VetFAST eligibility after program acceptance and requirements for final enrollment into the D.V.M. program

I. Program Explanation

Across the nation, a shortage of food animal veterinarians has been recognized. Not enough veterinary students are training to work with dairy cows, beef cattle, swine, poultry, sheep, and goats. Rural areas are unable to fill vacant positions or add new staff quickly enough. Positions in the food industry are difficult to fill, and more staff with veterinary training is needed in state and federal agencies to protect the livestock industry from new diseases and help to ensure food safety.

The Veterinary Food Animal Scholars Track (VetFAST) is a partner program between the University of Minnesota (U of M) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and the Animal Science degree program at the program at the University of Minnesota – Crookston, the Biology degree program at the University of Minnesota – Morris, and the Animal Science degree program at University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

VetFAST allows students enrolled in an approved degree program in a partner school to apply for VetFAST program acceptance during their freshman or sophomore year of undergraduate studies. Advantages include an exemption from the Graduate Record Exam, mentorships with veterinary faculty and other Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) students, summer veterinary and industry work opportunities, and scholarships.

A seat in the D.V.M. program at the U of M CVM is held for all VetFAST program participants at the end of their junior or senior year of undergraduate studies if eligibility is maintained and enrollment requirements are met.

II. History of VetFAST

VetFAST was first developed as a partner program between the CVM and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Animal Science degree program. The program objective was to create an early decisions program for the D.V.M. program for high ability students with a dedicated interest in practicing food animal medicine upon graduation from the D.V.M. program. Upon its inception, eligible students were required to be freshman enrolled in the Animal Science program at CFANS. Accepted students were required to achieve a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA at the end of their third or fourth year of undergraduate studies in order to be admitted to the D.V.M. program. All courses were to be taken at the U of M and therefore the cumulative GPA was specific to just the University of Minnesota and did not include courses taken from other institutions. The 3.4 cumulative GPA requirement was selected based on the CFANS Honors program, which required a 3.4 GPA for participation.
VetFAST grew by adding two additional partner programs: University of Minnesota Morris Biology degree program and the University of Minnesota Crookston Animal Science degree program. It also began accepting applicants with AP, PSEO, CLEP, IB, and other similar type program credits. In 2012, VetFAST expanded to include sophomore students and students who transferred as a freshman or sophomores to a VetFAST program at the U of M. The growth in the program and the variety of academic background amongst applicants and program participants has created a need to better define requirements for maintaining eligibility and for final enrollment for all program participants.

III. Maintaining eligibility

- VetFAST participants are expected to attend all VetFAST check-in meetings. The meetings will cover new updates and allow students the opportunity to meet and network with other VetFAST students.

- Participants may take three or four years of undergraduate study (at the U of M, or the U of M plus any previous institutions attended) to complete the course requirements necessary for admission. Students must take courses in accordance to prerequisite requirements and towards their degree major requirements.
  - All prerequisite courses must be complete by the end of the spring term prior to the fall in which they would begin the D.V.M. courses.

- After acceptance into VetFAST, a student should plan to take all courses within the U of M system.
  - If a student must take an external course, no more than two will be permitted.
  - A grade of B- or better must be achieved in the two allowed external courses taken after acceptance into VetFAST.
  - The student will be required to draft a summary of the circumstances why a course will be taken at an external institution. The summary should include the official course name, catalog number, institution offered at, schedule information (time and date of class) and credit total. A course description, found in the institution’s course catalog, must also be provided. The summary will be reviewed by the VetFAST Program Director and Director of Admissions.
  - Courses can be taken at other U of M campus locations. These do not count against the two permitted from an external institution. All U of M undergraduate courses will be counted in the U of M undergraduate cumulative GPA.
  - Credit taken during study abroad programs will be considered only if coursework has been accepted as transfer credit by the student’s receiving U of M program.

- Participants must maintain full-time enrollment of a minimum of 12 credits a semester, with no lapse in enrollment between semesters (summer semester enrollment is not required). Participants with a lapse in enrollment will no longer be eligible, unless
demonstration of an extenuating circumstance is provided to the VetFAST Program Director and the Director of Admissions.

- Participants must remain enrolled in an approved major. Switching to a non-approved major will result in loss of eligibility for the VetFAST program.

- Participants must earn a C- or better on all D.V.M. prerequisite courses. Students earning a grade of D+ or below will be required to repeat the course.

IV. Requirements for Final Enrollment into the DVM Program

- Participants must achieve a U of M cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher at the end of the spring term prior to the fall in which they will begin the D.V.M. program.
  - Courses taken outside the U of M, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program credit (CLEP), Direct Credit, or other credits earned in a similar way will not be factored into the U of M cumulative GPA.

- Participants who have not achieved a 3.4 or higher U of M cumulative GPA and/or who have not completed their D.V.M. prerequisite courses by the end of their third year will be delayed for consideration for one year to raise their U of M cumulative GPA and/or complete required prerequisite classes.
  - If a U of M cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher and/or prerequisite courses are not completed by the end of the one year delay or by the participant’s graduation date (whichever comes first), eligibility to participate in the VetFAST program will be lost.
  - Participants who lose eligibility for the above reasons are welcome to apply though the traditional D.V.M. admissions process with no penalty.

V. Prerequisite Requirements for Final Enrollment into the DVM Program

Prerequisite courses for the University of Minnesota Crookston can be found online here:
March 17, 2016


Prerequisite courses for the University of Minnesota Morris can be found online here:

Prerequisite courses for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities can be found online here: