



Frequently Asked Questions for Prospective Students

1. What job opportunities are there for students with an animal science degree?

There are many, many employment opportunities available to students that graduate with a B.S. in Animal Science. Examples of possible careers are listed in an appendix to this document; you can also find a listing of firms that employ animal science graduates and websites to use in searching for jobs in the appendix.

2. How do I know if veterinary medicine might be the right career for me?

In addition to a sincere concern for animals, a strong aptitude for science, and good people skills, you must have a realistic understanding of the veterinary profession. It is expected that applicants to veterinary schools will have exposure to the veterinary profession through experiences with practicing veterinarians and/or veterinary researchers. Exploring the profession through these experiences is the best way to learn and understand what is involved in the veterinary profession and whether veterinary medicine is the right career for you.

3. Where can I get further information about a career in veterinary medicine?

More information is available from the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) or the [Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges \(AAVMC\)](#). Additional information can be found in a book published by the AAVMC titled *Veterinary Medical School Admission requirements in the United States and Canada (VMSAR)*. To order this book, visit the [AAVMC website](#).

4. How can I get a tour of the University of Massachusetts Veterinary and Animal Sciences department?

Information Sessions and Facilities Tours of VASCI will be offered at 2:30pm on March 24, April 21, and April 28, 2023.

Tours last approximately two hours and will include our laboratory facilities and Hadley Farm. Please contact us at VASCI@umass.edu to arrange for an information session and facilities tour.

Contact www.umass.edu/admissions/visits/visit-campus for a university campus tour.

5. Do you provide tours and information sessions on weekends and holidays?

Although university tours are available on weekends and holidays, the Veterinary & Animal Sciences Department faculty and staff are not available to provide weekend and holiday tours.

6. What is the total number of Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary Science majors? How many students per year; freshmen, sophomore, junior, senior?

In the 2022-2023 school year, there are approximately 650 undergraduate students, each class averages 100-200 students.

7. How many students apply to the Veterinary and Animal Sciences Department at UMass? How many students are accepted?

Animal Science is an open major, which means that if you are accepted to UMass Amherst, you can declare the Animal Science major. We have 190 freshmen in the Animal Science major in the Fall of 2022. VASCI also accepts transfer students from other majors and other schools.

8. How many students are accepted to UMass each year?

In 2018, there were 45,621 applicants for a class of 6,138. The incoming undergraduate class (Fall 2018) included 5,010 freshmen, 1,076 transfers, and 40 Stockbridge School students. Total undergraduate enrollment is estimated at 21,680 and there are approximately 4,320 graduate students at UMass. Admission to UMass Amherst continues to be selective—only 59 percent of students who applied were admitted for the fall of 2018.

9. How large are the classes here at UMass? How large are the animal science classes?

Class sizes vary depending on the class. Freshmen, Sophomore and General Education classes are usually large lectures with 19 - 500 students. Upper level courses tend to be much smaller with 10 - 80 students. Overall, the VASCI student/faculty ratio is 15/1.

10. Can I specialize within the Animal Science Major?

Yes, the Animal Science major provides a comprehensive background in the basic sciences to prepare students for a broad range of jobs in agriculture and related biomedical fields. Incoming freshmen students enter our program as Animal Science Majors and must choose the Animal Biotechnology, Animal Management or Equine Science concentration (Students can choose to change their concentration if they find later, that their interests are better suited to one of the other concentrations.)

Animal Biotechnology & Research Concentration - The Biotechnology & Research concentration is for those students interested in laboratory or research careers in the fields of veterinary and human health or biotechnology. Biotechnologists explore and develop new technologies in molecular biology, molecular genetics, embryo manipulation and cell and tissue culture. We encourage students to develop and pursue their research interests in the field, in the University's laboratories and off-campus. The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Internship Challenge offers paid internships that have allowed our students to gain invaluable experience in biotechnology companies. (<http://www.masslifesciences.com/programs/internship/>) Animals contribute to human health through companionship, their role as models for diseases, as well as a source of food and fiber. There is a need for graduates who are familiar with animals to serve as lab technicians in the laboratories of both public and private research institutions. We encourage all students, regardless of their professional goals to participate in as many of these offerings as possible.

