro-Football Hall of Fame
- Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- Zoombezi Bay (great waterpark in Columbus)
- $25 Restaurant Gift Cards for $10

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.

Broadway Series Entertainment / Ballet Met: balletmet.org
Throughout the season, discount tickets are offered in limited quantities to the students at OSU. These tickets include seats to the latest Broadway
shows, as well as concerts and ballets (BalletMet also offers community classes that you can take on a class-by-class basis and at a student rate!). 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
- $25 Resturant Gift Cards for $10

**Dining Out:** Looking for a quiet authentic Italian restaurant? Want to know how is the local Chinese take-out? For this section we refer you to Experience Columbus, the official visitor’s guide experiencecolumbus.com. We can also offer you our two cents worth on all the good food and drinks in the area. After all, 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 the benefit of acting as guinea pigs to try the free food!

There are a few restaurants located within walking distance of the vet school:

- BRAVO! Cucina Italiana
- Champps Americana (American food)
- Cup’O Joe
- Johnny Rockets.

These restaurants are all located in the Lennox Shopping Center. Lennox also offers Target, Old Navy, Famous Footwear, Barnes and Noble, Staples, Bath & Body Works and others.

On the days you get out of class early (you can count them on one hand) and want to eat at a nice sit-down restaurant, these places are close to campus and offer great food & service:

- Grandview Café (American)
- Old Bag O’ Nails (American-Irish)
- Panera Bread (American-deli)
- Aab India (Indian—great lunch buffet!)
- El Vaquero (authentic Mexican)

If you want to go somewhere further away from campus, may we suggest:

- Easy Street (American and Greek)
- Thurman Cafe (American-huge burgers) in German Village
- Claddagh Irish Pub in Downtown Columbus
- Elevator Brewery and Restaurant (brewery and American) in Downtown
- The Arena District (there are all kinds of amazing restaurants in this area)

The Short North also has a ton of places to eat, drink and be merry! Of note in this area:

- The Happy Greek
- Lemongrass Asian Bistro
- Kooma and Haiku (sushi and such)

The North Market also offers a wonderful plethora of variety. This indoor market, located on Spruce Street in the northern edge of downtown, offers fresh produce, delis and international foods. The North Market is also host to several events throughout the year, including a wine festival featuring local vineyards and a farmer’s festival in summer.

And this is just a list of suggestions! FYI, bd’s Mongolian BBQ (located in the Area District) 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. There is one located downtown and one on Sawmill road.

If you are a vegetarian, try Dragonfly on King Avenue or Whole World Natural Bakery & Restaurant on High Street in Clintonville. If you are craving the feel of the eclectic diners of undergrad we highly recommend The Blue Danube on High Street (or the Dube as many who love it call it).
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. 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?

Dessert: One of Columbus’s “must try’s” is Jeni’s Ice Cream. Here, you’ll find creative concoctions like 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, soccer, horse racing, auto racing and more.

• The Columbus Clippers are the Yankees’ minor league team
• The Blue Jackets bring lots of NHL fans to the downtown area
• The Columbus Crew is our Major League Soccer team
• There are two horse race tracks (free) in Columbus that include Beulah Park (quarter horses and thoroughbreds) and Scioto Downs (harness racing).
• If you like auto racing, there’s an asphalt tract in the city called Columbus Motor Speedway.

And who can forget The Ohio State Buckeyes?!?
You will soon have a love-hate relationship with our Bucks because, while they give a nice study break, they also sometimes demand a study break – meaning you can’t 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, try the Columbus Zoo, Franklin Park and Conservatory, or the parks along Riverside Drive. Columbus also offers a great deal of music.

