The First Year Student Resource Guide-Class of 2019

“In my first year I found myself in dire need of some information. After struggling to identify and locate the resources I needed, I realized it would have been helpful if I’d had some sort of road map to life as a vet student—and the OSU campus as a whole. After discovering that many other “firsties” felt the same way, I formed a committee with several classmates and faculty. Together, we created the 1st Year Student Resource Guide. With your help in keeping the guide up to date, this tradition can continue for many years to come.”

Dr. Kate Hissam, Class of 2007.

Information for the Class of 2019 1st Year Student Resource Guide is provided as a courtesy and is based on information available at the time of publication. To report missing or inaccurate data, or provide suggestions, please email April Pugh, pugh.102@osu.edu.

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I. 1st Year 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 1st 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 2019 will be held on August 20-21, 2014. 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! Orientation is going to be a blast and it’s the start of your future path of becoming a veterinarian!

II. Important Stuff

Class dues:
- Our class dues are about $75. It’s important to budget for this because they are due around September/August.
- Each 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 toward purchasing a class gift for The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. This gift honors the relationship between your class and the college.
- For your convenience, an account has already been established by your “Big Sib” class, and those second-year students will collect and deposit your dues.

Buck-ID/CVM ID*:
- Your CVM ID is your “key” into the vet school. The magnetic strip on the CVM ID* is coded to allow you access to OSU-CVM buildings and computer labs during off hours.
- 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 to take over to the Ohio Union.
● While in the veterinary hospital, you are required to wear your CVM ID Badge at all times.

**OSU name.number:**
● OSU faculty, staff, and students are assigned a name.number (e.g. smith.456), this must be activated prior accessing many resources on campus
  ○ To set up your OSU name.number see https://my.osu.edu/activation/index

**OSU Email:**
● OSU does offer email accounts for ALL OSU students and we strongly recommend setting up your account with OIT (The Office of Technology)
  ○ To setup/configure your OSU email see https://my.osu.edu/activation/index

**Fees and Payments/Direct Deposit:**
● (614) 292-3337 or toll-free 1-800-635-8944. We highly recommend you set up direct deposit with the treasurer’s office. This will allow a more timely disbursement of student financial aid, and eliminate the hassle of receiving funds. The paperwork can be obtained through the registrar’s office, or completed online through the Fees and Deposits section of the Treasurer’s webpage at http://u.osu.edu/treasurer/treasury/depositbanking/

**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 CVM 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.
● Most insurance companies will not cover the series, so if yours does, take advantage of it! All students will be scheduled in groups to go get the vaccine, so if you do not have it prior to starting school it’s okay.
● ANY STUDENT NOT SHOWING UP FOR HIS/HER SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT IS SUBJECT TO A FINE IMPOSED BY THE WILCE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER.
● The immunization is in a series of 3 and this year the cost was ~$275.00 (yep, that’s close to $900.00 for the entire series) if obtained through the Wilce Student Health Center.
● If you contact your local health department and they quote you a cost of less than $825.00 for the series, then consider having the series done there.
● If you have already had the vaccination series, you will only need a titer test and possible booster. The cost for the rabies titer through the Wilce Student Health Center is $60.00.
  ○ Any student who has gotten the rabies series prior to entering vet school must FAX documentation of this to Susie Baker, PM Coordinator, at 614-292-6001.
● 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 good sleep the night before and eat a good breakfast/lunch before your vaccination appointment(s).
The College of Veterinary Medicine requires full vaccination by the end of your first year, and then they have titer tests run before you enter clinics - the time you truly need the benefits of the vaccinations.

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

- The review period that the residency office looks at is the 12 months prior to the 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: http://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 2 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 insure you have all the information you need and that there are no misunderstandings between what is accepted and what you may think is accepted. The residency process is detailed and requires patience, so please don’t wait until the last minute to apply. If you are
interested in possibly attaining residency or are just curious about the process, more information can be found at: http://registrar.osu.edu/residency/index.asp

III. ACADEMICS

- Your world will begin to shift from “Did I get an A?” to “Do I understand and am I able to apply the material?”
- Vet school is not difficult because the material is too hard, but mainly because 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. Tell yourself right now that a grade of C still equals a DVM. Continue to remind yourself of this fact as the semesters progress and that should help alleviate some of the self-imposed pressure. Enjoy learning and do your best. Instructors are always willing to help with confusing topics so use them as often as you need!
- 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 destress 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 in stock for us to use. You can get away without purchasing any books.
  - OVESS (the “bookstore” of the vet college) will supply you with an alternate book list with input from student surveys which may be a little more helpful.
  - You may also get by with using the reserved material in the library or borrowing upperclassmen’s books. Some professors provide a more personalized list when contacted, complete with advice to hold off on purchasing particular books due to upcoming new editions.

- Every book required for your class is on reserve in our vet school library so this is another great way to utilize some of the books without buying them.
- Consider borrowing from upperclassmen and looking into older editions when you can to help cut costs.
- It is always an investment to buy a particular book that focuses on an area you are considering specializing in, or one that you would like to keep in your professional collection.