Animal Management Concentration - Students who choose to follow a career in Management will have a well-structured and strong curriculum that can make them highly competitive in the marketplace, preparing them for both large-scale and small-scale farming of domestic animals, that is, "backyard to industrial". The 'buy local' movement is expected to increase available jobs in New England for those schooled in this field. The Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences offers a series of courses that formalize the curriculum and accessory courses are taken in ancillary departments to provide expertise in non-domesticated animal management (wildlife, zoo, exotics) or for a career in teaching agriculture. Students have access to a number of animal species at our associated farms on which to learn management skills, including: Belted Galloway cattle, Boer meat goats, Dorset sheep, Morgan and Hanoverian horses and poultry. We also collaborate with a local dairy farm where students care for the dairy calves and learn management skills. The Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences emphasizes animal ethics of food animal production as well as the impact of farming techniques on the environment. In addition to our curricular offerings of reproduction, nutrition, diseases, and management, we offer numerous extracurricular activities to all interested students. These include: Winter Traveling Dairy Tour class, Artificial Insemination Certification class, participation in Regional and National Dairy Challenges, NESA Intercollegiate Animal Science Competition, participation in livestock showing and judging at local events. Students also have the opportunity to participate in The Annual Baystate Livestock Classic; this show is organized by the students, is open to the public, and is held at the Hadley Farm. Students organize this event and learn the grooming and showing of cattle, sheep, goats and horses. These events all promote positive student-to-student, student to faculty, and student to industry representative interaction, which can lead to post-baccalaureate internship employment, and graduate school opportunities.

Equine Science Concentration - The Equine Science concentration in the Veterinary and Animal Sciences Department is based on knowledge of basic scientific concepts applied to the equine species and combined with hands-on stable management experience. Students learn the scientific concepts and practical application of the management, nutrition, veterinary care, breeding, and handling of horses through comprehensive coursework and technical training at the UMass Hadley Farm Equine Center. Students in the Equine Science concentration will work alongside equine health and reproductive specialists to learn herd and health management and the breeding industry including stallion collection, artificial insemination, pregnancy, and foaling. Students also have the opportunity to gain clinical experience working with our certified faculty in

the new Equine Rehabilitation program. Other courses in this concentration include equine nutrition, equine behavior and learning theory, equine sports medicine, equine stable management, and development of young horses. Students will acquire basic scientific knowledge by taking courses in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology, and general animal science to broaden their knowledge and skills, preparing them for an array of careers, veterinary school, or graduate studies. The graduates of the Equine Science concentration will have many career opportunities. Career options include: veterinarian, nutritionist, equine rehabilitation practitioner, chiropractor, equine marketing specialist, breed association professional, equine science teacher, equine-assisted therapy director, and pharmaceutical research/sales. Students of the Equine Science concentration will gain real-world experience and build professional contacts through our internship program, career seminars, and industry association events. Students are encouraged to be involved in clinics and shows that are routinely held at the Hadley Farm, including multiple collegiate and USEF/USDF breed shows, along with the American Hanoverian Society Inspection.

11. Does UMass offer a Veterinary Technology program?

Yes, the UMass Amherst Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has designed a 4-year Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Technology integrating the strengths of the UMass Amherst Animal Science/Pre-Vet majors and the legacy of the former Mt. Ida College Vet Tech program. This program has been approved by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education and is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). AVMA accreditation gives graduates the opportunity to take the Veterinary Technology Licensing Exam (VTNE), and become certified veterinary technicians. The UMass Amherst Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Technology program provides students with the opportunity to spend their first two years at the Amherst campus farms and labs taking foundational courses applicable to small and large animal medicine including: biology, chemistry, clinical math, microbiology, and general education requirements. Students will move to the Mt. Ida campus in Newton, Massachusetts in the fall of their junior year to take more specialized small animal coursework including: radiology, anesthesiology and surgery, research animal management, immunology, pharmacology, parasitology, writing and discussion of legal and ethical issues in veterinary medicine, and preparation to take the Vet Tech National Exam. Veterinary technologists and technicians are integral members of the veterinary team. They are entrusted with diverse medical responsibilities that include nursing care for a variety of species, laboratory techniques, anesthesiology and surgical assisting, radiographic imaging and client education. The UMass Amherst Veterinary Technology program at the Amherst and Mt. Ida campuses will train future Veterinary Technologists by offering a science degree that offers depth in a basic science and veterinary medicine curriculum combined with a breadth of general education classes across disciplines.