Nationwide Arena and The Schottenstein Center draw some big names. The Newport and Express Live! bring in big and small names and offer a closer atmosphere. Skully’s, Little Brother’s, The Basement and a host of other bars usually showcase national and 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 is 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 30 min. 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 north of Downtown, Clintonville’s section of High Street, or Grandview.
Tips on Saving Money (living frugally)

Bulk grocery stores, like Sam’s Club, are a good idea if you plan on using a lot of something (e.g., toilet paper, paper towel, etc.). You can buy items in bulk when they come on sale and store them until needed (e.g., non-parishable items, freezer items, etc.) They also sell pet supplies, usually pretty decent. Also, look for meat that’s on sale due to their sale by date. You can always freeze it for later.

Also, the gas stations at grocery stores, like Giant Eagle, Kroger, etc., have fuel rebates. If you shop at these stores like these, make sure to sign up for their “Member Rewards” cards (e.g., Kroger Plus card, Giant Eagle card, etc.).

FYI, gas prices will typically be lower as you head outside of Columbus. Check a free app like Gasbuddy to compare prices and locations. If you want to save on gas, check traffic in the morning before you leave. There are apps for that. You’ll also avoid having a heart attack as you sit in a traffic jam for three miles on a day you have an exam. (Remember, the faculty and staff travel the same roads you do—so if they are on time, you need to be on time as well!)

You can also try carpooling. It will save you money on gas, and you can share a parking pass with someone that’ll save you even more. This will also help you avoid the increasing issue of limited parking space due to the increased class sizes.

If you live close enough to campus, consider biking or walking to school. You will save hundreds of dollars from not buying a parking pass and will save money on gas as well.

Speaking of traffic – during a heavy winter, the roads in Columbus are miserable. Patches of ice can form on the highways because some roads have poor water drainage. Be aware of small lakes forming on the roads during rainy days. Adjust your commute accordingly because when slow-movement traffic occurs, it will feel like the drivers here have never encountered bad weather before. You can even consider not coming to class that day or showing up late after traffic clears.

Remember, vet school is important, but it’s not worth your life.

It’s a good idea to wash your car during the winter months to prevent salt buildup. Nobody wants to drive a rusty car or pay for the resulting bodywork. Take care of your car especially if you live outside of Columbus. You can’t afford to be stranded.

Cell phone companies may offer discounts on cell phone plans for students. You just have to ask. If you need a new phone, try getting it off the internet. You can get a really nice smartphone from websites like Amazon.com for one cent as part of your contract renewal. Be sure to check with your phone company.

Try dropping cable and use Netflix or Hulu to get your television fix. You probably won’t have much time to watch TV anyway, so you’re not missing out. However, you will need a GOOD internet provider. Don’t take the risk that your internet will go out or run slowly when you are doing something important or time sensitive like a take-home exam or online quiz.

When looking for a place to live in Columbus, there are many options to choose from. Websites, like realtor.com, apartments.com and trulia.com have a diverse range of listings for both apartments and houses available for rent. Check your class’s Facebook page to see which classmates are looking for roommates to fill a room in an existing apartment or home. You will have a lot of personal preferences and considerations to think about when looking for a place to live, but remember that student loan awards do not budget for you to live in a $1000/month apartment. Also, you will likely need to sign a 12-month lease, so you’ll have to stretch your student loan money through summer or get a high-paying job during that time.

Remember, if you have student insurance from the school, take advantage of those discounts!

Last piece of advice, we know that the majority of vet students rely on loan money to live. Please keep in mind that, technically, that money is not yours. You will eventually have to pay it back with interest! Be strategic in your spending and don’t spend money frivolously when you’re not making money. Always consider what you really need and if it’s worth the price.

Also, keep in mind that we do not receive financial aid for our first two summers (May to August). You don’t want to find that you don’t have the money to make rent for the summer because you’ve spent it during the school year, especially if you don’t have a summer job or don’t make a high monthly salary.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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. Here are some accurate answers to common questions:

Exam/Quiz Questions:

1. What is the format of tests?
   - Most are multiple choice
   - Equine Anatomy (2nd semester) will be the only class that will NOT have multiple choice 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.
   - Some ideas:
     - Flash-cards
     - Re-type important parts of the notes
     - Re-watch the lecture podcasts
     - Get with a group to hear how other people learn
     - Writing/drawing things out on whiteboards
   - Find the method that works best for you, and stick with it
   - If what you are doing is not working, ask for help and try something else!

3. How many hours of studying should I devote to each class in an average week?
   - That varies with each individual
   - Some students are gifted and can listen thoroughly to the lecture, review the materials once or twice, and be set on the information
   - Most have to review their notes numerous times in order to finally understand them.
   - You may spend an hour studying for each lecture period, or you could need more
   - Find what works for you and don’t compare yourself to those who seem to work less, yet get better results
   - In the end, all that matters is that you learn the material and obtain your DVM.

4. Are our final exams cumulative for the entire semester?
   - This depends upon the professor
   - Most finals contain a cumulative portion worth “20% of the exam
   - Your education here is cumulative – learn what you can and you will carry it with you for the rest of your life

5. Are tests curved? What about grades?
   - Tests are not curved. However, if a question is unclear, the question may be thrown out, which results in a “pseudo curve” for that portion of the exam. Do not count on this to happen all the time as it varies based on the professor.

6. How many quizzes and exams will there be during the semester?
   - Each class has different criteria as far as the number of tests and quizzes
   - Some use quizzes as a way to keep you current with your studying or to buffer your grade

7. Are there time limits on tests or can you stay for as long as you need?
   - Exams are allotted a specific amount of time (usually 2 or 3 hours)
   - If you have been approved by the Office of Disability Services for extended time to take exams, 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 to ensure that the appropriate arrangements are made.

8. Do we get our exams back?
   - Not exactly.
   - With ExamSoft tests, a few days to a week after you have taken an exam you will receive an email about a “review password”. You can log on to ExamSoft, and using the password, you may review the questions you missed on the exam. Once you close your review you cannot go back and open it again. You will only have a certain time frame (usually about a week after the email is sent out) in which to go on ExamSoft and review your answers.
   - Your scores, as well as a secured key, and any adjustments will be posted on Carmen. Remember that make-up exams are administered on occasion. Discussion of the exam questions and/or answer key before every student in the class has completed the exam is a violation of the honor code.
9. Do professors hold review sessions prior to exams outside of class time?
• Most professors offer review sessions outside of class time
• If there are no reviews scheduled, talk to your class president about setting up a review with the professor
• 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 objectives or sample questions
• These can be an excellent tool to help you focus your studying

11. Is it possible to take exams early/late in case of an emergency or a prior obligation? Is it possible to reschedule an exam (or in-class assignment) for personal reasons (i.e. a wedding, funeral, etc.)?
• This is entirely up to the discretion of Student Affairs and the team leader (head professor) of the course
  ♦ Laboratory/practical exams are nearly impossible to reschedule (hours to set up)
  • In the event of a medical emergency at the time of the assignment, fill out the pre-clinical absence form at the following address

12. Are grades based solely on tests?
• This depends upon the course.
• Some courses only have tests; others also have quizzes and can include homework assignments as well.

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.
• If you fail an exam, the best thing you can do is ask for help.

14. How long before a test should I start really buckling down and studying?
• Start studying as early as you possibly can.
• A quick review at night of class materials covered that day is a great way to stay on top of the material.

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?
• Talk to Dr. Brandt if you think you may benefit from special testing accommodations.
• The sniffing, tapping, chewing, breathing, coughing, etc. that occurs during an exam – especially when you are already stressed out to the max – can be really distracting. Unfortunately, it’s a normal part of life and will be part of the world you will work in, so learning to live with it and function with it is a good life skill to develop.
• You can try wearing earplugs or noise-canceling headphones to help drown out some of the unnecessary noise.