Class Notes:

- Packets are provided prior to the first day of class that is a compilation of notes you will need for the entire semester. It includes all your classes (minus electives) and can only be purchased as one packet (not broken down to smaller parts).
- **ALWAYS** purchase class notes! Even if you also have the book because they have the majority of the material you will be taught for the semester.
- The cost of notes vary each semester but you should budget for about $150/semester. That way if it is less than that amount you can smile. Currently you have to bring a check with you as payment for the packets so **don’t forget your checkbooks that day!**
Finding Course Information:
- Most information (e.g. course changes, lecture notes, etc.) will be made available either on the CVMCommunity website at https://cvmcommunity.osu.edu/, or on Carmen at https://carmen.osu.edu.
- Note: The master schedule for each semester and for each individual course is usually not posted to MyCVM until a week or two before the start of the semester.

Autumn Semester Classes

**CLIN PATH (4 credits)**
- -There are weekly quizzes and labs to practice reading CBC’s
- -The material is really interesting because it directly applies clinically
- -If study guides are provided be sure to answer all questions, as they are similar to the exam questions
- -It is really helpful to answer the learning objectives provided in the notes to keep up with the material
- -It is challenging material, but the professors aren’t out to get you on the exams
- -It is important to keep up with the material, because there is so much of it in this course.

**CANINE ANATOMY (4 credits)**
- -Important to put in the time, both in lab and outside of class!
- -Keep up/review the notes
- -Clinical Correlates in the notes are usually IMPORTANT
- -There are weekly clicker quizzes – this helps to keep you on top of all the material and prepare for the exams
- -Clicker quizzes won’t sink you but it is worth your time not to do poorly
- -Exam: practical & written portion = TREATED AS ONE EXAM – no discussion, looking at notes in between: class will be split in half (half written/half practical) switch when finished

-For the lab, note which structures you’re supposed to know and get used to finding them without having to touch and poke the cadaver. Specifically, because you will have to ID some of them for your practical exam and it is by looking only.
- Get used to looking at other specimens and not just your own – be able to find structures on other dogs
- Our class organized “mock” practicals which were helpful in preparing for the lab portion of the exam
- Helpful books: guide to dissection of the dog, Saunders vet anatomy coloring book and flash cards
- Dyce is less required (it will come up again in Large animal 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 and if any disagreements come up.
- Anatomy information is extremely detail orientated for the exams.
- Make sure you review dissected images for clicker quizzes as they may be seen again
- The **bone sections are self-study: you must know** the bones for that section from front to back prior to coming into class. It may be helpful for you to review them before the semester starts as they will be on exams and it will help you in radiology when you are given an image!
- **Final Exam**- Mostly new material but there is a small percentage of cumulative material, mostly clinically relevant information

**HISTOLOGY (3 credits)**
- A different professor will often teach each section and have a complimentary lab section
- Colored notes, either printed or using your laptop or tablet, are extremely helpful since you will label many images in class
- 2 parts to the exam: practical & written
  - **Practical exam**- images shown in powerpoint format at the beginning of exam (~1 min/image) they show a slide and ask you a question or ask you to identify – 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 3 questions per hour of lecture. Information tested is usually the most important, most emphasized material
- Labs are a just a learning practice experience and last year the points were mainly participation

**CELL BIOLOGY (2 credits)**
- Dewille is great! Extremely helpful and really wants to understand and learn the material
- His tests tend to be very wordy – bring a highlighter with you to the exams and highlight the important parts of the question to actually find what you are looking for to answer the question.
- 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.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (1 credit)**
- You can learn about different types of vet jobs (government, military, zoo, wildlife, academia, etc)
- You will get out of it what you put in
- 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-Pretty straight forward

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR (2 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
- 2 exams-information is straightforward and from the notes
RADIOLOGY (1 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.
- 2 exams – pretty detailed questions- Both were online this past year.
- Don’t underestimate the tests even though the class is 1 credit!

EPIDEMIOLOGY (3 credits)
- A TON of group work – randomly assigned, helpful in working on your communication skills and learning how you work independently and with others!
- Have the chance to change groups between assignments if you want.
- Do not get frustrated if she has a hard time answering questions in class- if you post it on Carmen, email her, or go to office hours. She is much clearer at 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 wants is to 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 if you ask
- Do well on group projects because they end up counting for a good portion of your grade. 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 1 extra credit point after each section 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 be a difference in some people’s 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 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 instead of asking how you can get your grade up, ask what you can do to learn more.

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 p organisms, introducing specific bacterium and their type as well as reproductive and infective mechanisms.
- Parasitology covers specific parasitic organisms and their characteristics, life cycles, hosts and diseases.
- Each section definitely feels overwhelming. Take it slow and spend a day of the weekend trying to get terminology down. This is usually the hardest part, but once you understand their 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 therapy 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.
- Grade will be determined through a combination of exams, quizzes and labs.
- There are a total of 2 exams and 2 quizzes in this class. Be sure to study in between exams! Each exam usually is the equivalent of 20+ lectures that will be covered, which can be a little overwhelming if done the nights before the exams. 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 is optional homework/problem sets provided in this course, doing them is a great assessment of your progress. Get help if you are unable to do the homework problems. 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”!
- 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 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 this goals will be determined through class discussion, submitted reflections and presentations.
- Overall, 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 you are familiar with, wish to explore new options, or perhaps take a class that can supplement a core course you weren’t fully comfortable with, this is your opportunity to take something of your own choice.
- In order to graduate, you are required to have completed 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 get everything in your “wish list” prior to your enrollment time. This will make your life immensely easier when you end up signing up for classes as you just need to confirm your choices to
III. CLASS ETIQUETTE

Cell Phones: Be sure to put your phone on silent in class. The vibrate setting can be quite irritating during exams or class, so avoiding that is best. Text messaging during class is not advised as the instructors tend to notice that you aren’t paying attention to them.

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. Don’t behave in a way that draws negative attention to yourself.

IV. 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 therefore 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 a 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 of 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 [http://vet.osu.edu/education/veterinary-code-conduct](http://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 main ways that this affects day to day class is that you are trusted as a class to take exams without a proctor in the room. Sometimes they will stop in periodically so that you can ask questions, but you will be trusted not to cheat. This applies to online exams as well. It is in your best interest to rise to 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 (http://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.

V. 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 for specific tips if you want to.

**Clothing for Anatomy Lab:** You will actually begin dissecting your cadaver on your VERY FIRST DAY of classes. You are required to wear a lab coat and/or scrubs 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. You will want to change back into your street clothes following your lab. Designate a pair of rubber boots or washable shoes solely (no pun intended) for us in anatomy lab. Trust us. You and your friends will appreciate you changing back into your regular shoes before returning to class!

**Sweatshirt/Blanket:** Temperatures in the auditorium fluctuate, so it’s good to have layers. 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 a 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 blades. The OVESS supply sells a pretty cheap one that has the basics you will need. If you want to create your own kit, include:
- scalpel handle
- blades (22 and 10 especially)
- blunt probe and scissors (large blunt-tipped and small fine-tipped can be useful)
- one or two hemostats.

Binders: You will have to purchase notes for the classes at the beginning of the semester, and binders can be a good way to organize them. Some students choose to have each course’s notes bound individually with spiral edging. Places like office max and staples can do this. If you would like to limit the load you carry to class, you can bring just the current sections of the notes in a binder. Students sometimes wait and get their notes bound at the end of the semester to organize as reference for later. It’s probably better to wait until you have the notes packet to go get binders. That way you know the correct sizes to buy. Also, many stores like Staples have binders with warranties that they will replace if ever broken or worn as long as you keep the receipt. I highly recommend making the investment as I had many destroyed binders by the end of the semester.

Dry Erase Markers: In theory, the study rooms will each have at least one. More often than not, though, you will find yourself running up and down the hall looking for any marker that has a little ink left. Do yourself a favor and carry some with you; you’ll use them more than you think.

Scientific Calculator: You will definitely need this for epidemiology and it is a must for Pharmacology. It’s great if you can pick up just a standard calculator that has logs, exponents, and the general calculator functions. Many classes will let you use a graphing calculator if you already have one.

Laptop Computers/Tablets: If you prefer to bring your laptop/tablet to class, you do have a hook-up at your seat for power. The school also supplies WiFi in most major areas of VMAB. Try not to use your computer during class for personal business e.g. surfing the web, catching up on emails etc. It’s disrespectful and distracting.

VII. GPA and OTHER STUFF

Wait-listing: Some electives have limited enrollment. If you register for an elective that is full, the system will automatically place you on a wait-list. In the event that a position becomes available for you, the registrar’s office will contact you by e-mail to inform you that you have been registered for that course.
Independent Study: Some professors offer an independent study course as an elective in a specific discipline. If you find you are highly intrigued with a particular class and want to learn more in that field, speak to the team leader of that class – they may have suggestions for you.

Calculating your GPA: We’ve provided an example for you:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>CREDIT POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credit Points Earned = Credit Hours x Credit Points

Example:
Cell Bio: 5 credit hours x B+ (3.3) = 16.5 credit points
Anatomy: 5 credit hours x C+ (2.3) = 11.5 credit points

Divide the total number of credit points earned by the total number of credit hours, and you get your GPA. For the example above: 28/10 = 2.8

Academic Probation: At the end of autumn semester of first year, a GPA below 2.00 will result in you being placed on academic probation. At the end of spring semester first year, and throughout the remaining three years, the probation limit is 2.25. In the event you are placed on academic probation, you must obtain explicit, written authorization from the Associate Dean of Student Affairs in order to take electives.

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

VIII. AUTUMN SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

IPC Halloween Party: The best known of IPC’s social events is the annual Halloween party. With an attendance of approximately 1500 students, the party is always a huge success! It's a party for all the profession schools.

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 labs that you can participate in, if you are a member of the club. Many clubs will tell you about conferences and other opportunities. 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 vet2018 listserve. It can be frustrating to get so many emails that don’t seem to apply to you, but you don’t want to miss that one incredible opportunity that is just fitting for you either.

Colerain Day: Classes are suspended for the morning as the first and second year students—and their pets—visit a school for disabled and challenged children. This is an amazing experience, and EVERYONE IS 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. Watch as all the children come through in awe and excitement over their favorite day of the year—“Vet Day”! Class of 2017 student government reps will talk to you more about it.
IX. SPRING SEMESTER ACTIVITIES

**Midwest Veterinary Conference/OVMA:** The MVC is an annual symposium filled with classes for every interest and trade representatives for virtually every product and company. That Friday’s classes 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!

**Open House:** In spring semester, the College of Veterinary Medicine extends an invitation to the community and all those interested in pursuing a career in veterinary medicine to come to the school for tours and informational sessions. Undergraduate students and high school students from all over attend with their families to learn about our profession and what our school has to offer. Families from the community also come to check out the school. First year students are generally expected to help out with tours and anything else that is needed. The students are rewarded for this work by free food, a t-shirt, and a couple extra credit points. This event is a big merchandise sale opportunity for the different organizations and classes at the school, and to be allowed to sell each group needs a certain number of volunteers. Selling merchandise is the major fundraising option for most of the vet school organizations.

X. GETTING INVOLVED

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

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

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

Student Government: Each class has the following student positions available: Generally these positions are held for all 4 years. (If you find that you don’t get elected to one of these positions, there are also many more elected offices for each club. The club elections will happen in the spring semester)

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

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

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

- Omega Tau Sigma (OTS)
- Alpha Psi

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

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

Veterinary Information Network (VIN): VIN is an excellent resource available free to students through a grant provided by Royal Canin. VIN is a huge network of veterinary information, resources, education and personal forums. We encourage you to sign up to take advantage of this free membership which normally costs hundreds of dollars annually. Once you have an OSU e-mail address and can be verified as a vet student, go to www.vin.com 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 the fall semester your first year, and several students from you class will be likely selected. If the selected students meet a minimum number of volunteering hours, they receive a scholarship towards their tuition. Applications are available around January.

XI. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We recommend not working for your first semester in vet school. Vet school is a tremendous adjustment, and you don’t want to have a demand on your life that will make the transition more difficult. We strongly recommend prioritizing your education over a job to make you money. Some students work on weekends, or evenings, in a local veterinary clinic to supplement both their education and their wallet.

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:** There are a few positions available through the college that you will be notified about via email. The anatomy lab hires 5 first years each year to help with keeping the lab clean and stocked as well as helping with specimen preparation. Other various opportunities can be offered such as working in the pathology lab, in the surgery department, or in the ICU just to name a few.

**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/March. Toward the end of the school year, you may find job opportunities popping up in your e-mail. They range from research to laboratory work to administrative to fair vetting. Take your summer to explore Ohio with the fair vets, or try research on for size. You never know what opportunity may play a key role in your future as a veterinarian.

**School jobs:** Emails may come to the class on positions open in various departments around the school hospital i.e. necropsy lab, small animal surgery, and in the equine department.

**XII. 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 collecting annual 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 year merchandise gives your class first right to the designs they had reserved. This can eliminate the hassle of creating, approving and setting the design on merchandise you would like to stock. In addition to merchandise, your class can explore other fundraising options. Let 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!!

**Christmas Sale:** Before the 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 OSU 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!

**Open House:** While prospective students and their families explore Ohio State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, we have an opportunity to provide them with OSU merchandise.

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

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**XIII. TAKING CARE OF YOU**

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

**Dr. Jennifer Brandt:** Speaking of help…Dr. Brandt is an Assistant Director of Veterinary Student Affairs and a Licensed Independent Social Worker. In addition to teaching professional development courses and coordinating disability service accommodations, Dr. Brandt provides free, confidential short-term counseling, information, and referrals for students who are experiencing academic or emotional difficulties (stress management, test anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, eating disorders, etc.). Her office is located in Room 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 she provides support for over 580+ students so an online scheduling system has been created to better serve the student population. The link to the scheduling site is https://cvmcommunity.osu.edu/student-services-meeting-request —it can also be found on CVM community on the Student Affairs page. 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:** New at the CVM is the Let’s Talk Program. It was implemented Spring 2013, and services will be provided for vet students on our campus, during the program’s designated appointment hours. It is an outreach program designed for students who may benefit from one on one support and consultation and may not need traditional counseling. It is FREE and CONFIDENTIAL! Students can meet with a member of CCS for a brief consultation. No appointment is necessary. Consultants will listen
closely to your concerns, offer support, information and referrals. For more information: visit CCS – Counseling and Consultation Service (www.ccs.osu.edu) they can also be reached at 614-292-5766.

Office of Disability Services (ODS): www.ods.ohio-state.edu (614) 292-3307. A variety of services are offered to students with documented disabilities. Some of the services provided include: exam accommodations (extended time, alternative format), disability counseling, 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 on where you can be tested for a disability, contact ODS as soon as possible. Dr. Brandt is the college’s on-site ADA Coordinator. If you’ve been approved for accommodations through ODS (and received the appropriate written documentation from them), you must meet with Dr. Brandt each semester to obtain the paperwork required by the college for scheduling your exams/arranging your accommodations. To avoid a delay or gap in accommodation services, do NOT delay in contacting ODS or Dr. Brandt to discuss your request for accommodations.

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

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

Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS): As mentioned above in the ‘Let’s Talk’ Program section: The CCS can be reached: www.ccs.osu.edu or (614)292-5766. Counseling and Consultation Services on main campus offers a full range of confidential mental health services including individual, couples, and group counseling, crisis intervention, skill enhancement workshops, psychoeducational outreach, and psychiatric consultation, psychiatric medication management. Core counseling services are free. Psychiatric services and extended psychotherapy are offered at a modest fee. Consultation is also available to those concerned about someone else. Because wait lists for services can sometimes be several weeks long, we recommend first meeting with Dr.
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 (in urgent matters you can usually be seen by a CCS counselor the same day, or the 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: Each year Dr. Brandt compiles a list of academically eligible students who are willing and able to provide tutoring services. These students can give you good advice on how to prepare, what to expect, and explain things to you in a “different” way from the professor. The service is free and the tutors want to help! So take advantage! Each year, the updated list of tutors is located on MyCVM under the student resources section. (Please note, Dr. Brandt generally recommends contacting at least two tutors for a given subject, just in case one tutor is not available or does not get back with you. If you experience any difficulties with a tutor, promptly report your concerns to Dr. Brandt.)