For more information about the Bachelor of Science degree in Veterinary Technology, please contact:

Amy Rubin, DVM

Director of the Veterinary Technology Program

Department of Veterinary & Animal Sciences

University of Massachusetts Amherst

427ZB ISB, 661 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003

ajrubin@umass.edu

12. How challenging is the course load of an Animal Science student?

This will depend on how well prepared you are, especially how well you have developed good study skills and habits. It is important that students entering the animal science program understand that we offer primarily a **science-based program** that presents the opportunity to gain experience with species relevant to traditional animal science programs. It is not a clinical program in veterinary medicine and thus offers limited small animal, exotic animal and wildlife experiences, nor is it the appropriate program for those interested in production agriculture. The science-based curriculum is challenging and rigorous. Most Animal Science and Pre-Veterinary Science majors find time to be involved with the Animal Science/Pre-Vet Club, the animal management classes and other activities. Students also work with veterinarians and in our laboratories and barns. Students can make appointments to meet with their animal science instructors for additional help in understanding the material.

The Learning Resource Center (www.umass.edu/lrc/ or 545-5334) offers peer advising in a comfortable environment to assist with academic challenges. The University Writing Center has tutors who provide free assistance to develop better writing skills.

The Commonwealth Honors College (www.honors.umass.edu/curriculum-overview) offers a tightly knit community for students seeking more academic rigor in their field of study. All VASCI students who meet the eligibility requirements can join Commonwealth Honors College, which offers a rewarding opportunity to meet students who share the same intellectual enthusiasm, work more closely with professors, and pursue independent research as part of a Capstone Experience.

13. How does UMass assist students with disabilities?

UMass has a very comprehensive program for assisting students, faculty, and staff with disabilities, so that everyone may successfully learn and work at UMass. Disability Services promotes the empowerment of people with disabilities and their full integration into campus life and the community. Please access <http://www.umass.edu/disability/>

14. Why can't I come into the University as a Pre-Vet student from the start of my time at UMass?

The Pre-Veterinary Science major is designed to provide pre-professional training to students planning to continue their education in Veterinary, Graduate or Medical school or who are contemplating joining the teaching profession. All incoming freshmen enter the program as Animal Science majors and must qualify to enter into the Pre-Veterinary Science major. Eligible students must achieve and maintain a grade of B- (2.7) or better in select Animal Science courses. Students may enter the Pre-Veterinary Science major at any time after these requirements are met by completing and submitting the Animal Science to Pre-Veterinary Science Major Form.

15. How should I prepare myself in high school for the pre-vet major option?

Take as many science and math courses as your school allows. These may include: biology, chemistry, physics, anatomy & physiology, statistics, algebra, trigonometry, and calculus. In addition, take courses that provide writing experience and at least three years of one foreign language. If you have the option to take college credit courses at your high school, it will give you greater flexibility in course selection during your college program. In general, the better the academic background a student has, the better prepared the student is for classes at UMass. You should meet all the admission requirements in the undergraduate catalog of the University of Massachusetts. In addition, obtaining experience working for a veterinarian is an excellent way to determine if veterinary medicine is an appropriate career choice. Many veterinary medical schools require this type of work experience prior to application. Other positions working with animals may also enhance your veterinary school application.

16. When do I get my first animal hands-on experience at UMass?

Animal Science majors are required to take Introduction to Animal Science their first (fall) semester. This class has a required weekly lab section that includes experience working with various animal species. The first lab that students will attend takes place at Hadley Farm (transportation is provided) and involves learning proper methods of restraining and haltering sheep. Students can also choose to enroll in the Dairy Calf, Dorset Sheep, Boer Goat, Belted Galloway, Equine, or Poultry Management classes where they will work directly with the animals.