16. If we don’t get our exams back, how do I know what grades I got on my exam?
• Your grades will be posted on Carmen

17. Do we take any online tests or quizzes?
• Some courses require online quizzes
• To access the quizzes, go to your course’s homepage on Carmen and click on the heading labeled “Quizzes”

Class Questions:

18. What happens if I fail a class in the first semester? Do I have to start the year over?
• Unfortunately, yes. If you fail a course, you will be dismissed from the program
• Students who have been dismissed due to a failing grade may request readmission through official petition to the Executive Committee of Academic Standards Council
• 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

19. What is the lowest passing grade?
• The lowest passing grade before Clinical Rotations is a D
• If you were dismissed because you failed a class, you must retake any classes in which you received a C- or lower
• In Clinical Rotations, grades below C- are considered failing

20. Are there core schedules of classes that should be followed for certain specialties (i.e. equine, exotics, etc.)?
• No. All students take the same core classes

21. Am I allowed to bring my pet to school?
• Animals are not allowed into the Veterinary Medicine Academic Building
• Pets are welcome into the teaching hospital for official appointments and programs
• You may, however, walk your pet on a leash around campus
22. Where can I look to find my complete course schedule?
- You can access your complete core course schedule online using the CVM Community website (cvmcommunity.osu.edu)
- After logging in, select the “Academic Schedule” tab at the top of the page
- Then select your Core Course Group (VMEI, VMEII, or VMEIII)

23. What should I do if I am struggling with a class?
- Speak with your professor right away and tell them you need help

24. Is class attendance mandatory?
- Attendance at lectures is not required but teaching teams have the option to assign points based on attendance which will be specified in the course’s syllabus
- Attendance at examinations, quizzes, laboratories and in-class graded learning experiences is required.
- Permission to make up missed work will be granted only for excused absences.

25. Will the lecture materials be posted in advance?
- Most often they are

26. Is there a limit on the number of credit hours that I can take in one semester?
- For the first semester of your first year you cannot take electives, this allows students to adjust to school and course loads
- After your first semester, there is no technical upper-limit on how many electives you can take. Just make sure you don’t overextend yourself – Remember, it’s a marathon, not a sprint
- Each student is required to take at least 20 credits of electives before entering clinics

27. Are there any clothes that would be considered inappropriate for class (i.e. hats, pajamas, flip-flops, etc.)?
- Students are expected to maintain a clean and professional appearance at all times.
- Use your better judgment when selecting clothing
- Don’t wear shirts with inappropriate pictures or language on them or clothes that are inappropriately cut too low or too high
- 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 that information in their orientation materials

28. How important is your rank within your class?
- It’s as important (or unimportant) as you make it
- Residencies (and many internships) are mostly selected by class rank
- Externships (and jobs in general practice) are not offered based on class rank

29. How often are the lights in the lecture hall turned off?
- The lights may be dimmed during lectures which require especially good visualization of the projector screen
  - For example, when radiographs or histological sections are displayed

30. 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. Copying notes is not an honor code violation.
- However, if you are ever unsure as to what would be an honor code violation, ask your professor.
- Lecture capture can be utilized as well for sick students in order to review missed classes as well.

31. Can I bring guests to class?
- First obtain permission from Student Affairs
- If approved, you will be provided with guidelines and rules for your guest’s attendance that must be followed

32. What happens if I am sick and I have to miss a lab or test?
- Unexcused absence from in-class graded assignments (e.g., exams, quizzes, and labs) results in a failing grade for that assignment
- Official excuses are available for a very limited amount of reasons, and need to be discussed in advance with the professor
- In the event of an emergency that results in an unexcused absence, you can fill out the student absence form at: legacy.vet ohio-state.edu/education/absence

33. Can we study Histology slides outside of class?
- Yes. You will have access to the online slides and card access to the Alumni Laboratory

34. 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 semester is the grade you will receive.
35. Are we going to be able to learn anything about business management, or are our classes going to be purely medical?
• You will have several business-related core classes.
• Electives that deal with the aspect of business management and owning your own practice are also offered.
• There is also a student club called Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA).
• There is a Graduate Minor in Business in Health Sciences available through the Fisher College of Business. The program is facilitated by Dr. Harche, and the degree is completed by taking courses during your first summer of veterinary school.