XIV. OTHER IMPORTANT STUDENT RESOURCES

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

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

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

- African American Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AfAm
- American Indian Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AISS
- Asian American Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/AsAm
- Hispanic Student Services
  www.osu.edu/ethnicstudents/HSS
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Student Services:  
http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu/default.asp?id=9 (614)688-8449. This office provides services and programs as they apply to gender and sexuality. The Office of GLBTSS advocates with, about, and on behalf of OSU GLBT students. The Office of Women Student Services provides women-centered events and programs throughout the year. These offices may also be able to advise on job opportunities, financial assistance, and legal advice as it pertains to GLBT and women’s issues.

Student Housing Legal Clinics (SHLC):  http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/shlc/.  SHLC provides legal advice and representation to OSU students with landlord/tenant issues. If you have any concerns about your rights as a tenant, SHLC will assist you. SHLC also provides attorneys and certified legal interns for student representation in Franklin County Courts. While the clinic does not charge for its services, students may be required to pay filing fees and court costs. Informational materials are available by either calling (614)247-5853 or visiting the above website.

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

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

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

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

Most students are very pleased with the coverage Ohio State offers in their Student Health Insurance program—currently through Klais & Company, Inc. It is highly recommended that you continue coverage through the summer to prevent lapse in care and potential for “pre-existing conditions” clauses to bite you in the rear later on. To maintain coverage through the summer 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 http://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:** http://www.ohiostaterecsports.org/facility/index.htm. A number of athletic facilities are located throughout campus. The largest, most popular, and newest update is the Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC) located on W. 17th avenue. Here you will find plenty of court space, swimming pools and state-of-the-art weight centers. A word to the wise—It is often easiest to walk across the river to the athletic center rather than find a parking spot, as there seems to be never-ending construction in that area.

Jesse Owens recreational facilities have north, south, and west buildings and provide space for basketball, volleyball and some organized workout classes. The 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: http://www.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 http://registrar.osu.edu/. Click on the Current Students tab and scroll down to On-line Forms. If you have any other questions, please contact the Registrar’s Office at 614-292-8500.

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

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

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

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

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

**Renting with Pets:** It is sometimes difficult to find housing that will accept your pets—perhaps the breed is too large or you have more than the 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. Visit www.columbusdogconnection.com for information and links.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Discounts (or, “Perks for Being a Buckeye”):** The ticket office at the Ohio Student Union, through Explore Columbus, carries a number of opportunities for entertainment on a student’s budget. Visit www.explorecolumbus.com for a full list of upcoming events as well as current prices on general discounts. The Explore Columbus discount ticket program is funded by the student activity fee to provide undergraduate, graduate and professional students at Ohio State with access to cultural and sporting events at a discounted rate. Some discounts are in limited quantities and released at specific dates and times. Most new tickets are relased at 5:00 on Thursday and there is usually a line so get there early.

You can receive up-to-date ticket and discount information by subscribing to their list serve. Simply send an e-mail to: explorecolumbus-subscribe@lists.studentaffairs.ohio-state.edu

**Broadway Series Entertainment / Ballet Met:** Throughout the season, discount tickets are offered in limited quantities to the students at OSU. These include seats to the latest Broadway shows, as well as concerts and ballets (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 Restaurant Gift Cards for $10

**Dining Out:** Looking for a quiet authentic Italian restaurant? How is the local Chinese take-out? For this section we can refer you to the Experience Columbus “Official Visitor’s Guide.” We can also give you our 2-cents worth of good food and good drinks, to help pave the way to your favorite hangout. One of Columbus’s national acclaims is its culinary diversity. Columbus is well-known as the launching pad for many successful restaurants, and we get to benefit as guinea pigs!
There are a few restaurants that are within walking distance of the vet school. There’s BRAVO! Cucina Italiana, Champps Americana (American food), Cup’O Joe, and Johnny Rockets. These restaurants are located in the Lennox Shopping Center. Lennox also offers Target, Old Navy, Famous Footwear, Barnes and Noble, Staples, Bath & Body Works, and some other stores.

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

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

Let’s talk pizza. We may not be pizza connoisseurs, but we do appreciate a good pie - like a good beer! Adriatico’s is a popular favorite. Their Sicilian crust is thick and their sauce is blended with garlic and onions and lots of it. It gives the pizza a bite that is irresistible. The toppings are high quality and worth every penny, not to mention Monday and Tuesday large pizzas for $5. (They also deliver to campus for late-night study sessions!) Hounddogs Three Degree Pizza is very close in quality to the afore-mentioned Adriatico’s, but they offer a different approach. Not only do you have a bunch of toppings to choose from, but they offer a selection of sauces and crusts - Indecisives' beware! The “Smokin’ Joes” crust seems to be popular, and the spicy sauce is yummy. Plank's Bier Garten in German Village offers a thin crust pizza that is tasty, similar to Donato’s, but cheaper. If you want to bake your own at home, there’s Mama Mimi’s Take ‘n Bake in Clintonville. There are also the old stand-bys; Papa John’s, Domino’s, Donato’s, Pizza Hut… Just keep in mind – pizza is the “free-lunch” of choice on campus, so you might end up getting too much of a good thing – or is that possible?
For dessert, one of Columbus’s “Must Try’s” is Jeni’s Ice Cream – here you will find creative concoctions such as Thai Chili, Salty Caramel and Kentucky Burbon Butter Pecan, as well as seasonal specialties like Sweet Corn Ice Cream and Sweet Basil with Honey and Pine Nuts.

**Entertainment:** If you like sports, Columbus is a great place to be! Columbus has baseball, hockey, football, indoor football, soccer, horse racing, auto racing and more. The Columbus Clippers are a minor league baseball team (the Yankees’ minor team to be exact), and the Blue Jackets bring a lot of hockey fans to the downtown area. The Columbus Crew is our major league soccer team, and who can leave out the Buckeyes!? (You will soon have a love/hate relationship with our Bucks because, while they bring a wonderful study break, they sometimes demand a study break, meaning you cannot do anything on football Saturdays but watch football and see people parade around in scarlet and gray.) There are also many horse race tracks, for free entertainment, in Columbus including Beulah Park (quarter horses and thoroughbreds) and Scioto Downs (harness racing). If you like auto racing there is a asphalt tract here in the city, Columbus Motor Speedway.

*Columbus Crew offers student discounts. Don’t forget about those.*

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

**The Short North:** A section of High Street just north of Downtown offers a wide variety of entertainment venues, from bars with live music, to shopping and dining. The “can’t miss” event: Gallery Hop. From 6pm to 10pm on the first Saturday of every month, the galleries and shops open to the street, with live entertainment, good food and plenty of beverages.

**Shopping:** Columbus seems to be the shopping Mecca of Ohio. If you are looking for new, in-style pricey stuff, then Easton, Polaris and Tuttle Malls offer the most. If you want stuff a little more practical, Tuttle still offers this, as well as City Center, Sawmill, and some places at Easton. If you want big names for less, go to Schottenstein, Filene’s Basement (Sawmill), Marshall’s or TJ Maxx, and there is a great second-hand store near University Village called Red Planet X that has really nice name-brand clothes for very low prices. Easton and Tuttle are within the I-270 loop (highway). Sawmill is a great place to find whatever you’re looking for, but it’s always a driving nightmare because there are so many people there. Polaris is about 30min. north on I-71 and has a lot of shops. If you’re looking for small unique shops, try The Short North on High Street Downtown, Clintonville’s section of High Street, or Grandview.
XVII. Tips on Saving Money (living frugally)

- Club warehouses such as Sam’s Club usually are cheaper if you plan on using a lot of something. Toilet paper, maybe? They also have some pet supplies such as 40lbs of cat litter for around 10 dollars. Or you could buy a lot of meat and freeze it. Additionally, they do offer cheaper gas then the gas stations nearby.

- Gas prices will typically be lower as you head outside of Columbus. Check a free app like Gasbuddy.

- If you want to save some gas, try and check traffic in the morning before you leave. There are apps for that too. You’ll also avoid fuming as you sit in a traffic jam for three miles that results in you being late for an exam. (Remember, faculty and staff travel the same roads you do—so if they are on time, you need to be on time as well!)

- Speaking of traffic, the roads during winter in Columbus are miserable. To the out of state students, it will always seem like the roads are never plowed on time or properly. Patches of ice do form on the highways sometimes. They add a certain zest to the commute. Rainy days are just as bad actually. The roads seem to have poor drainage. Be aware of small lakes forming on the roads during rainy days or bring floaties. Adjust your commute accordingly because it will feel like the drivers here have never encounter bad weather and start running into each other in a state of panic. Or stay home that day or show up late when rush hour clears, vet school is important, but it’s not worth crashing your car over.

It is not a bad idea to wash your car during the winter months just to get the salt buildup off the car. Nobody wants to drive a rusty car or pay for the resulting bodywork. Take care of your car especially if you commute.

- You can also try carpooling, it will save you gave and you can share a parking pass with someone to save even more. This will also help with parking issues that seems inevitable due to the increased class size.

- Also, gas stations at grocery stores such as Giant Eagle, Kroger, etc., have fuel rebates.

- Store brand products are usually pretty decent. Also, look for meat that’s on sale due to their sale by date. You can always freeze it for later.

- Cell phone companies may offer discounts on cell phone plans if you’re a student at OSU. You just have to ask. And you’re trying to get a new phone, try getting it off the internet. I got a really nice smartphone from Amazon for 1 cent as part of my contract renewal. If I had picked the phone from AT&T when I was renewing, I would have had to pay $300. Not sure how it works, don’t care. But do know that your early termination fee will be much higher if you get your phone this way. Be sure that you will be sticking with your cell phone company for the duration of the contract.
Try dropping cable and getting a set of bunny ears. The over the air HD reception in Columbus is actually pretty decent. I also don’t have time to flip through more than 5 channels anyway so I decided not to pay for that. I also use Hulu to catch up on my shows anyway. I also have Netflix that I stream through the tv. So, I’m not really missing out by not having cable. However, you’ll need a decent internet provider unless you think you can borrow from a neighbor or use the school internet if you’re close by.

I probably should have put this first, but we’ve gone too far. You’re probably wondering where you should live if you’re not from Columbus. You can use craigslist to find an apartment, sublease, or a roommate (I’ve done it and lived to tell about it). However, you’re probably not too inclined to do that. Otherwise, there are websites like hotpad.com, apartment finders, etc.

Students have used apartmentratings.com to figure out if the apartment they considering is worth it or not. The reviews on there are usually reliable. It also tells you if there are sex offenders in the area in case you’re worried about such things. Apartments have lower rent outside of Columbus near the beltline. You’ll probably pay for it in the commute depending where you live and how much traffic you encounter.

If you have student insurance from the school, do take advantage of it like dental cleaning and eye exams. They also offer acupuncture. You’ll be paying a ton of money for it so take advantage of it.