17. The UMass campus seems so large and intimidating; will I be okay at UMass?

Current students and alumni say that once you are here you will find that the campus does not seem large and intimidating at all. Animal Science students get to know each other well and enjoy the camaraderie of the major. Accepted students are required to come for an orientation session in June or July. During Summer New Students Orientation (NSO) students get to know the campus, meet other students, consult with academic advisors, register for classes, and make housing requests. While you meet lots of faculty and staff during orientation, you spend most of your time with NSO student counselors. These students are part of a very select

group of peers who dedicate their summer to welcoming the newest class to UMass Amherst. They are your mentors and leaders during orientation. They introduce you to the basic academic requirements and tell you about life at UMass Amherst: housing options; clubs and organizations; intramurals; jobs; where to get the best pizza; and everything else about life on campus and around Amherst.

18. How do I get to the barn for barn chores for the Animal Science 101 and 103 classes?

UMass provides a shuttle van that leaves the center of campus (Paige Lab) at 6:40 a.m. and returns to campus at 9:00 a.m. The van also provides transportation to the UMass Hadley Farm for the goat, sheep, poultry and equine management classes.

19. How much time will I have between classes to get to the next class?

Don't worry; you will always have sufficient time to get from one class to the next. The amount of time you have will vary depending on your individual schedule each semester. When planning your schedule and registering for classes, you can check the location for each class and plan accordingly.

20. Will I always get the classes that I need, when I need them?

While we cannot guarantee that you will always get the classes you need when you would like them, the majority of Animal Science majors have no trouble arranging their schedules each semester. As you progress through the semesters, you will get priority for registering for classes. In your senior year you should have no problem getting the classes you need. All Animal Science majors are required to meet with their academic advisor prior to registering for classes. Academic advisors assist students in making the best choices and will assist students with special requests/needs for specific classes.

21. Is there an Animal Science Faculty Mentoring/Advising Program?

Yes, before students enter our program they meet with faculty advisors who introduce the students to the program and assist the students with registration for their first semester's courses. All Veterinary & Animal Sciences students are assigned an academic advisor and the Department requires students to meet with their advisor during each of the fall and spring pre-registration periods. Faculty advisors remove the students' academic advising hold at that time which permits students to register for courses. Our Department encourages students to meet with their faculty advisor and seek advice in selecting a career option as well as meeting the Veterinary and Animal Sciences and University requirements. Our faculty may be particularly useful in providing guidance in the selection of an area of emphasis and appropriate courses consistent with the student's career goals.

22. Is there an Animal Science Peer Mentoring Program?

Yes, freshmen and transfer students can request to be paired with an upper-class student as their peer mentor. The group holds bi-weekly meetings during which peer mentors provide help with studying and developing study skills, information about classes and scheduling, information about the animal management classes and information about campus life. Peer Mentors is part of the Animal Science/Pre-Vet Club that meets bi-weekly and invites speakers to share information related to careers in the field of animal and veterinary sciences.

23. Is there a Veterinary and Animal Science Career Advising Program?

Yes, Dr. Susan Marston smarston@vasci.umass.edu ISB 427U is our department's Career and Internship Advisor. Dr. Marston can assist you with identifying potential employers, writing résumés and cover letters, finding, and applying for internships.

Students should create and maintain an ongoing list of their activities including internships and jobs during their college career. One of the requirements of the required Junior Writing Course is that you develop your resume. VASCI offers a one credit seminar titled Careers in Animal Science. This seminar series features presentations by agricultural and animal science professionals in the fields of Animal Health, Animal Nutrition, Genetics, Biotechnology and others. Seminar topics include: resume preparation, interview skills, internship opportunities and web-based employment search guides. Information is also available on the VASCI website <https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/opportunities/recommended-career-search-engines>.

24. Will UMass help me find a job when I am ready to graduate?

Yes, Janet Bordwin is the CNS career advisor for VASCI majors, and can help you with résumés, interviewing, internships, and your plans for after Graduation. However, you should seek her assistance starting in sophomore or junior year. Janet Bordwin sees students by appointment at the [CNS Career Center](#) in Morrill II. Susan Marston, PhD smarston@vasci.umass.edu ISB 427U is our department's Career and Internship Advisor.

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25. What are the accepted students' average SAT scores and GPA?

This varies from year to year. For the Class of 2022 the average combined SAT score is 1296, the average ACT score is 28.3, and high school grade point average is 3.90 on 4.00 scale. On average, students rank in the top fifth of their high school class.

26. Will I be required to take placement tests?

UMass Amherst offers placement tests in Math, Writing, and Foreign Language. To learn more about the tests and how to take them, visit www.umass.edu/newstudent/academics/placementtests. Placement tests must be completed online before you come to your New Student Orientation session. Our academic advisors will use your scores to assist you in registering for the appropriate courses.

27. What about my AP high school classes?

The Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences requires that all Biology 151, 152 and 153 be taken here at UMass. If you were successful in AP Biology you will receive credit towards graduation and you should find that you are very well prepared for Biology 151, 152 and 153 here at UMass. Advanced Placement (AP) and graduation credits will be awarded by most departments to students who obtain scores of 4 or 5 on the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) Advanced Placement Tests; scores of 3 are given credit on a more limited basis. Candidates seeking advanced placement and graduation credit in foreign languages may also take the SAT II language tests.

AP and other college credits may apply to graduation requirements, but they do not count toward your residence requirements (up to 75 transfer credits can apply to graduation requirements; 45 residence credits must be earned through UMass Amherst; 54 credits if graduating with honors).

IB (International Baccalaureate) credit will be awarded to those students who score a 4-7 on the higher level IB exams. AP and IB official scores should be sent to the Admissions Office and the Registrar's Office.

28. How many students are accepted to vet school each year?

Veterinary Medical School acceptance is very competitive as there are a limited number of available seats/slots. There are 31 vet schools in the U.S. with approximately 3100 entering seats/slots available each year. Some of our students also choose to attend vet school in other countries. The number of students from UMass accepted to vet schools varies from year to year depending on how many UMass students choose to apply, how many students apply overall, how many and which schools students apply to. In addition, the average age of students accepted to vet schools is 24-25; many students work in the field for several years or obtain Master's or Ph.D. degrees before applying to vet school.

Class of 2022 – thirty of 84 or 36% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical schools (26) or graduate school (4).

Class of 2019 – twenty of 82 or 24% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical schools (14) or graduate school (6).

Class of 2018 – thirty-three of 78 or 42% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical school (25) or graduate school (8).

Class of 2017 - twenty-six of 87 or 30% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical school (19) or graduate school (7).

Class of 2016 - thirty-one of 85 or 36% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical school (27) or graduate school (4).

Class of 2015 - eighteen of 73 or 25% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical school (12), medical school (1) or graduate school (5).

Class of 2014 - twenty-two of 67 or 33% of VASCI students graduating applied and were accepted into veterinary medical school (16) or graduate school (6).

29. Does UMass have an early acceptance with any veterinary schools?

Yes, the Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine located in Grafton, Massachusetts offers undergraduates enrolled at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst an opportunity to apply to the DVM program in March of their sophomore year. A limited number of students are admitted, and upon acceptance, are guaranteed a space in Tufts veterinary school class after they graduate, if they maintain a minimum 3.4 GPA and take the required prerequisite classes. To be eligible to apply, candidates for this program must be sophomores and must have completed a full year each of introductory biology and chemistry courses. SAT scores will be evaluated in the place of GRE scores. Freshmen contemplating application to the Early Acceptance Program are encouraged to speak with a pre-veterinary advisor about accruing veterinary medical related experiences. If the applicant is not accepted, the applicant can make an appointment with a Tufts admission counselor in the summer to review the student's application in order to strengthen the application for future submission. Further information regarding this program can be viewed at the Tufts website <http://www.tufts.edu/vet/academic/earlyacceptance.html>.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh is the United Kingdom's top-rated veterinary medical school. There are 3 guaranteed spaces for UMass Amherst BS-Pre-Vet students, with a minimum 3.4 GPA. Students can apply at the beginning of their junior year, with an option to study abroad there as an undergraduate, or after the end of their junior year via VMCAS. For more information:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/vet>

Students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst can complete an accelerated Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program at the University of Melbourne in Australia by simultaneously completing their final spring semester at UMass Amherst and starting their first semester of the DVM program at the University of Melbourne. This is made possible by the fact that Australian universities start their academic year in February, rather than in September. The program is accelerated because University of Melbourne DVM students starting the BS-DVM articulated program in February, instead of 6 months later in September in vet schools in the northern hemisphere, will graduate 6 months earlier than their northern hemisphere vet school counterparts. Cost is reduced because the first semester is charged at UMass Amherst rates, rather than the higher veterinary medical school rates. Final costs are dependent on US dollar exchange rates, but in 2017, the first semester cost approximately US \$10,270 (AU \$13,607) + approximately US \$48,600 (AU \$63,328) per year for 3.5 years.