36. Do we sit in the same lecture hall (and in the same seat) all day, or do we get to move to different classrooms?
• You will be in Dunlap Auditorium for all your lectures.
• Labs will take place in various locations.
• Lab groups may be assigned by the professor.
• Seats in Dunlap are NOT assigned, sit where you are comfortable.

37. I have low blood sugar. Are we allowed to snack/drink during class?
• Yes, food and drinks are allowed.
• All drinks should be in an approved container (have a secure lid or cap on them), and spills should be cleaned up IMMEDIATELY.
• During lectures, 10 minute breaks are given at the end of every hour.

Financial Questions
38. Should I get a job?
• It is possible to have a job and be in vet school at the same time.
• You may want to wait until you know how much time and energy your course load will require. Don’t forget to give yourself some “down” time!
• Many veterinary clinics will hire students for weekend or evening work.

39. 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?
• After your externship is finished, you can apply for reimbursement of your costs through groups such as IPC and SCAVMA.

40. 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 and organizations and companies, such as the Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association, Zoetis, the Salisbury Foundation, etc.

Miscellaneous
41. 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?
• All major forms of payment are accepted during orientation.

42. Can I stay on my parents’ insurance and be considered for residency?
• Answers to your residency questions can be found at: registrar.osu.edu/residency.

43. 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.
• The library has a copy of most of the books that will be referenced in class.
• When considering purchasing a book, remember that many of these books will serve you even after the course is done.

44. When do clinical rotations start?
• Clinics begin in the summer after your third year in May and continue through your fourth year.

45. How much free time can a vet student expect to have?
• This will be different for each and every student.
• Some students are heavily involved in clubs, or work on weekends/evenings.
• Many students find time for a regular exercise routine.
• Make it a priority to find time to take care of yourself and your health (mentally & physically).

46. Do we have all four summers off?
• No, you only have your first two summers off.

47. What percentage of each class passes their boards?
• In 2013, 96% of veterinary students from Ohio State passed the NAVLE.

48. How much club participation can a student reasonably expect to have time for?
• 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 or two clubs
• You don’t have to attend every single meeting for every club in which you’re involved in

49. Can we show the classrooms and labs to our friends and family on weekends or in the evenings when classes are not going on?
• You are welcome to show your friends and family around the first floor of VMAB.
• If you are interested in showing the anatomy lab to your friends and family, you must first get permission and instructions from Chris Frasure
• If you are going to show people around the hospital, each guest must have a valid visitor’s pass

50. What are externships?
• The main goal of externships is for the student to learn, see, and do as much as they possibly can.
• Some students even get paid for their externships
• Many people go out of state so they can gain the most from their externships (e.g., some are in Texas for equine experience, others in Minnesota for dairy experience, and some visit other countries for a service/mission trip

51. What is the worst thing that a student could do in their first year?
• Not ask for help. When the first signs of struggle appear, many students shrug it off and wait until the load builds up and it becomes 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.
• Utilize your resources and trust that you are NOT alone!

52. What opportunities are available to learn about zoo/wildlife/avian/exotic animal medicine?
• There is a core class that you’ll take in your second year, which covers the basics about birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians
• Zoo Club concentrates on exotics and zoo animals
• There are electives available to take that focus on your species interests

53. What do first year vet students usually do during the summer?
• Many do externships, or work in a veterinary clinic
• Some students participate in a “Summer Research Program” through a faculty member at the college
• Vet students are NOT required to work in an animal-related field during the summers between classes
• There are even students who don’t work and use their time off to relax or volunteer

54. How hard is vet school, REALLY?
• This really depends on the person. Overall, most students say that vet school is the hardest education they have ever received, 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.
• You will need to gauge the difficulty of vet school for yourself. One thing is certain, as soon as you feel that you are struggling with ANYTHING, GO ASK FOR HELP!

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

56. 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 field is really like and to expose you to situations you may face within your career.
• Attendance, punctuality, a positive attitude, and an eagerness to learn are key requirements for clinics.
• In clinics, you will work in group settings and will not be expected to make independent decisions until you are ready. The clinicians are there to help and guide you, and they want you 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
57. What do I do if I change my name? What do I do if my address changes?
   • Report these changes to the Office of Veterinary Student Affairs (in the Dean’s Suite)

58. 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 enter general practice or complete an internship. After completing an internship, students may choose to complete a residency.
   • Residencies are highly competitive positions. It takes hard work, dedication, and good grades to obtain a residency directly after receiving a DVM, so if you are thinking of applying for residency, make sure you stay on top of your grades from the very beginning of your vet school career.

59. Do I have to do an externship?
   • There is no requirement to do an externship, but it is highly encouraged.
   • Externships are extremely valuable for gaining experience, learning to network, and continuing your education.

60. Are there opportunities to work with live animals while in my first year?
   • Intro to Behavior Core Class - Handling labs
   • Food Animal Club - Emergency team
   • Theriogenology Club - Dystocia team
   • Equine Club- Equine ICU shadowing
   • Volunteering or job shadowing in the teaching hospital
   • Working at a veterinary clinic in Columbus

61. 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?
   • Bicycling (several students who live a couple miles of campus bike daily)
   • Taking the bus - buses are free to OSU students.
   • For more info on buses, check out:
     ♦ The Campus Area Bus Service (CABS) https://ttm.osu.edu/cabs
     ♦ The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) www.cota.com

62. What is Carmen?
   • Carmen is an online extension of your classes

63. 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.
   • You can reserve a study room for 2 hours at a time at the main desk in the Dean’s Suite.
   • 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.
   • You are expected to clear out of a room when the person, who reserved it, arrives.

64. Where can I get lunch?
   • Lunch lectures are held by various clubs (nearly every day during first semester).
   • Subway (located in the basement of the VMC).
   • Daily Grind (a coffee shop located in the VMAB)
     ♦ Make sure to ask about their coffee/espresso loyalty card!
   • There is also a place in on the first floor of the Agriculture building (which is near the vet college) that sells really cheap hot meals. They also have daily specials.

65. 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 Ohio State should submit documentation to Student Health Services by completing the “Immunization & Lab Studies” form.
     • This form includes the signature of the physician, the type of vaccine given, and the route of administration.
     • You can also submit a copy of your vaccine record (must include all three doses).

66. 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.

67. 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 insurances.

**68. 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 Ohio State 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 the time they are enrolled in the veterinary program. You will receive this form during the first week of the Autumn Semester, 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 a student, you will be responsible for any expenses not by your insurance, including injuries during clinical rotations