Last piece of advice: I know the majority will be living off of loan money. Technically, that money isn’t yours. You’ll have to pay it back eventually (with interest). So don’t spend money when you’re not making money. Always consider if you really need something and if it’s worth the price. Reflect on this because we do not receive financial aid for our first two summers. You don’t want to realize 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 didn’t get a job or not planning to.

XVIII. 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
- Large Animal Anatomy will be the main class in which you 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, what really matters is that you obtain your DVM and build your confidence

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?
- This also depends upon the professor. All tests are not curved; however, if bad questions are made, the question may be thrown out resulting in a “pseudo curve” for that portion of the exam. Do not count on this to happen all the time as it is variable 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, based upon the impact of a documented disability, you must meet with your professors and with Dr. Jen Brandt well in advance of the exam, in order to complete the required paperwork and be sure that the appropriate arrangements are made.
8.) Do we get our exams back?
- Generally, no.
- Recently, the school has adopted an online exam taking program that allows us to view questions we have gotten wrong in an allotted time period. This is variable based on the classes that utilize the program.
- Your exam booklets are retained by your instructor or kept in Educational Design & Systems, to be accessed only with your instructor's permission. After all students have completed the exam, a copy is made available in the Wenger Computer Lab and can be checked out from Ken Matthias with your picture ID, but cannot be removed from this lab. This copy will be available throughout the semester.
- Your scores, as well as a secured key, and any adjustments, will be posted on Carmen. A student who has a question about his/her score can obtain a copy of their bubble sheet by contacting Educational Design & Systems. Remember that make-up exams are administered on occasion. Discussion of the exam questions and/or key before every student in the class has completed the exam could potentially jeopardize your exam and/or be a violation of the honor code.

9.) Do professors hold review sessions prior to exams outside of class time?
- 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 near 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 have quizzes, and others also include homework assignments.

13.) What if I fail one exam? Am I automatically out of vet school?
- No! Everyone has their bad days and one failed test will not get you kicked out.
- 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 have a disability
- The sniffing, tapping, chewing, breathing, coughing, etc. that occur during an exam—when you are already stressed out to the max—can be really distracting. 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.
- Try wearing earplugs, or a ball cap

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, by chance, you were dismissed due to failing 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. We are not a tracking school.
- 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 walk your pet, on a leash, on campus grounds
22.) Where can I look to find my complete course schedule?
● You can access your complete core course schedule online using the MyCVM website.
● After logging in, select the Students tab at the top of the page
● On the left of the next page, select Scheduling Info and Changes
● Then select Core Course Groups (VMEI, VMEII, and VMEIII)

23.) What should I do if I am struggling with a class?
● Go talk with your professor and tell them you need help

25.) Is class attendance mandatory?
● Attendance of 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.

26.) Will the lecture materials be posted in advance?
● Most often they are

27.) 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 of vet school, you cannot take electives as to allow
● After your first semester, there is no technical upper-limit on how many electives you can take
● Each student is required to take at least 20 credits of electives before entering clinics

28.) 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 information in their orientation materials.

29.) 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
30.) **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

31.) **I missed a few classes due to illness. Is it an honor code violation to have my friend photocopy the notes she took during the lectures that I missed?**
- No. 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.

32.) **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

33.) **What happens if I am sick and I have to miss a lab or test?**
- Unexcused absence from in-class graded assignments (exams and 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 should fill out the form at the following address [http://vet.osu.edu/education/absence](http://vet.osu.edu/education/absence)

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

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

36.) **Are we going to be able to learn anything about business management, or are our classes going to be purely medical?**
- You will have several business-related core classes
- There are electives offered that deal with the aspect of business management and owning a practice
- There is a club called the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA)
- The first cohort of veterinary students will begin working towards a business degree in the summer of 2013. This will be a degree which can be obtained by taking courses the first and second summer’s of vet school
38.) Do we sit in the same lecture hall (and in the same seat) all day, or do we get to move to different classrooms?
- 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 it is most comfortable for you.

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

Financial Questions:

40.) Should I get a job?
- It is possible to have a job and be in vet school at the same time.
- We suggest waiting until you know how much time and energy your course load will require.
- Many veterinary clinics will hire students for weekend/evening work.

42.) If I don’t get paid for my externship and it is not near my home, how will I pay for the cost of the trip?
- After your externship is finished, you can apply for reimbursement of your costs through groups such as IPC and SCAVMA.

43.) What are the scholarships/grants that in-state residents are eligible for?
In addition to University-sponsored aid, each spring the College Scholarship Committee solicits applications from currently enrolled students for special scholarships sponsored by alumni, organizations and companies, such as the Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association, Zoetis, the Salisbury Foundation, etc. The College Scholarship Committee reviews all submitted applications and makes awards to the most qualified and deserving students based on criteria supplied by the scholarship’s sponsor.

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

47.) Can I stay on my parents’ insurance and be considered for residency?
- Answers to your residency questions can be found at http://registrar.osu.edu/residency/index.asp.

48.) Textbooks are expensive. Are we allowed to share or use reference textbooks instead of buying them?
- OVESS will provide you with a list of books that are suggested and required for different courses.
● The library has a copy of most of the books that will be discussed in class
● Many books will serve you even after that course is done

Miscellaneous:

49.) When do clinical rotations start?
● Clinics begin in the summer after your third year and continue through your fourth year.

