VMCAS Quick Start Guide and FAQs

What is VMCAS?

The Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) is sponsored by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). This common application simplifies the process of applying to veterinary school. Applicants use VMCAS to apply to the vast majority of AVMA/COE accredited colleges in the United States and abroad, including 29 of the 30 US veterinary institutions, two Canadian, two Scottish, one British, one Irish, one New Zealand, two Australian, and two Caribbean veterinary institutions.

You start by selecting the programs you want to apply to and then you submit one application that is accepted by all programs. Once received by VMCAS, your application and materials go through a verification process before being released to your selected school designations.

Supplemental application deadlines, prerequisite courses, and other aspects of the admissions process differ from school to school. You are responsible for being aware of all instructions provided by VMCAS and associated member institutions. Click here to start your application.

How long does the application process take?

It's important you apply as early as possible since completing your application can be a lengthy process, and since application processing times vary throughout the cycle. Below is a suggested timeline that includes key actions to keep the application process on track. This timeline may need to be adjusted based on individual program deadlines and requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Key Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior to the Start of the Application Process</td>
<td>1. Research programs you wish to apply to. Pay special attention to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ <a href="#">Cycle dates</a> and deadline requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ <a href="#">Application fees</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Evaluation requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>◦ Minimum requirements, including prerequisites, standardized tests,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>supplemental applications, foreign credential evaluations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Ask your schools to send you the official transcripts you'll need to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="#">enter your coursework</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Begin contacting potential evaluators to confirm their participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. Begin drafting your <a href="#">essays</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Review the instructions in this Help Center and the <a href="#">VMCAS Code of Conduct</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
At Least 3 Months Prior to Application Deadline

1. Create your account or reapply using an existing account (available only for accounts created in the 2015-2016 cycle and later).
2. Complete the Colleges Attended section.
3. Complete the Evaluations section.

At Least 10-12 Weeks Prior to Application Deadline

1. Ask your schools to send official transcripts directly to VMCAS. If there are any holds on your account at an institution, resolve them now to avoid delays in sending transcripts.
2. Begin entering coursework into your application.
3. Check in with your evaluators to confirm that they received the evaluation request via email.

At Least 6-8 Weeks Prior to Application Deadline

Complete and submit your application. Review the verification process. Monitor your application for receipt of transcripts and letters of evaluation and follow up on any missing items.

At Least 4-6 Weeks Prior to Application Deadline

Continue monitoring your application until your status is Verified.

After Deadline

Download a copy of your application for your records.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework, Transcripts, and GPAs</th>
<th>Programs and Statuses</th>
<th>Fees and Payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do I remove a program?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Is there any other way to pay other than by credit card?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your application must always have at least one program selected. To remove a program, first navigate to the Add Programs tab and select the desired program(s). Then navigate to the Submit Application tab and remove the undesired program(s).</td>
<td></td>
<td>We currently only accept payments by credit card: Visa, Mastercard, American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I need to send transcripts?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, you must submit official transcripts to VMCAS. See Sending Official Transcripts for more guidelines on each type of transcript.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where do I find the Transcript Request Form?

The Transcript Request Form is found in the Colleges Attended section, after you submit a college or university entry.

Can I apply to more programs after I submit my application?

Yes, if the program's deadline date has not yet passed and the application cycle is open.

Should I send my high school transcripts?

No.

My transfer credits are listed on my primary transcript. Do I still need to send all transcripts?

You must report all colleges and universities attended and submit official transcripts, even if your transfer credits are listed on your primary transcript. See Sending Official Transcripts for more guidelines.

Should I submit my application if I'm still waiting on transcripts, evaluations, and/or official test scores?

Yes. You can submit your application before your transcripts, evaluations, and/or official test scores are received by VMCAS.

How do I know what my primary institution is?

Your primary institution is the college or university where you earned or will earn your first undergraduate college degree.

Will VMCAS update me on the status of my application?

Your application status for each program is listed in the Check Status section of the application. VMCAS will notify you when official transcripts and evaluations are received, and when your application is verified.

Do I really have to enter all coursework?

Yes, you must enter all US and English Canadian coursework into the Transcript Entry section of the application.

When will I learn about admissions decisions? Did I get in!?

You must reach out to your program(s) to learn about a school's admissions decisions.

How do I list my repeated courses?

VMCAS considers a course to be repeated if you enrolled in the same course (with the same course title and prefix) again at the same college or university.
Report all attempts of repeated coursework (including those that are currently in-progress or planned) and be sure to mark them as repeated during Transcript Review. Enter the number of credit hours attempted for each course, regardless of how many credits were actually earned.

Should I include foreign coursework in the Transcript Entry section?

No.

Why is my VMCAS GPA different from the GPA on my transcripts?

The VMCAS GPAs factor in all coursework taken, regardless of the college or university and any academic forgiveness policies. See Calculating Your VMCAS GPAs for more information.

I don't agree with the GPA. How do I change it?

The VMCAS GPAs factor in all coursework taken, regardless of the college or university and any academic forgiveness policies. If after reviewing your calculated coursework you find an error with your GPA, review Disputing and Correcting VMCAS Course Subjects and GPAs.