Besides the advantage of graduating 6 months early, the University of Melbourne veterinary medical school has a strong international reputation and is accredited worldwide, so that students can take the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam, which is required to practice in the US. Students are also eligible to take the qualifying exams for practice in Europe, Australia and Asia. Melbourne is located on the southern coast of Australia, has temperate climate and has been recognized as the most livable city in the world. The unique fauna of Australia, along with domesticated animals, are also readily available for study.

The application procedure for the articulated BS-DVM program has the advantage of being much more informal than the application process through VMCAS. GREs and usual vet school prerequisites such as a full year of Physics are waived. A minimum 3.2 GPA is required. Students simply email with their unofficial transcript to Professor Jean-Pierre "JP" Scheerlinck (j.scheerlinck@unimelb.edu.au) in November- early December for a rapid decision. If the student decides to accept the offer of admission, they should immediately contact Professor Janice Telfer (telfer@vasci.umass.edu), who coordinates the UMass course transfer and bachelor's graduation clearance process. For more information -

<http://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/study/courses/doctor-of-veterinary-medicine/overview>

30. Will UMass help me apply to Veterinary Medical Schools?

Yes, the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences faculty members have many years of experience in assisting students with the vet school application process. You can also see our FAQ for Applying to Vet School at <https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/pre-veterinary-science-major>. For further information and assistance, students can make an appointment with

Janice C. Telfer, Ph.D., Professor
Undergraduate Program & Pre-Vet Advising Director
Department of Veterinary & Animal Sciences
University of Massachusetts Amherst
427D ISB, 661 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01003
(413) 545-5564, telfer@vasci.umass.edu

31. Does UMass have a vet school?

No, the only veterinary medical school in New England is at Tufts University in Grafton, Massachusetts. The Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine offers undergraduates enrolled at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst an opportunity to apply to the DVM program in March of their sophomore year. Read more about early application in question 29.

32. Are internships available?

Yes, students are encouraged to participate in internships, practica and independent studies. Students should join Handshake, the leading career platform. Handshake allows you to find internships, jobs and co-ops, and to get personal recommendations of opportunities based on your interests, skills, major, location preferences, and search history. In addition, Handshake will tell you about all UMass Amherst recruiting events, career fairs, workshops and other helpful career resources. Students may also find internship possibilities through their own research and connections; or by meeting with Dr. Marston the VASCI Career and Internship advisor, or by seeking assistance from the Campus Career Network located at 511 Goodell. VASCI and CNS also offer workshops that offer information on available internship opportunities and how to apply. Information is also available on the VASCI website <https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/opportunities/internships>

Some planning and coordination is required to set up a successful internship. Students may also pursue the Life Sciences Internship Challenge through the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (www.masslifesciences.com). The Life Sciences Internship Challenge is a workforce development program focused on enhancing the talent pipeline for life sciences companies in Massachusetts.

33. I am interested in research. How do I find a lab to work in?

We recommend that you access the VASCI website www.vasci.umass.edu and review the research being done by each of our primary investigators, choose a topic that interests you and then make an appointment with the primary investigator to discuss the possibility of working in the primary investigator's lab. Students are also eligible to seek research work in other departments at UMass.

34. How do I apply for financial aid?

You must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The UMass code for the FAFSA is 002221. See Financial Aid Services (<http://www.umass.edu/umfa/>) for more detailed information.

35. How can I get a part-time job while I am a student?

The Student Employment Office (<http://www.umass.edu/umfa/seo/>) posts job listings for both on- and off-campus employment, including work-study opportunities.

36. Are there scholarships for Animal Science majors?

Yes, the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and the College of Natural Sciences offer a variety of scholarships and awards to recognize the hard work and academic success of our students, assist students with the expense of their education, and support student research and internships. The majority of these scholarships and awards are funded through the generosity of alumni and other members of the CNS community. We encourage all current Pre-Veterinary Science and Animal Science students to apply.

The university has implemented AcademicWorks, an online application system for scholarships offered at

UMass Amherst. Simply enroll in AcademicWorks, fill out both the UMass general application and the CNS application. The system will automatically submit your application to the scholarships and awards for which you are fully eligible and will inform you of other scholarships for which you would need to supply additional materials to apply.