**69. Do I have to buy a parking pass?**
- If you drive to campus, you need a “C” parking pass

**70. 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?**
- My husband and I are married and have children together, so my husband is either working extra hours (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.
- Think about what you normally do with your partner after a typical 9 to 5 work day. Now, realize that with homework, extra time spent in anatomy lab, and/or clinic hours, you no longer live a ‘9 to 5’ life. My partner and I both worked long hours professionally before I started vet school, so we didn’t experience any real change except that we went from maintaining one household collectively to now living apart and maintaining two households.
- Everyone adjusts and adapts differently. For instance, some of my classmates live with their significant others, and these significant others agree to take on the primary role in household upkeep. Most can cope with spending less time with their vet-school partner because they understand what it means to be a full-time student. However, some partners have a harder time with the adjustment because it can be difficult for someone to go from being the center of your attention before school to getting put on the back burner while you’re in school. This will all depend on you, your partner and your relationship. You will know early on if this lifestyle is going to work for you and your partner.
  - At our college we have a social club, where spouses and significant others can get to know one another. This is good if you are both new to the area, and your partner doesn’t have established friends and isn’t working. A group of people in similar situations can help with the isolation (and yes... sometimes frustration or resentment) that partners sometimes feel.
  - In terms of marriage, I think there is a huge variation among schools. Here at Ohio State Veterinary Medicine, more and more of my classmates are getting engaged or married. There were around three people who were married before vet school even began, and now there are a total of seven classmates who are married and twenty-five classmates who are engaged. And each year these numbers change.
  - I do warn students who are applying to vet school that it can be stressful on relationships. This is especially true when the other person is not in a medical field, because as much as someone tries (or say they try) to understand and commiserate, that person really doesn’t get what it’s like to have to study all the time.
  - The couples I’ve observed that work the best are those who date other vet students or other people in a medical-related or professional field. However, keep in mind that, 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.
  - 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 not in school when my husband was accepted to medical school, and we weren’t sure what to expect. His school actually had an orientation specifically for spouses, where they stressed over and over that we shouldn’t expect to see too much of our significant others for the next several years while they attended medical school.
  - In our veterinary school, many couples find it helpful to talk with Dr. Brandt at the beginning of the first year. She can meet with both of you to talk about what each person should expect from vet school and what it is really like for both people in the relationship. If after the meeting you feel discouraged, don’t be dissuaded! In the end this is your life, and you will make it work if it is something you BOTH really want. Just remember to stay focused on school and make your career a priority. You never know where your relationship will be in four years, but you do know that at the end of your four years in vet school, you will graduate and finally obtain your DVM degree.
• As long as your partner has his own interests, vet school should not be burdensome on a relationship. Your relationship will only run into trouble if he or she is one of those people who refuses to do anything fun unless you go too or if you are someone who gets jealous if your partner is out having fun without you. If you trust one another, can still have fun when the other person is not around but make the moments you do have together count, then all should be good! So goes my theory at least!

• Before we were ever married, my husband knew my feelings on equality and fairness when it came to sharing the workload in our home. There were days, and even months, that I took over the majority of chores because of his career. And there were days (and are days still) when he does most of mine. If he came home and saw I was studying for exams or clearly tired, he would make dinner for us or tend to the laundry. He and I have a very balanced relationship.

• I think what you and your partner should do is discuss what each of you wants from your relationship as you move forward. For example, ‘what did each of you agree to when coming into this relationship, and does that change now that one of you is in school?’ What a successful relationship really comes down to is the ability of two partners to communicate openly and respectfully with one another before and after issues arise.

• I think we have so many married couples in our college because we have a really diverse class that includes a lot of non-traditional students. We also have a number of people who were married before coming to vet school. In addition, all of the classmates are very supportive of one another. When things happen unexpectedly (e.g., pregnancies, illnesses, accidents, etc.) the entire class will come together and offer to cook, give transportation, lend money (or a study guide) to that person in need.

Acronym Index

AABP - American Association of Bovine Practitioners
AAEP - American Association of Equine Practitioners
AAFP - American Association of Feline Practitioners
AHA - American Animal Hospital Association
AAZV - American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
ACVP - American College of Veterinary Pathology
ASLAP - American Society of Lab Animal Practitioners
AHVMA - American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
AVMA - American Veterinary Medical Association
AVSAB - American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior
CAVM - Columbus Academy of Veterinary Medicine
CVF - Christian Veterinary Fellowship
FAC - Food Animal Club
HABC - Human Animal Bond Club
IPC - Inter-Professional Council
IVAPM - International Veterinary Association of Pain Management
LGBTQA - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, and Allied
OTS - Omega Tau Sigma
OVessa - Ohio Veterinary Educational Supply Service
OVMA - Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
SAVMA - Student American Veterinary Medical Association
SCAVMA - Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association
SCAAEP - Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners
SCACVP - Student Chapter of the American College of Veterinary Pathology
SLAC - Student Leadership Advisory Council
SVECCS - Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society
VBMA - Veterinary Business Management Association
VMAB - Veterinary Medicine Academic Building
VMCA - Veterinary Medical Center Auditorium
VK9 - Veterinary Canine Association
VOICE - Veterinary Students as One In Culture and Ethnicity
VPHC - Veterinary Public Health Club
On behalf of the creators, authors and everyone who has helped put this guide together, we welcome you to

The Ohio State University
College of Veterinary Medicine!