

# Texas A&M University's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Vet School Open House

Donna Vail's Notes from April 20, 2013

## Admissions Q&A with Drs. Easterwood, Hoffman, Rogers, and Clubb

*Please remember, these are notes so if you need help deciphering them or more about what they shared regarding admissions, feel free to contact me. My contact information can be found in the footer.*

In order to apply to Texas A&M Vet School and get accepted you do not have to have a complete Bachelors degree. You do have to have 58 hours that includes: Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Genetics, Microbiology, Statistics, Psychology including Human Behavior and Animal Behavior, Communications including Technical Writing and Animal Nutrition.

### Recommended experience to acquire through all the ages:

- Work with live animals via pets, shelters, volunteering, and 4H. They're looking at number of hours worked with animals. They were adamant this does not include owning a dog all your life. (This has actually been seen on applications!)
- Talk with and observe veterinarians at least 50 hours minimum.
- Work in veterinary practice, zoo, research lab or other veterinarian medical setting.

They reiterated multiple times they are looking for leadership over time demonstrated in school, as a volunteer, club and work.

Younger students already interested in vet sciences should seek a wide spectrum of animal handling, focus on reading and schoolwork, and prepare for high school.

High school students need to be serious about getting plenty of hours with hands on animal experience as well as working with veterinarians. Their focus should be on science and math. This means becoming a master of these two subjects. Be strong in college prep.

Undergrads also need to continue in building their animal experience, focus on leadership, develop skills for DVM and make their college work center. This means being able to carry a heavy load of 17 hours or more. In vet school you're expected to carry 19 to 24 hours and usually this is science all the time.

It takes working weekends, studying a lot, being organized, being okay with having just a little bit of life because you have to always be at the top of your game. The curriculum goes fast.

**Part of your application process is to make sure you're up to the challenge.**  
To be the best it's going to take your best.

**Criteria:**

- GPA , general look at overall.
- GPA, closer look at last 45 hours, specifically at math and sciences.
- Science GPA, as it correlates with high level sciences.
- GRE, general record examination
- Course completion

**Applications are made October 1<sup>st</sup> the year before** completed requirements for vet school in the following fall.

They'll be looking to see you've done the harder courses and if you haven't taken more than 12 hours at a time it's a sign that you can't carry the heavy load.

**Applications will require:**

- Personal essay
- Letters of recommendation from vets
- Leadership and extracurricular involvement
- Class GPA 3.62-3.66

Application process will include interviews. Last year there were 500 applicants. After looking over the applications and running them through the points system it narrowed down to 220 to be interviewed. They have a very sophisticated points system that allows for no favors. Once the point system is used then GPA is reviewed, next leadership and finally experience.

The interview process occurs in multiple sessions that give the student the advantage. It takes about an hour to go through all the sessions. There are six sessions, each with a different interviewer. If for any reason you mess up or don't click with the person you're okay because there's five more sessions.

**The interview is graded based on:**

- Ethical Reasoning
- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Leadership
- Maturity

You're given a question to read for 2 minutes and gather your thoughts. Then for 6 minutes you talk with the interviewer.

**Ratio of applications:** Last year there were 500 applicants to fill 132 positions. They only take 10 out-of-state residents. Out of the 132 students selected 97 were women and 35 were men. The average age is 23 years-old, in the range of 19-46 years-old.

**Please check their website periodically** and thoroughly for additional application information.

**Throughout the years focus on wanting to be a vet**, how you're proving to be a leader and being the best you in all you do. This will all show up on your application.

**During the Q&A session they answered:**

Drawing more women because that's who's showing up. Vet science takes a lot of school and men are looking for bigger salaries that can be accomplished quicker.

Focus on statics above and instead of calculus.

If you take AP courses do not take Chemistry as AP. You can take AP in English, History, and Physics.

If you have to work while you go to school, are working to not have so much debt and can't take as heavy of a load then it will need to be shared on the essay part of the application you circumstances, your story, how and why they should consider it.

Remember, if you don't get accepted the first time to re-apply. Depending on what needs work, you will know and can up your game for the next round. Two of the board members were considered young when they entered but one of them shared her experience about her grades not being high enough and she didn't get accepted the first time. She worked hard, re-applied and was accepted. Now she's on the board.

If for any reason you apply as you're finishing your Masters and cannot make it to the next fall you can defer to the next year without having to go through the process again.

**Once accepted, you're in their family and they want you to succeed. I believe them and saw real camaraderie that's endured years between the board members. You can see it in their school as you tour it.**

**Good luck and always stay inspired to be the best you -you can be!**