37. When can I study abroad?

Students who think they might like to study abroad should start planning from the beginning. The best time to arrange for a study abroad experience is during the Spring semester of your Junior year. We highly recommend that students concentrate on taking all their science classes before the semester abroad and save their Gen Ed classes to take at the foreign university. Students are also advised to seek internships abroad. The International Programs Office (www.IPO.umass.edu) helps students make all the necessary arrangements for studying abroad.

38. Is it possible to take courses at the other colleges in the area?

Any student who is in good academic standing, is at least a second-semester freshman, and is taking at least one 3-credit course at UMass may take up to three courses, but no more than two at any one institution, without additional cost, beyond normal laboratory or instructional fees, at Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, or Smith College. A free bus system is available for this purpose.

Course catalogs, literature, procedural information, advice and information on the Five College Program, and Five College Student Interchange forms are available from the Five College Interchange Office at http://ualc.umass.edu/five_college_interchange/

39. How available and convenient is public transportation?

Public transportation is easily available, and very convenient and affordable. There are regular busses that transport students to various campus locations, to local communities, to train stations, to Boston and New York. The following websites provide additional information about transportation.

UMass Transit System - www.umass.edu/transit

Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation System - www.pvta.com

all regional transportation systems - www.matransit.com

bus - www.peterpanbus.com - service from campus

www.megabus.com - service from Hampshire Mall - PVTA service to Hampshire Mall (3.3 miles)

train - www.amtrak.com

airports - www.bradleyairport.com - Windsor Locks, CT - 47.5 miles

www.massport.com/logan - Boston, MA - 97 miles

www.flymanchester.com - Manchester, NH - 106 miles

www.pvdairport.com - Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island - 98 miles

www.albanyairport.com - Albany, New York - 108 miles (via Rt. 90)

40. What is there to do in the Amherst area?

In a story featured on MSN.com in 2009, Katherine L. Cohen, founder and CEO of two college counseling firms, ranked Amherst the number one college town! (<http://www.umass.edu/umhome/feature-story/article/36.html>) In 2016, the website Livability.com said Amherst is the 6th-best small town in the country. There are many opportunities for: cultural events, the area has 10 museums as well as art, craft, and food fairs, great entertainment, part-time employment, organizations to be involved with, a great variety of restaurants and outdoor exploration opportunities (hiking trails, bike path, state parks).

The following websites provide additional information about the area.

<http://www.amherstma.gov/>

<http://www.cinemark.com>

<http://amherstarea.com/>

<http://www.mountainfarmshadley.com>

amherstcinema.org/

www.northamptonma.gov/

<http://www.hadleyma.org>

www.visitnorthampton.net/

<http://hadleyma.com>

www.noho.com/

<http://www.hampshiremall.com>

www.explorenorthampton.com/

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/central.htm> - provides information on the 10 state parks within 15 miles of Amherst.