50.) 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)

51.) Do we have all four summers off?
● No, you have only your first two summers off

52.) What percentage of each class passes their boards?
● In 2013, 96% of students from Ohio State passed the NAVLE.

53.) How much club participation can a student reasonably expect to have 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 club
● You don’t have to attend every single meeting for every club that you’re involved in

54.) 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 badge/pass

55.) 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 end up being paid for their externships
● Many people go out of state so that they can gain the most from their externships
  ○ (e.g. some are in Texas for equine experience, Minnesota for dairy experience, or another country for a service/missions trip)

56.) 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 is too much to take.

- If you feel at all that you are having trouble understanding even one concept on your own, **ASK FOR HELP!!!!**
- Go to your professor, form a study group, ask a classmate who understands the material, get a free student tutor, or talk to Dr. Jennifer Brandt.

57.) **What opportunities are available to learn about zoo/wildlife/avian/exotic animal medicine?**

- One core course is the Non-Mammalian class that you’ll take in your second year, which covers the basics about birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians.
- There is also a Zoo Club that concentrates on exotics and zoo animals.
- Electives that focus on your species of interest

58.) **What do first year vet students usually do during the summer?**

- Many do externships, or work in a veterinary clinic
- Some participate in a research project with College of Veterinary Medicine faculty
- Others use their time off as a vacation and for relaxation

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

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

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

66.) **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)

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

68.) Do I have to do an externship?
● There is no requirement to do an externship
● They are very highly encouraged
● Externships are extremely valuable to; gain experience, network, and continue learning

69.) 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
● By volunteering/job shadowing in the teaching hospital, or working at a veterinary clinic in Columbus

71.) 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) [http://tp.osu.edu/cabs/index.shtml](http://tp.osu.edu/cabs/index.shtml),

72.) What is Carmen?
● Carmen is an online extension of your classes (and some clubs)
● You can view your grades, and lectures are posted for most classes
● Some classes with homework will post assignments on Carmen

73.) 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 Deans 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.
● People are expected to clear out of a room when the person who reserved it arrives

74.) Where can I get lunch?
● Lunch Lectures (nearly every day the first semester!)
● Subway (in the basement of the VMC)
● Daily Grinds (coffee shop in VMAB)
*Make sure to ask about their coffee/espresso loyalty card

75.) I already received my rabies vaccinations before I came to school. Who do I need to tell so that I can show proof of my vaccinations? Students who received their rabies immunization prior to arrival at OSU should submit documentation to Student Health Services, either by completing the “Immunization & Lab Studies” form, including the signature of the physician, type of vaccine given and the route of administration or providing a copy of the vaccine record (including all three doses).

76.) 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.

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

78.) Do I have to get Ohio State insurance? The College of Veterinary Medicine requires that all students have health insurance coverage during their four years in College. You may choose to enroll in the OSU Student Health Insurance Program or in any equivalent program. All students are required to submit a Health Agreement form stating they will maintain health insurance coverage during their veterinary medical education program. You will receive this form during the first week of the Autumn 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 while a student, you will be responsible for any expenses not covered by your insurance, including injuries during clinical rotations.

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

81.) Hi, I was curious how many people have gone through vet school while they were in a committed relationship. How did they manage it? I imagine it can be done (I’m guessing that it's not always easy though), but what factors go into that? What does a “normal” partner do about his/her significant other "always" studying?

   a. Everyone adjusts/adapts differently. For example, my partner and I live apart. Some of my classmates’ partners agree to take on more household chores/errands than before. Some partners have a more difficult time than others not being the center of your attention or not getting as much time with you as they used to in your “life before vet school”. However, that is all dependent on you, your partner and your relationship.
So, think about what you would normally do with a partner after working a typical 9-5 day. Then realize that with homework, extra time in the anatomy lab, and/or clinic hours, you no longer live a 9-5 life. My partner and I both worked long hours professionally before I started vet school—so we didn’t experience much of a change except that we now maintain two households.

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

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

(However, depending on the health of your relationship going into vet school, this may also “breed” competition between you and your partner—which may or may not be a good thing for either of you.

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

d. I'm fortunate that my husband is in the medical field, so he is very understanding. However, I’ve also been on the other side of this issue (sort of). I was out of school when my husband went to med school, and we weren’t sure what to expect. They actually had an orientation for spouses at his school which I attended, and they stressed the point over and over that I shouldn't expect to see too much of him for the next several years. Many couples find it helpful to talk with Dr. Brandt at the beginning of the first year—she can talk with both of you about what vet school is “really like” for both people in the relationship. If this is what you really want, don't be dissuaded! In the end, it's your life and external factors can change unexpectedly at any point in time (whether it's divorce or an unfortunate death or disability, you have to remember that there's no guarantee that your partner can or will always be there for you).
e. As long as your partner has his/her own interests it shouldn't be a problem. Going out with friends to the pub, playing sports, going to the gym, playing video games, building stuff, making music, whatever floats his/her boat. You run into trouble if s/he is one of those people who refuses to do anything fun unless you go too. Or if you are one of those people who gets jealous if your partner is out having fun without you. If you trust each other, can have fun without each other, and make the moments you do have together count, then all should be good! So goes my theory at least!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AABP - American Association of Bovine Practitioners
AAEP - American Association of Equine Practitioners
AAFP - American Association of Feline Practitioners
AAHA - 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
OVESS - Ohio Veterinary Educational Supply Service
OVMA - Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
SAVMA - Student American Veterinary Medical Association
SCAEP - 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