VASCI Prospective Student Frequently Asked Questions - INDEX of question numbers

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Careers in Animal Science

- 4-H Agent
- Agri-Business Manager
- Agricultural Attaché
- Agricultural Insurance Specialist
- Agricultural Finance Specialist
- Agricultural Journalist
- Agricultural Policy Analyst
- Agricultural Real Estate Specialist
- Animal Behaviorist
- Animal Care Specialist
- Animal Economist
- Animal Health Products Salesperson
- Animal Nutritionist/ Nutrition Specialist
- Animal Sales
- Animal Welfare Specialist
- Aquaculturalist
- Artificial Insemination Technician
- Biotechnologist
- Boarding/Training Facility Manager
- Breed Analyst
- Breed Association Sales/Promotion
- Cell Culture Specialist
- Chemist
- Communication , Media, Marketing, Public Relations
Broadcaster, Writer, Specialist
- Companion Animal Breeder
- Companion Animal Store Manager
- Companion Animal Therapy Specialist
- Consultant
- Dairy Unit Herdsman/Manager
- Dog Trainer
- Dog Trainer to assist persons with disabilities
- Embryo Transfer Technician
- Equine Farm Manager
- Equine Breeder/Trainer/Groomer
- Equitation Instructor
- Equine Rehabilitator
- Equine Supply Sales & Distribution
- Equipment Dealer
- Equipment Engineer
- Equipment Sales Representative
- Extension Educator/Specialist
- Facilities Engineer
- Farm Building Salesman
- Farm/Cooperative Manager
- Farm News/Magazine Journalist
- Farm Supply Representative
- Feed Broker
- Feed Inspector
- Feed Plant Manager
- Feed Processing Engineer
- Feed/grain Merchandizer/Consultant
- Feed Science Technologist
- Fertilizer Sales Representative
- Food Processing Manager
- Food Product Development/Researcher
- Forage Specialist
- Government Administrator
- Herd Manager
- International Trade Specialist
- Kennel Manager
- Laboratory Animal Technician/Manager
- Land Use Planner
- Livestock Buyer
- Livestock Equipment Salesperson
- Livestock Feedlot Operator
- Livestock Production Manager
- Meat Packing/Processing Specialist
- Meat/Milk/Feed Testing Service
- Microinjectionist
- Pest Control Specialist
- Pet Shop Owner/Manager/Technician
- Pharmaceutical Sales/Service
- Poultry Scientist
- Poultry Unit Manager
- Public Relations Specialist
- Quality Assurance Specialist
- Ranch Manager
- Research Farm Manager
- Research Specialist/Technician
- Rescue League Animal Caregiver
- Rescue League Adoption Counselor
- SPCA Personnel
- Statistician
- Tack Shop Owner/Manager/Technician
- Teacher
- Technical Sales/ Services Representative
- Therapeutic Animal Trainer/Instructor
- USDA Meat Inspection/Grading Services
- Veterinary Assistant/Technician/Technologist
- Veterinary Supply
- Water Quality Engineer
- Zoo Animal Specialist
- Zookeeper

With additional training, you can also be:

Animal Physiologist
Biochemist
College Professor
Geneticist
Immunologist

Molecular Biologist
Nutritionist
Parasitologist
Reproductive Physiologist
Research Director

Toxicologist
USDA Inspector
Veterinarian
Virologist
Zoologist/Biologist

The following is a list of search engines that VASCI students may find helpful:

Agriculture/Animal Science

<http://careers.asas.org>
<http://www.animalsciencejobs.com>
<http://www.agcareers.com>
<http://www.aquaculturejobs.com>
<http://www.agriseek.com/work/e/Employment/>
<https://www.avma.org/ProfessionalDevelopment/Pages/default.aspx>

Government agencies

<http://www.careeronestop.org/jobsearch/findjobs/state-job-banks.aspx>
<https://www.usajobs.gov>
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/banner/careers>

Natural Resources & Conservation

<http://www.conservationjobboard.com>
<http://www.environmentjobs.com/Index.asp>
<http://www.ecojobs.com>

Zoos & Aquariums

<https://www.aza.org/joblistings/>

Biotechnology & Biomedical

Biospace - <http://www.biospace.com/jobs>
Immucell - <http://immucell.com/about-us/>
Pfizer - <http://pfizer.jobs/>
Charles River - <http://www.criver.com/>
Massachusetts Life Sciences - <http://www.masslifesciences.com/programs/internship/>
LFB USA inc. - <http://lfb-usa.com/>
Novartis - jobs.prodivnet.com/
Lab Pros - <http://www.labprosinc.com/>
Saviance Technologies - <http://saviance.com/career>
Dana Farber - <http://www.dana-farber.org/careers.aspx>
Boston Medical Center - <http://www.bmc.org/about/careers.htm>
Land O'Lakes - <http://www.landolakesinc.com/careers/default.aspx>
Boston Children's Hospital - <http://www.childrenshospital.org/career-opportunities>
Brigham and Women's - <http://careers.brighamandwomens.org/CareersatBWH.aspx>
Massachusetts General Hospital - <http://www.massgeneral.org/careers/viewall.aspx>
American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists - <http://www.aaps.org/careers/>
Seres Therapeutics - <http://www.serestherapeutics.com/>

General Search Engines

<http://www.glassdoor.com/index.htm>
<http://www.indeed.com>
<http://www.monster.com>
<http://www.simplyhired.com>
<http://jobs.sciencecareers.org>
http://www.hoards.com/intel/150526_art5
<https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>